

From Tim Tetzlaff, Director of Conservation and Communications

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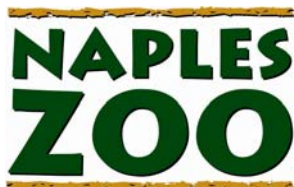
A Wild Valentine's Exchange

Zoo Keepers Deliver Valentines to the Lions, Tigers, and More

Don't expect chalky candies, doilies, or other standard Valentine's Day fare to draw the lions' interest this Valentine's Day. To reach the heart of the king of beasts, you need something a bit juicier. As they say, the best way to the heart is through the stomach, so on Wednesday, February 14, keepers at Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens will be delivering edible valentines especially appealing to the animals. Zoo guests will watch famous predators like lions, tigers, and hyenas receive heart-shaped valentines made from frozen blood. The cuter – and less carnivorous – lemurs living on an island visible from the shore will nibble fruity red and pink treats off a 6' tall wreath custom woven by the Zoo's botanist Dr. Jan Abernathie. The schedule for Wednesday is:

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| 10:30 | African Leopards |
| 11:15 | Laughing Hyenas |
| 12:00 | Ring-tailed, brown, red ruffed, and black and white ruffed lemurs |
| 3:30 | Malayan Tigers |

Events like this are part of the daily animal enrichment program. Proper animal husbandry includes not only cleaning, nutritional diets, veterinary care, and daily record keeping, but also behavioral enrichment. Enrichment begins with exhibit design, number and variety of animals living together, and also includes toys for the animal to play with (or destroy), supplemental foraging activities, and even the use of scents to increase curiosity about objects. By rotating activities, animals consistently engage in something fun and thought provoking.



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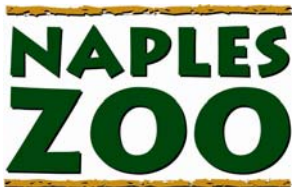
Naples Zoo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization cooperating in conservation programs both in and outside the wild for endangered species. Daily presentations include Alligator Bay Feeding, Meet the Keeper Series, along with two premiere presentations: Planet Predator and Serpents: Fangs & Fiction. Both of these feature shows take place in the Safari Canyon Theater where guests see live animals from feline predators to venomous snakes along with exciting video footage. For those looking for more on the historic botanical garden, the Tropical Plant Trek offers guests a short tour led by University of Florida Master Gardeners. And one of the zoo's most popular activities is the Primate Expedition Cruise where guests embark on a guided cruise through islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes.

The all day pay-one-price ticket includes admission to both the nationally accredited zoo and historic garden along with all shows, tours, exhibits, and the boat ride. (\$18.50 adults age 13+ / \$9.95 children 3 to 12, under 3 free. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age). Annual memberships and discount tickets are also available online at www.napleszoo.com. Visitors enjoy healthy meals at the SUBWAY® Cafe and shop for wild gifts at tame prices in The ZOO Gift Shop. Naples Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:30 to 5:30 with the last ticket sold at 4:30 and is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from the Coastland Center mall in the heart of Naples. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.com or call (239) 262-5409.

Print Quality Image of tiger and "bloodsicle" treat available for immediate download at www.napleszoo.com/press

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