



THE PENNSYLVANIA ZOOLOGICAL COUNCIL PRESENTS: VIRTUAL ZOO DAY!

The members of the Pennsylvania Zoo Council are disappointed that we are unable to be with you in the East Wing Rotunda for Zoo Day 2020 this year due to COVID-19. Since we can't be there in person, we wanted to bring the zoo experience to your inbox.

Each member institution has been offering virtual zoo experiences to our communities. Take a mental break with our animals today!

- Philadelphia Zoo hosts "[Philly Zoo at 2](#)" each afternoon at 2 PM, as well as "[PhillyZootoYou](#)"— a dedicated website that creates a gateway to wildlife discovery and meaningful learning at home.
- Check out EPZoo2U for Elmwood Park Zoo's virtual programming, including Zoo School Live each weekday at 11 AM, [here](#).
- Log on and see what the penguins and cheetahs are up to at Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, [here](#).
- Meet Bean the sloth from Lehigh Valley Zoo, [here](#). Plus, live-streams, animal features and feedings, and more [here](#).
- The National Aviary is featuring falcons, vultures, and more on Facebook Live. Check it out [here](#).
- Check out virtual events, extra content, and more from Erie Zoo, [here](#).

ABOUT THE PA ZOO COUNCIL

Pennsylvania's Zoos provide a unique blend of education and fun for millions of Pennsylvanians each year. The members of the Pennsylvania Zoological Council are the 6 accredited non-profit zoos in Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, Elmwood Park Zoo, Philadelphia Zoo, Erie Zoo, Lehigh Valley Zoo and the National Aviary. Our institutions have a far-reaching impact on the communities and economies of Pennsylvania, provide critical conservation

services through the Species Survival Plan, and educate children across Pennsylvania via our status as Educational Improvement Organizations. Each year, more than 3 million people visit Pennsylvania's Zoos, over 3 times as many as attend an NFL Football game in Pennsylvania. However, due to COVID-19, we are facing extreme and unique challenges.

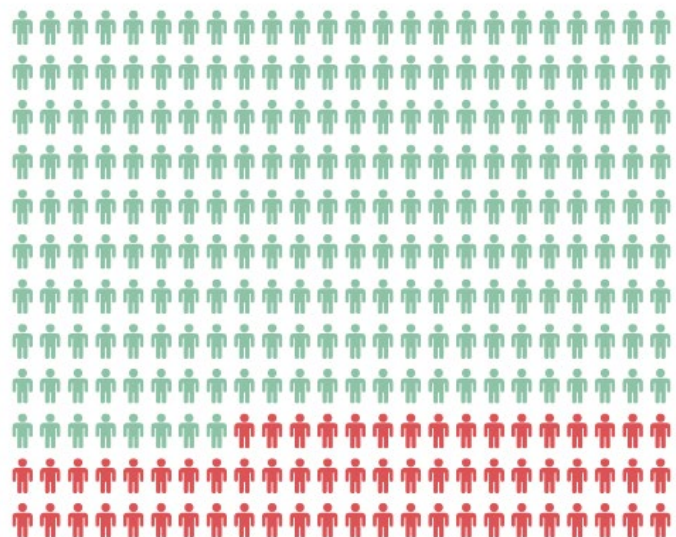
Although we are unable to open our doors to visitors, our facilities must continue to function at 100% to support our greatest asset: our animals. Closures have eliminated revenues from admissions, gift shops, food services, and events, at our busiest time of the year. We have lost an estimated \$13.5 million in revenue to date due to COVID-19. The monthly loss will continue to increase, as attendance is very seasonal.

The Pennsylvania Zoological Council wants to thank the legislature for the generous funding that our zoos receive via the Tourism Promotion for Accredited Zoos Program in the budget each year. These funds serve a crucial role in assisting with zoo facility enhancements, including new construction and renovations, as well as in the day-to-day efforts of basic administration, marketing, advertising and public relations. Additionally, these funds allow us to bolster our outreach to school students across the Commonwealth as well as to underserved community members. This year, these funds will be more critical than ever for our organizations.

Each member of the PA Zoo Council has drafted a detailed safety plan to be deployed when we are allowed to re-open. We are happy to share these with any legislators upon request. Zoos are not currently allowed to re-open in the yellow phase and we hope to see this policy changed so that we can open in a safe, responsible manner, with reduced initial capacity, and begin to recover from the challenges we are facing due to COVID-19. We cannot afford to wait indefinitely, as outlined in detail in [this New Yorker piece](#).

Please help us preserve the myriad benefits of Pennsylvania's Zoos to our Commonwealth.

More than 3x as many people visit a PA Zoo each year as go to a NFL Football Game in PA



● Visited a PA Zoo (3,678,000)

● Attended a NFL Football Game in PA (1,056,164)

Sources: PA Zoo Admission Statistics Provided by each Zoo, 2019 NFL Attendance Statistics, <http://www.espn.com/nfl/attendance>