

HATTIESBURG ZOO

For Immediate Release

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HATTIESBURG ZOO REVIVES ADOPT AN ANIMAL PROGRAM

HATTIESBURG (March 7, 2017) — Hattiesburg Zoo is reintroducing its Adopt an Animal program to connect visitors with its animals and to raise animal care funds.

Adoption fees generated from the program go directly toward the sponsored animal's care. Care can include food, toys, and a multitude of enrichment activities.

"This program enables the Zoo to provide even more care for the animals. Funds raised from the Adopt an Animal program allow the animal care staff to provide more enrichment and specialty items for the animals," Stephen Taylor, animal care manager for Hattiesburg Zoo, said.

Adopt an Animal, which has been unavailable for the past few years, has been revived to include the Zoo's new animals and different package benefits.

Animals now available for adoption include the American alligator, Ring-tailed lemur, Crowned lemur, Black and White Ruffed lemur, Cotton Top tamarin, African Giant millipede, Madagascar hissing cockroach, Rose-hair tarantula, Chilean flamingo, African Crested porcupine, Galapagos tortoise, Howler monkey, jaguar, Sumatran tiger, Grant's zebra, Giant anteater, Golden eagle, Lowland tapir, and Barn owl.

Three adoption packages, which range from \$50 to \$150, are available for every animal. Every package includes a personalized adoption certificate, fact sheet about the adopted animal, 5x7 photo of the adopted animal, and a listing in the Zoo's newsletter once a month as a "parent." The \$100 package also includes a plush animal and a \$25 gift certificate to the Zoo. The \$150 package contains all of the above and a tour of the Zoo's behind-the-scenes area for two people.

"We are delighted to bring this program back to the Zoo. Through it, we will increase awareness of animal education and conservation while also encouraging people to visit our animals in person," Jeremy Cumpton, education manager for Hattiesburg Zoo, said.

Adoption forms can be completed online at hattiesburgzoo.com or at the Zoo. All adoptions are valid for one year and are renewable. Adoption does not imply ownership in regard to the Zoo animal, and all animals are available for adoption by multiple individuals at once.

For additional information, call the Hattiesburg Zoo at 601.545.4576 or visit the Zoo online at HattiesburgZoo.com. The Hattiesburg Zoo is a Hattiesburg Convention Commission Facility, in partnership with the City of Hattiesburg and the Hattiesburg Tourism Commission. Since 1991, the Hattiesburg Convention Commission has been developing and operating tourism-related facilities for the Hattiesburg area.

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