Animal lovers unite for World Animal Day

Since 1931, animal lovers from around the globe have been celebrating World Animal Day, in recognition of the special role animals play in our lives.

For the past five years, the Edmonton Valley Zoo has been marking this date with its own annual World Animal Day celebration. Edmontonians are invited to take part in the festivities this Sunday, October 6, 2013.

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2013
Event Time: Noon to 4 p.m. (Zoo is open 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.)
Location: Edmonton Valley Zoo, 13315 Buena Vista Road
Cost: Regular admission rates apply

At the Edmonton Valley Zoo, World Animal Day is an opportunity to talk about animal conservation. For more than 20 years, the zoo has been working with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums on six international Species Survival Plans (SSP): snow leopards, Siberian tigers, Grevy's zebra, laughing kookaburra, red pandas, and Goeldi's monkeys.

These global partnerships are cooperative, coordinated breeding programs for endangered species throughout the world. They are strategies for creating healthy, self-sustaining, captive populations that can be reintroduced into restored or secured habitats.

On World Animal Day, Edmontonians will have the opportunity to "Get Closer" to these endangered animals at special animal encounters and educational talks focused on conservation. The event will include plenty of fun activities, from World Animal Day cupcakes and crafts, to a scavenger hunt, face painting and caricatures.

Be sure to join zoo staff for the elephant talk at 1 p.m. when Lucy collaborates with local artist Janice Ryan on a one of a kind painting. Proceeds from the painting will support elephant conservation initiatives.

For more information:

Call 311 or visit edmonton.ca/valleyzoo.

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