

## And the Race for Animal of the Year winner is ...

The votes are in and the Edmonton Valley Zoo is excited to announce the winner of its second annual Race for Animal of the Year: **Echo the Arctic Fox!**



For the past two years, the Edmonton Valley Zoo has held the fun and fictitious race from May to October. Race for Animal of the Year pairs four zoo residents with complementary conservation programs and invites Edmontonians to pick their favourite racer by making a minimum donation of \$2 in their honour. Participants receive a button, and the thrill of participating in the race, all for a good cause – supporting the zoo's conservation work!

The Edmonton Valley Zoo works with international organizations on ethical and strategic conservation projects, either actively raising animals in Species Survival Programs or by raising money and awareness to support initiatives in other parts of the world.

More than \$2,000 was raised through this year's race, with the largest portion, \$744.50, going to Echo's charity: Polar Bears International, which is dedicated to saving polar bears by saving their sea ice habitat.

The other racers and their charities were Sherri the Snow Leopard and The Snow Leopard Trust (\$521.25), Rover the Children's Python and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (\$401.20), Shaka the Grevy's Zebra and The Grevy's Zebra Trust (\$336.50).

As the winner of Race for Animal of the Year, Echo received a special food enrichment on World Animal Day, October 6, 2013.

For more information on the Edmonton Valley Zoo's commitment to animal and environmental conservation please visit [edmonton.ca/zoo](http://edmonton.ca/zoo).

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