

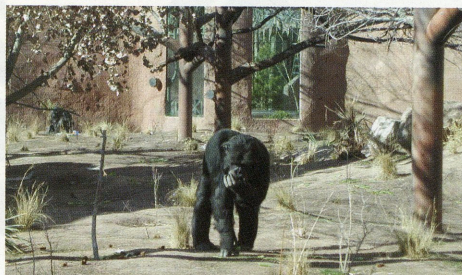
OAKLAND ZOO EXPANDS ELEPHANT EXHIBIT

The Oakland Zoo recently completed its intense efforts to expand and renovate their already substantial five-acre elephant exhibit. The four African elephants now have access to approximately six acres, nearly 14 percent of the zoo's total 45 acres and over 50 times larger than the AZA minimum for a herd of this size. The \$270,000 expansion was funded in part by the generosity of a private donor and completed in several stages, the final being the expansion of the actual exhibit. After years of planning, the exhibit expansion alone took nearly six weeks. The Oakland Zoo Animal Management team was involved in every nuance of the construction, spending countless hours wrapping selected trees in cyclone fencing to preserve the trees from the enthusiastic exploration of elephant trunks.

In November, the elephants were introduced to their new exhibit space. In no time, they were busily exploring the grassy hills, stands of trees and their new neighbors, the Tule elk and bison. The eager crowd of visitors and staff cheered as Lisa, the most adventurous of the three females, pulled a large branch off of an acacia tree with a thunderous crack. She later charged a curious bison who wandered too close to the fences separating the exhibits. Neighbors for many years, but unable to see one another, the female lions were also very curious about the elephants, watching them intently through the fencing.



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ALBUQUERQUE BIOLOGICAL PARK OPENS RENOVATED AFRICA EXHIBIT

The Albuquerque Biological Park announced the opening of its completely renovated and greatly expanded *Africa* exhibit area at the Rio Grande Zoo. The new exhibit comprises six acres of land with 17 separate exhibits. Mammals featured include ankole, Cape hunting dog, cheetah, chimpanzee, DeBrazza's monkey, giraffe, Grant's zebra, hippopotamus, klip-springer, red river hog, spotted hyena, warthog, white rhino, and wolf guenon. Bird species on exhibit include African pygmy falcon, black spur-winged goose, blue-breasted kingfisher, Cape griffon vulture, Cape shelduck, golden-breasted starling, Hottentot teal, Lady Ross' turaco, lappet-faced vulture, Marabou stork, pied crow, saddle-billed stork, wattled crane, white-faced whistling duck, and white-necked raven. Additionally, within *Africa* there is a snack kiosk and a gift shop which doubles as the train station for the new three-quarter scale train, *The Thunderbird Express*, that loops through the zoo.

RED ROCK RUN THRILL RIDE AT OREGON ZOO

Oregon Zoo visitors can enter a world where hot rivers of lava intersect with mine carts on the Zoo's newest simulator ride, *Red Rock Run*. The feature, which is produced by AZA commer-



cial member SimEx!werks Entertainment, opened on 21 January and runs through the mid-March.

Red Rock Run is the Zoo's latest simulator ride. The simulator premiered in May 2003 with *Deep Sea*. More than 190,860 people have experienced the simulator theater, which has generated more than \$650,000 for many conservation and education programs at the Zoo.

THE SACRAMENTO ZOO OPENS GIANT ANTEATER EXHIBIT

The Sacramento Zoo's *Giant Anteater Exhibit* is now open. The newly redesigned exhibit, next to the Sumatran tigers, welcomed its new resident from South America, a giant anteater. He is about the size of a German shepherd and is covered with stiff, straw-like hair that grows up to 20 inches long on the tail. As the name suggests, anteaters eat insects in vast quantities, sometimes up to 30,000 in a single day. The anteater will rip open a termite hill with its claws and work its tubular snout into the opening, sticking its long, worm-shaped tongue down into the heart of the colony, trapping the insects on its tongue's sticky coating.

Giant anteaters range in the grasslands and rainforests of South and Central America.

They walk on the knuckles of their front feet and their claws on the first three toes are formidable and fold into their palm as they walk. The male on exhibit is one and a half years old and was born at the Jacksonville Zoo in Florida. His body is three feet in length with a three-foot tail and he weighs about 100 pounds. They can live up to 30 years in captivity and reach up to 150 pounds.

The giant anteater is a solitary animal traveling through its territory constantly in search of insects; the anteater's principal enemies are the puma and the jaguar, but humans pose the biggest threat.

Giant anteaters are killed by cars and are hunted in South America for their meat and as trophies. They are also killed because they are mistakenly believed to kill dogs and cattle, and, perhaps most frequently, because they are easy to kill. ■