Animal Ambassadors in Action!

KidZoo Animal Ambassadors

When you visit the Children Zoo’s Animal Ambassadors you may notice some of them have halters or collars on, such as the alpaca, our new Shetland ponies and a few of the pygmy goats. These halters and collars aren’t just for looks! Their purpose is to allow the zookeepers to attach leads to the animals. By hooking an animal up to a lead, zookeepers are able to gain more control of the animal during grooming sessions, giving them medicine, transporting, or simply taking them for a walk!

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- Why Ambassador Animals
- Animal Update
- Wyatt Summer Book

Also Inside

- Make a Wish Wyatt
- Rehab Program
- Why Ambassador Animals
- Animal Update
- Wyatt Summer Book
## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**LAKE AREA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Will Morlock</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Steve Hageman</td>
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<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>Mike Vener</td>
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<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Dale Christensen</td>
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<td>Lorraine Rittmann</td>
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<td>Rebecca Morlock-Reeves</td>
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## PARKS AND RECREATION

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<tr>
<td>Jay DeLange</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>Terry Kelly</td>
<td>Asst. Director</td>
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## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

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<td>Lee Rycraft</td>
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<td>Pat Shriver</td>
<td>Justin Struckman</td>
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<td>Jon Solum</td>
<td>Heidi Stoick</td>
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<td>Scott Johnston</td>
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## BRAMBLE PARK ZOO STAFF

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Miller</td>
<td>Zoo Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Lloyd</td>
<td>General Curator</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Gilman</td>
<td>Zookeeper</td>
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<td>Olivia Reimers</td>
<td>Zookeeper</td>
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<td>Bill Gallagher</td>
<td>Zookeeper</td>
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<td>Michelle Miller</td>
<td>Zookeeper</td>
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<td>Jennifer Giessinger</td>
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<td>Jerry Biewer</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Kim Konrad</td>
<td>Office/Visitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaime Stricker</td>
<td>Educator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Struwe</td>
<td>Roots &amp; Shoots</td>
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**About**

The Bramble Park Zoo and the AZA recognizes the many benefits ambassador animal presentations provide and have established several Accreditation Standards, Board-Approved Policies, and recommendations to guarantee that the welfare, health and safety needs of the animals, handlers, and public are met and to ensure conservation messages are received by the audience.

“We believe in a better future for all living things”.  
AZA.org

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Our facebook fans are active in the social media world with over 5,500 fans! Will you help us to get more? Please tell all of your friends about the Zoo’s facebook page where they can get news fast! Search for BPZandLAZS on facebook today!

www.brambleparkzoo.com

See animals in action
The Bramble Park Zoo has had ambassador animals for over 35 years. Many of these animals have touched the hearts of all age groups. I remember as a child touching the petting zoo animals and snakes at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Throughout my zoo career, I have had the opportunity to come into contact with many animals. I hope you take time this year to enjoy all the ambassador animals Bramble Park Zoo has to offer.

As you read this newsletter, you will have many reasons to visit the Bramble Park Zoo. From participating in education programs, attending special events, viewing the wonders of nature, as well as touching our ambassador animals. This year we added more special events, education programs, and some additional animals. We are working on a Sioux Indian exhibit that will feature a child size Tipi, the American Bison, the horse, the dog, headdresses, the bald eagle, ledger art, winter count, tools, Dakotah animal names, and educational activities.

We will be adding tree and prairie plant signs, which will educate the public about local trees, shrubs and prairie plants. We also renovated our red kangaroo exhibit, which will allow the visitors to come face to face with red kangaroos and emus. The primate bridge structures are replaced with new and improved climbing and sitting areas.

We also will complete less glamorous maintenance projects like replacing some of the bison fence, replacing the bird aviary netting, and purchasing new equipment. These are essential to properly run an AZA accredited facility.

As we celebrate “ambassador animals at the Bramble Park Zoo”, we look forward to you experiencing these animals up-close. Bring your family, friends, become a member, and volunteer.

See you at the zoo!

Dan Miller, Zoo Director
The zoo has animals of all different sizes and shapes from all over the world, most of which cannot be handled directly. The one thing that the zoo believes strongly in is that if people can connect with animals they will help to conserve habitats and animals around them. What better way to connect with animals than to have people get up-close and touch them. The critters that have this job at the zoo are called ambassador animals. The zoo has a group of animals whose sole purpose is to be ambassadors for others of their species. They come to visitors through on-site and off-site education programming and keeper encounters with zoo visitors. Some of our ambassador animals are hedgehogs, rabbits, turtles, and snakes to name a few and all have been worked with enough that they can be safely handled by staff. Only staff and volunteers that have been trained in the zoo’s animal handling protocol are allowed to handle these animals. Zookeepers spend several hours per day cleaning, feeding and handling approximately 60 ambassador animals. This group of animals is kept separate from the rest of the collection in two rooms located in the KidZoo’s Big Red Barn. They are housed separately from the other animals to reduce the risk of spreading an animal disease to the zoo’s main collection. This practice is also mandated by the AZA as an accreditation standard. The standard reads as such: “For animals used in off-site programs and for educational purposes, the institution must have adequate protocols in place to protect the rest of the animals at the institution from exposure to infectious agents.” The AZA also mandates that the ambassador animals have the highest standard of day to day animal care. “Although the housing conditions for ambassador animals may look different at times to those provided to exhibit animals, institutions must provide similar social, physical, behavioral and nutritional opportunities to ambassador animals. Regular holding enclosures for any given ambassador animal species must provide sufficient space for comfort, exercise, shelter, and have sufficient complexity.” The number of ambassador animals the zoo has is based on the number of education programs being offered. Because the animals can get tired and stressed due to handling, it is essential that the animals are rotated and given time to rest. This is accomplished by a checkout system used by animal handlers and reviewed by zookeepers. Some of the popular species we have doubles and triples of. The number of animal ambassadors has increased in that past two years because of the high demand for education programming in the community and surrounding area. Two years ago when the KidZoo barn was built, we had the opportunity to expand our square footage to house ambassador animals. We currently have a warm room for reptiles and amphibians and a cool room for the mammals and birds. The zoo has a very large collection of animal ambassadors who are touched by thousands of people each year. These animals are definitely the hardest working animals at the zoo.

Jim Lloyd, General Curator
An Ambassador Animal is defined as “an animal whose role includes handling and/or training by staff or volunteers for interaction with the public and in support of institutional education and conservation goals.” Some animals are designated as Ambassador Animals on a full-time basis, while others are designated as such only occasionally. Ambassador Animal-related Accreditation Standards are applicable to all animals during the times that they are designated as Ambassador Animals.

There are three main categories of Ambassador Animal interactions:

1. On Grounds with the Ambassador Animal Inside the Exhibit/Enclosure:
   - Public access outside the exhibit/enclosure. Public may interact with animals from outside the exhibit/enclosure (e.g., giraffe feeding, touch tanks).
   - Public access inside the exhibit/enclosure. Public may interact with animals from inside the exhibit/enclosure (e.g., lorikeet feedings, ‘swim with’ programs, camel/pony rides).
2. On Grounds with the Ambassador Animal Outside the Exhibit/Enclosure:
   - Minimal handling and training techniques are used to present Ambassador Animals to the public. Public has minimal or no opportunity to directly interact with Ambassador Animals when they are outside the exhibit/enclosure (e.g., raptors on the glove, reptiles held “presentation style”).
   - Moderate handling and training techniques are used to present Ambassador Animals to the public. Public may be in close proximity to, or have direct contact with, Ambassador Animals when they’re outside the exhibit/enclosure (e.g., media, fund raising, photo, and/or touch opportunities).
   - Significant handling and training techniques are used to present Ambassador Animals to the public. Public may have direct contact with Ambassador Animals or simply observe the in-depth presentations when they’re outside the exhibit/enclosure (e.g., wildlife education shows).
3. Off Grounds:
   - Handling and training techniques are used to present Ambassador Animals to the public outside of the zoo/aquarium grounds. Public may have minimal contact or be in close proximity to and have direct contact with Ambassador Animals (e.g., animals transported to schools, media, fund raising events).

Studies have shown that the presentation of ambassador animals is a powerful catalyst for learning for a variety of reasons including:

- Increases the length of time that people are engaged with the program animals thereby lengthening the potential time period for learning and overall impact.
- Provides the opportunity to personalize the learning experience, tailoring the teaching session to what interests the visitors.
- Allows the visitors the opportunity to make specific inquiries about topics in which they were interested.
- Enhances the delivery of cognitive and empathetic messages. Increases affective learning and attitudinal change.

From AZA

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science, and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and aquariums in the United States and eight other countries. Look for the AZA accreditation logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. The AZA is a leader in saving species and your link to helping animals all over the world. To learn more, visit www.aza.org.
When you visit the Children Zoo’s Animal Ambassadors you may notice some of them have halters or collars on, such as the alpaca, our new Shetland ponies and a few of the pygmy goats. These halters and collars aren’t just for looks! Their purpose is to allow the zookeepers to attach leads to the animals. By hooking an animal up to a lead, zookeepers are able to gain more control of the animal during grooming sessions, giving them medicine, transporting, or simply taking them for a walk!

While hooking the ponies and goats up to a lead is a piece of cake, for our two alpaca, Grace and Mercy, it’s not such an easy task. Grace and Mercy came to our zoo with halters already in place and they knew how to walk on a lead. However, since they are timid in nature, and with being introduced to so many new sights, sounds, smells, animals, zookeepers and visitors they have required a little more patience. Part-time zookeeper, Kathy, has taken slow steps to build a trusting relationship and let the alpaca become comfortable with attaching a lead and walking with her outside the comfort zone of their pen. The goal is to have interactions with the alpaca where visitors can feel
their wool and maybe even brush them.

The newest members of the Children’s Zoo, Shetland ponies, Princess and Lisa, are also practicing walking on a lead. Both ponies came from homes with children so they are already accustomed to lots of activity and attention. The ponies bonded quickly and now don’t enjoy being separated! The keepers in the Children’s Zoo have been working on walking the ponies together outside of their pen also with the hopes of having visitor interactions.

While the Pygmy Goats are the easiest to walk with a lead, two of last summer’s kids, Luna and Skye, get extra training. They both participate in the zoo’s training program. Luna and Skye are just in the beginning stages of training. They can “station” which means to stand on a rock and “target” which means to touch a ball on a stick with their nose. They are in the process of learning how to walk backwards and stand up on their back feet on command. Once the goats have mastered a few more behaviors they might be able to perform for visitors during the training demonstrations that are held daily throughout the summer.

So when you visit the zoo this season and spend some time in the KidZoo you might get lucky and have an interactive experience with one of our large Animal Ambassadors!
FUN!

come closer

KIDZOO ANIMAL AMBASSADORS cont.

Shabbie's House
Pre-registration is required. Ages are calculated as of June 1, 2017, no exceptions.

Online registration for ALL Zoo Programs and Roots & Shoots Programs begins April 10.

For questions about programs, please contact Jaime Stricker, Zoo Educator at Bramble Park Zoo, 605-882-6269 or jstricker@brambleparkzoo.com.

All programs will close online 1 week before the program starts. Registration for available spaces after this time will be at the Zoo only.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT BRAMBLE PARK ZOO.

• A minimum of 8 participants are needed to hold each session.
• Check in with staff before each class.
• Students must wear closed-toe shoes.

Meet Animal Ambassadors during Zoo Classes and Camps!
BRAMBLE PARK ZOO

THE ZOO AFTER HOURS

Spring sneak peek! Join a zookeeper for a fun-filled trip through the Bramble Park Zoo after hours. You will have the opportunity to see animals up-close as well as check out the various birds during spring migration. “Come Closer” to Bramble Park Zoo and examine the fish, birds, cats, primates, plants and more that call the Zoo home.

Fee: $7.00
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 6:00 - 7:30pm

TEDDY BEAR TEA PARTY

Participants can bring their favorite teddy bear and join us for a very special PICNIC! Zoo Crew Vets will be on hand for free medical check-ups for your bear. Children will help a zookeeper prepare breakfast for the bears in a unique way and watch the bears eat.

Fee: $13.00 + tax
Date: Choose Thursday, June 1, 9:30 - 11:30am; Friday, June 2, 9:30 - 11:30am; or Tuesday, August 8, 9:30 - 11:30am

TOT-ZOO SCHOOL

An exciting parent-participation program for toddlers and a trusted adult. During each program you and your child will meet real animals up-close, hear stories, sing songs, play games and participate in activities that will make your little one wiggle and giggle.

Hippity Hop: June 5, 6 or 9
Baby Animals: June 12, 13 or 16
A Very Busy Spider: June 19, 20 or 23
Get Wet!: June 26, 27 or 30
Animal Crackers: July 10, 11 or 14
Animal Shapes and Sizes: July 17, 18 or 21
The Tortoise and the Hare: July 24, 25 or 28

Fees: $14.00 + tax for each class or $98.00 + tax for all seven classes
Dates: Choose Mondays, 9:30am - 11:00am; Tuesdays, 9:30am - 10:30am; or Fridays, 9:00 - 10:30am

PRE-ZOO SCHOOL

A fun-filled educational experience where children have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities, animal visits, observations, crafts, games and zoo tours. We ask that parents do not accompany children.

Warm and Fuzzy: June 8
Ssssscalesss: June 15
Wings ‘n’ Things: June 22
Down Under: June 29
Wonderful Whiskers: July 13
Fun on the Farm: July 20
Animal Art: July 27

Fees: $13.00 + tax for each class or $91.00 + tax for all seven classes
Dates: Choose Thursdays, 9:00 - 10:30am
Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30pm
or Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:30pm

ZOO SCHOOL

Dig a little deeper into animal and environmental topics through hands-on investigations, animal observations and encounters, zoo tours and fun activities designed for kids wanting to explore more of the zoo. We ask that parents do not accompany children.

Night Moves: June 7 or 9
For Goodness Snakes: June 14 or 16
Oh Deer!: June 21 or 23
Animal Outsides: June 28 or 30
Up, Up and Away: July 12 or 14
Dinomite Dinosaurs: July 19 or 21
Weird and Wild: July 26 or 28

Fees: $13.00 + tax for each class or $91.00 + tax for all seven classes
Dates: Choose Wednesdays, 3:30 - 5:00pm or Fridays, 11:00am - 12:30pm

YOUNG EXPLORERS

This program is designed to promote rich learning experiences that engage children to be creative and curious. Through fun and interactive lesson planning and inspiring activities, the Young Explorers program provides the perfect place for your child(ren) to have fun learning about our wild world through tours of the Zoo, up-close animal encounters, crafts, exciting activities and more.

Math’d Out On Animals: June 5, 6 or 7
Duck Dynasties: June 12, 13 or 14
Rainbow Rascals: June 19, 20 or 21
Unhuggables: June 26, 27 or 28
Christmas in July: July 10, 11 or 12
Freakishly Fishy: July 17, 18 or 19
Angry Bird: Zoo: July 24, 25 or 26

Fees: $15.00 + tax for each class or $105.00 + tax for all seven classes
Dates: Choose Mondays, 12:30 - 2:30pm; Tuesdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm; or Wednesdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm

ZOO ADVENTURERS

Just like Young Explorers, but for the older children. To stimulate everyone’s curiosity, the topics will be more in-depth.

Adv. Math’d Out On Animals: June 5, 6 or 7
Adv. Duck Dynasties: June 12, 13 or 14
Adv. Rainbow Rascals: June 19, 20 or 21
Adv. Unhuggables: June 26, 27 or 28
Adv. Christmas in July: July 10, 11 or 12
Adv. Freakishly Fishy: July 17, 18 or 19
Adv. Angry Bird: Zoo: July 24, 25 or 26

Fees: $15.00 + tax for each class or $105.00 + tax for all seven classes
Dates: Choose Mondays, 3:00 - 5:00pm; Tuesdays, 3:00 - 5:00pm; or Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00pm
What’s more rewarding than cultivating your love of lifelong learning? Teaching a youngster to love it too! Share your passion for education and nature with a grandchild and create memories that will last a lifetime. Grandparents + Grandchildren = Sharing a Common Love for Animals.

Zoo ABC’s: June 9
You Are What You Eat!: June 16
Lumpy, Bumpy, Scratchy and Smooth: June 30
One, Two, Three, Four: July 14
Water Wonders: July 21
Habitat Heroes: July 28
Fees: $13.00 + tax per class (per grandchild). Grandparents are free.

Dates: Fridays, 1:30 - 3:00pm

WOW! THEY CAN REALLY DO THAT?
Join the community forester on a trip around the zoo and use the grounds as a learning garden. You’ll learn about plant adaptations and the complex relationships between plants, animals and humans.

Fee: $12.00 + tax

Date: Tuesday, June 20, 10:30am - 12:00pm

AMAZING ADAPTATIONS
Learn all about adaptations and how they help a species to survive.

You’ll even participate in science experiments to demonstrate how the adaptations work in both animals and plants!

Fee: $12.00 + tax

Date: Saturday, July 8, 10:00am - 12:00pm

GROSSOLOGY
What do slobber and scat have in common? Learn all the gross animal facts in our camp that oozes with disgusting science!

Fee: $12.00 + tax

Date: Saturday, July 22, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

ZOO CREW
Are you a hard worker? Dependable? Do you love animals? Working with the public? Are you looking for something fun to do this summer? Then this program is for you! You can assist with special events, act as an interpreter, help with education programs, and go on outreach trips. Pick up an application at the Zoo or online at www.brambleparkzoo.com. Mandatory training will be Wednesday, May 31st.

Program is limited to 24 participants. All candidates will be interviewed prior to acceptance. You will be required to volunteer at least 8 hours per week. For more information contact Jaime at jstricker@brambleparkzoo.com.

Fee: $60.00 + tax includes Zoo Crew T-shirt, materials and insurance!

Dates: June, July and August
(throughout the school year as needed/available)

Deadline for application: Friday, May 12

ZOOKEEPER FOR A DAY
It’s all in a day’s work for a zookeeper and now visitors can give “the best job in the world” a try too. Here is your chance to work behind the scenes with a Zookeeper in the new KidZoo’s “Big Red Barn” and discover this rich and rewarding career. You will experience how to prepare animal food, clean up, and interact with the animals. Learn about animal husbandry techniques and much more about the inner workings of a zoo. Please wear old clothes and closed-toe shoes/boots.

Fee: $25.00 + tax

Dates: Choose Wednesday, June 28, 8:30am - 12:00pm; Friday, July 7, 8:30am - 12:00pm or Saturday, July 15, 8:30am - 12:00pm

SECOND NATURE CAMP
Voted the most unique program at the zoo! This wildly popular summer program lets kids have fun, hands-on learning at the Zoo! Campers build and create enrichment items for Zoo animals, take special tours, observe animal behaviors up-close, and so much more! This memorable zoo camp will focus on keeping captive animals healthy and the role of zoos as conservation organizations. Come to the zoo and learn how you can help.

Fee: $60.00 + tax includes camp T-shirt!

Dates: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, August 1, 2 & 3
9:00am - 12:30pm or 1:00pm - 4:30pm

FLASHLIGHT FUN FOR FAMILIES
Families can come to Bramble Park and take a special after hours flashlight tour of the zoo. Many of the animals at the zoo are nocturnal, so they will just be waking up when you arrive. Bring a flashlight and your sense of adventure!

Fee: $25.00 + tax per immediate family

Date: Thursday, August 17, 8:15 - 10:15pm
**BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS**

A one of a kind program that will be specifically tailored to the participants. Enjoy this unique 2 hour program in which visitors will have breakfast or lunch amongst the prairie gardens and animal exhibits and then spend time touring the zoo with a zoo staff member. This tour allows participants to go behind the scenes, get face-to-face with exotic animals in off-exhibit areas, prepare meals and feed the animals at Bramble Park Zoo.

*Fee:* $25.00 + tax per person (includes Zoo admission)

*Date:* Call to schedule a time that works for you. (We must have at least two weeks advance notice. Tours are subject to staff availability. Minimum of 4, maximum of 10 people. Participants under 13 years of age must be accompanied by a paying adult. Walking is required.)

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**JANE GOODALL’S ROOTS & SHOOTS PROGRAMS**

How good do you feel about a job well done? Do you want to help animals, people and the environment? Roots & Shoots is a program about service learning and promoting knowledge, compassion, and action within the community. Classes include:

- Humane Society (hands on interaction with displaced animals; class will be offsite; wear old clothes and closed toe shoes)
- Equine Learning (Horses as teachers...caring for and learning to lead gentle giants with big hearts; class will be offsite; wear closed toe shoes)
- Exploring the Four Corners of Bramble Park Zoo (Trek through the zoo property and discover its many secrets)
- Animal Handling (techniques for handling zoo outreach animals and how to present them; wear closed toe shoes)
- Race to Erase the Disgrace (race to beautify the surrounding zoo areas for animals, people and the environment; earn a special treat)
- H2O Adventures (for the adventurous soul, exploring critters in the nearby river or kiddie pond; swimwear attire preferred; bring your own water gun; wear rubber boots)

*Fee:* $60 + tax, includes all classes and R&S T-shirt!

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**ROOTS & SHOOTS LITTLE BYTES**

*Instructor:* Radeana Johnson

*Dates:* Choose Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 12, and 19, 9:00am - 11:00am or 1:00pm - 3:00pm;

OR

Thursdays, June 8, 15, 22, 29, July 13, and 20, 9:00 - 11:00am

*Fee:* $15.00 + tax

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**ROOTS & SHOOTS MEGABYTES**

*Instructor:* Barb Struwe

*Dates:* Choose Mondays, June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 10, and 17, 1:00pm - 3:00pm;

OR

Thursdays, June 8, 15, 22, 29, July 13, and 20, 1:00pm - 3:00pm;

*Fee:* $60 + tax, includes all classes and R&S T-shirt!

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**ROOTS & SHOOTS TERABYTES**

*Instructor:* Barb Struwe

*Dates:* Mondays, June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 10, and 17, 9:00 - 11:00am

*Fee:* $50 + tax, includes all classes and R&S T-shirt!

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**ROOTS & SHOOTS SINGLE CLASSES**

Short on time, but want to learn more about Roots & Shoots? Check these out! Wear closed toe shoes; classes will be offsite. Transportation to class site provided. Please meet at the zoo.

*Instructor:* Barb Struwe

*Fee:* $15.00 + tax

*Time:* 9:00 - 11:30am

**Equine Learning Class:** Wednesday, July 12

**Humane Society Class:** Wednesday, July 19
Wild Birthday Parties

Celebrate your birthday at the Bramble Park Zoo.
Please call the zoo at 605-882-6269 (at least 2 weeks in advance) to arrange your party.

For older children ages 3+:

#1 Birthday in a Bag
Party includes admission to the Zoo for 12 youth and 2 adults, a special backpack for the birthday child containing: a $10 gift certificate for the gift shop; food for the KidZoo animals and waterfowl; scavenger hunt; and a $5 off coupon for a cake at the Hy-Vee bakery. You will be responsible for ordering and picking up the cake, food, decorations, clean up and chaperoning the participants during the entire party. Two parents or guardians must attend (there must be one chaperone for every 6 children).

Fee: $135.00 + tax
(maximum of 12 children, 12 years and under, and 2 adults)
Additional Guests: $9.00 + tax each (memberships do not apply)
This party is unstaffed. Picnic tables are available on grounds on a first come, first serve basis. Inside accommodations can be made in case of inclement weather.

#2 Traditional Zoo Birthday
Party includes admission to the Zoo for 12 youth and 2 adults, private party room for two hours, a special animal encounter, zoo games and $5 off coupon for a cake at the Hy-Vee bakery. You will be responsible for ordering and picking up the cake, food, decorations, clean up and chaperoning the participants during the entire party. Two parents or guardians must attend (there must be one chaperone for every 6 children).

Fee: $165.00 + tax
(maximum of 12 children, 12 years and under, and 2 adults)
Additional Guests: $9.00 + tax each (memberships do not apply)
Add a Backpack: $17.00 + tax
This party is staffed for approximately 1 hour.

For younger children & families:

#3 Room Rental
Rent a room at Bramble Park Zoo and host your own party or get-together. The classrooms/multi-purpose rooms in the Terry Redlin Environmental Center or the Big Red Barn can be reserved for $40 each. In addition, each person attending the function in the classroom would be charged regular admission. LAZS memberships do allow members to attend the party at no charge. The room rental option is perfect for birthday parties, meetings, reunions and more!

Fee: $40.00 + tax plus admission fee or LAZS membership for everyone who attends.

#4 KidZoo Picnic Shelter Rental
Rent the new Prairie Porch Picnic Shelter within the AWC Family Foundation’s KidZoo. Call 882-6269 for availability and reservations.

Fee: $25.00 + tax plus admission fee or LAZS membership for everyone who attends.

Dates, times and fees are subject to change without notice. Please call 605-882-6269 for more information on these events and other activities presented by Bramble Park Zoo.
Make-A-Wish is an organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Since September of 2016, Make-A-Wish South Dakota has granted 31 wishes, with the hopes of granting 60 or more by the end of August 2017.

One very special Watertown boy, and longtime zoo supporter, received his wish of going to the National Aquarium over spring break. In order to present his wish, the Make-A-Wish staff and volunteers partnered with the Bramble Park Zoo.

Wyatt had a private evening at the Bramble Park Zoo where his family attended a pizza and sushi party complete with red-velvet cake to celebrate the upcoming trip to Washington, DC and Baltimore.

Wyatt had a surprise party from Make-A-Wish! His grandparents, Uncle Stacy and Aunt Janet were there too! Wyatt and his family went to the National Aquarium in Baltimore March 13-17th! Wyatt LOVES all animals and that was his wish! Jaime from Bramble Park Zoo brought Fred the cockatoo, a baby sand boa and an armadillo out for an interactive session.

Find out more about Make-A-Wish® South Dakota at southdakota.wish.org
It's funny how your perspective changes with life's circumstances. I was floored when it was brought up to me that Wyatt qualified for Make-A-Wish. That is for other people's sick children, NOT my son. It was devastating although now it is such a bright and happy focus for Wyatt!

Make-A-Wish has made Wyatt feel like a star the whole time and catered to his exact likes/wants. We were blessed to have this trip. Thank you Make-A-Wish!!!!

Wyatt is my strength and should be a role model on how to handle adversity. Despite how difficult every task is for him, he wants to try, he wants to engage. He smiles and laughs so much, the most magical of sights and sounds, even though his hands shake, he falls down and he can't get the words out.

My boy is simply amazing!! #mysweetwyatt

Wyatt was so excited for his Make-A-Wish trip to the National Aquarium!! I downloaded the app on my phone and he has read all the information on ALL the creatures there out loud to me...non-stop for 90 minutes and still going! He practically has the app memorized he looks at it so much!!!
Hand-raising Olive the kangaroo joey has been quite the experience for all of us! Olive came into our care on Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016. She was rejected from her mom, Izzy, after she had fallen out of the pouch. Her mom was separated from the mob (group of kangaroos) so that we could treat her for an abscess on her face. When zookeeper Olivia found Olive, she heated her up in front of a space heater immediately because she was laying on the cold floor; Olive was unresponsive at this time. After restraining Izzy and giving her injectable antibiotics for her infection; we tried to manually place Olive back into mom’s pouch but our attempts were unsuccessful. Mom was too stressed and Olive was very cold. We then decided to take matters into our own hands and rushed Olive to the zoo’s vet clinic, Lake Area Veterinary Clinic. She weighed 800 grams (1.7 lbs.) and was completely hairless; just getting some velvety fur! There, Olive received IV fluids and they helped to warm her up so she could be fed once her body temperature was normal. We then took on the task of feeding Olive every 2 hours the first night that we took her into our care! Olive came home with Olivia, and other keepers from time to time, from the first day we took her in until a couple days ago! That means she was at home with us every night, over Christmas, New Year’s Eve, weekends too! The manual on hand-rearing macropod joeys (large footed marsupials) written by Linda Staker, came in handy during these first critical days of caring for Olive. The book describes exactly where to order supplies from, how much formula to feed, how to measure the growth and development of a joey, and sooo much more. Based on this information, we were able to determine that Olive was about 5 months old when we found her, red kangaroos are usually in the pouch until 10 months and are not weaned until 15 months of age. To this day we reference this manual for everything. Keepers also acquired knowledge about raising kangaroos from a fellow zookeeper who raised a joey at the Chahinkapa Zoo in Wahpeton, ND and other zoos in the area. Keeper Michelle Miller was next up to take shifts caring for little Olive; she has a lot
of experience hand-raising animals of all sorts from cheetahs, tiger cubs and camel calves to reindeer, oryx, and many more. Then after Olive was starting to develop and gaining weight, Keeper John Gilman was recruited to help take Olive home; our Kangaroo Care Team was growing! For a few weeks now, Keeper Bill Gallagher has also been helping; he has a lot of hand-rearing experience also from penguins to tamarins! So thankful for the great team we have; it surely takes a village!! Olive is now living at the zoo in the Kangaroo Building full-time! She weighs 10 pounds and is completely furred, eating hay and leaf eater/fibrous biscuits and drinking water out of a dish! We are feeding her 4 times a day; and spreading out the night feeds as she adjusts! (Finally catching up on sleep.) Olive is doing wonderfully and we are so happy how well she has grown and developed. One of the most rewarding experiences in my life has been hand-raising her from a little naked “rat” to a fully functioning juvenile kangaroo that will soon be integrated into the mob and living with the other roos! The biggest struggle I think we have faced raising Olive is the fact that we took her in over winter and it wasn’t until some warm days in February that she first was able to venture outside! Housing a kangaroo joey in our homes was pretty tough; everyone thinks it’s all fun and games but it was extremely challenging. We will still be feeding Olive until she is 15 months old; kangaroos are not weaned until then or even longer. Follow the Zoo’s Facebook page for more updates on our little Olive! Once the Kangaroo Exhibit is finished and the warm weather arrives, she will be outside with the rest of the mob for everyone to see!
Ambassadors in Action
The Middle School CARES about the program animals at the Bramble Park Zoo. During the winter, many local classrooms sponsor a zoo animal for the holidays. Usually, they chose one of our smaller program animals so that their “Wild Child” can visit their classroom. Students bring in a few dollars to donate to the zoo in lieu of purchasing a small gift for a classroom gift exchange. The money donated helps to supplement the care of the animal of their choice for one year. In return, the class receives a plush replica of their chosen animal, a photo, and fact sheet to display at school. At the Zoo, a plaque with the class name and sponsored animal name is proudly displayed on the “parents” board located inside the Discovery Center. This season, the Watertown Middle School went above and beyond the normal animal sponsorship program with a month long caring project.

What is a Caring Project?
The Middle School Students have been doing Caring Projects for seven years. Each team in the 7th and 8th grade chooses a non-profit and then works with that non-profit to meet a specific need. The 150 students of the 7th grade Wolf Team at Watertown Middle School chose the Bramble Park Zoo as their beneficiary. As you may well know, winters are long and treacherous here in northeastern South Dakota, so we thought boosting the enrichment budget would be a good idea. This would allow the students to help the zookeepers to keep the animal collection active throughout the extremely cold and snowy months while many of the animals are in winter housing.

How the Program Works:
In November, the Zoo Educator visited the middle school with a few of the program animal ambassadors to introduce the rules and goals of the caring project. The Zoo Educator brought three canisters which were left at the school for the duration of the project. The canisters were marked with a 1, 2, and 3…nothing more. The students were told that whichever canister had the most money at the end would dictate which animal would visit at Christmas and which animal they would sponsor. For example, the Zoo Educator presented 1 baby Kenyan sand...
How the Program Works: cont.

boa, 2 Inland bearded dragons, and 3 Madagascar hissing cockroaches. The kids were told to think about what they know about the Bramble Park Zoo's animal collection, and to try to guess which animals the zoo had only 1 of, or only 2 of, or only 3 of that could possibly come visit their school and ultimately be their "Wild Child". Over the course of the next few weeks, the canisters were displayed in the hallway before and after school. Students brought in change and small bills to add to the canisters. The teachers would count the money at the end of each week and announce to the students which one was in the lead. For a long time canister 3 had the most money, then #2 pulled ahead, but ultimately it was #1 who won. The total for all three canisters at the end of the caring project ended up being just under $200 ($194.64 to be exact).

On Wednesday, December 21st, the Zoo Educator once again visited the school with a few of the animal ambassadors. It was announced that if #3 had won, the children would have been able to see the Zoo's 3 black-tailed prairie dogs "Laura", "Nellie" and "Mary". If #2 would have won, they would have had the opportunity to meet the Zoo's domestic rabbits "Pie" and "Doc". Since #1 was the winner, they had the opportunity to observe and interact with "Fred", the Zoo's one and only Umbrella Cockatoo. Fred entertained the crowd of 7th graders, while the Zoo Educator talked about the needs of animals in captivity, especially psittaciformes. Examples were shared about the types of enrichment items that would be purchased with the donation such as toys, boomer balls, and novel foods.

Benefits of the Project:

The students gained a personal relationship with the zoo and they feel a stronger connection because they are helping the animals at Bramble Park Zoo. The 7th graders learned about animal husbandry and the definition and necessity of enrichment. They also learned the parallels between the enrichment their teachers provide at school and the enrichment the zookeepers provide at the zoo. In the past, the Watertown Middle School has chosen the Zoo as its caring project beneficiary, and the students used to bring in approved enrichment items such as blankets, balls, toddler toys, buckets, etc. This became very time consuming for the teachers as they had to store all of the donated items. It was also very time consuming for zoo staff as they had to pick up all items, take them to the zoo, inspect all items, and organize them in the enrichment room. Also, there are many items that the general public cannot buy. Together, the Bramble Park Zoo and Watertown School District worked to revamp the program so that it was a win-win for both parties.

Fred entertained the crowd of 7th graders, while the Zoo Educator talked about the needs of animals in captivity, especially psittaciformes.

“Fred” is a 33-year-old Umbrella Cockatoo (Cacatua alba) that has been part of the Bramble Park Zoo’s Program Animal collection since 2003.

Photo of “Fred” the Umbrella Cockatoo at Bramble Park Zoo courtesy of Joel Sartore ©2006
Thank you for being a Lake Area Zoological Society Member!

We invite you to renew your membership for 2017 so you will always know What’s Up at the zoo. LAZS membership benefits include free and speedy admission to the zoo for one year, free or reduced admission to over 100 participating zoos and aquariums, members’ only specials, and an evening picnic at the Zoo. A LAZS membership makes visiting the Bramble Park Zoo affordable and fun every day of the year. And, as an LAZS member, you are helping support the Zoo’s conservation and education missions locally and globally. As a non-profit, the Bramble Park Zoo depends on your support to continue to add new things at the Zoo!

Thank you for being a Lake Area Zoological Society Member!

These members have joined or renewed since the last newsletter. Become a Lake Area Zoological Society member today!
Bramble Park Zoo

**GRANDPARENT**
Gabe & Nancy Aberly
David & Virginia Allen
Robert Bordeaux
David & Cindy Borns
Walt & Kris Brown
Greg & Julie Cluts
David & Karen Darling
Tom & Chris DeVine
Curt & Coleen Ehresmann
Sharon & Ernest Ellis
Wendy & Ken Fransen
Betty & Jim Gloimodt
David & Tanya Graham
David & Susan Grettler
Phil & Rita Hauge
Pam Haukos
Dick & Robbie Jurgens
Gail Kittelson
Tom & Joan Larson
Karen & Gary Liebl
Margaret Lincoln
Charlene & Herb Lotenbauer
Phil & Gail Marchand
Don & Lynn McGrath
Jerry & Judy Miller
Karen Moeller
Cindy & Pat Murphy
Gordon & Lynn Osthus
Randy & Joni Pickel
Dwight & Lorie Pogany
Al & Pam Raeder
Randy & Linda Rakness
Shelley & Al Reimers
Dr. J.D. Rokusek
Allen & Julie Rude
Nancy & Dean Slostad
Jim & Francene Spies
LaRue & Tammy Sprouse
Charles & Jennifer Stone
John & Lorna Stonebarger
Michael & Judy Strom
Bill & Pam Tanner
John & Janice Tate
Dan & Cyndy Voight
Jerry & Susan Walker
Harley & Betty Waterman
Eugene & Mary Weerts
Marlin & Chris West
Pastor Gary & Vivian Westgard

**INDIVIDUAL**
Willa Austin
Luke Bornmann
Linda Boyken
Ann J. Brown
LuAnn Edwards
DeLores Haugan
Irving Hinderaker
Patty Howey
Amy Jipson
Beverly Moore
Gene Peterson
Kobe Roe
Kristen Roe
Stacey Schwab
Jacob Schwinger
Teresa Shape
Kelli Stellmacher
Kash Urbanski
Pat Walder

**ANIMAL SPONSORS**
Wow! Look at all the people who are supporting our Animal Ambassadors, Thank you!

**Zoo Parent(s)**
“Wild Child”
Katherine Elias .................. Red Kangaroo
Bill & Donna Reidburn .............. Red Kangaroo
Bill & Donna Reidburn .............. Red Kangaroo
Lynn Spartz .................. River Otters
Hailey Jansen .................... Red Kangaroo
Michelle T. Caspers .............. Red Kangaroo
Alexandra Caspers-Chaffee .......... Red Kangaroo
Piper Burrel .................. Red Kangaroo
Justin, Laura, Crosby & Chloe Ruesch .. Snow Goose
Justin, Laura, Crosby & Chloe Ruesch .. Red Kangaroo
Avery Hueli .................. River Otters

**Zoo Parent(s)**
Leighton Rzaszutak .............. Jaguar
Leigh Walder .................. Chinchilla
Martin Walder ................. Ring-tailed Lemur
Landon Love .................. Sand Boa
Harlan & Judy Konrad .......... Bactrian Camel
Tyson Koehn .................. Black Bear
Taryn Koehn ...................... Snow Leopard
The Blossom Shoppe ............. River Otters
The Binsfeld Family ................ American Bison
Jamal Garas ...................... Jaguar
Faisal Garas ..................... Amur Tiger
Shahed Garas ..................... Black Bear
The Dahlgren Grandkids .......... Snow Leopard
Wyatt Carlson .................. Gray Wolf
Sarah Carlson .................. Snow Leopard
Bradyn Kleinasser .......... Snow Leopard
Ethan Carlisle .................... Snow Leopard
Marian A. West ................. Capuchin Monkey
Michael Klement ................. Capuchin Monkey
Perry Jager ...................... Bald Eagle
Shawn Miller ..................... Jaguar
Korri Herr ....................... Amur Tiger
Kyle Herr ...................... Peacock
Waverly 5th Grade .......... Crested Gecko
Florence 2nd Grade .......... Himalayan Rabbit
Florence 3rd Grade .......... Bearded Dragon
Florence 6th Grade .......... Prairie Dog
Roosevelt 4th Grade .......... Chinchilla
Roosevelt K AM ................. Chinchilla
Roosevelt K PM ................. Chinchilla
Roosevelt K AM ................. Sand Boa
Roosevelt K PM ................. Chinchilla
Roosevelt 4th Grade .......... Netherland Dwarf Rabbit
Roosevelt K PM ......... Chinchilla
IMS Wolf Team .......... Umbrella Cockatoo
McKinley Preschool AM ......... Netherland Dwarf Rabbit
McKinley K AM .............. Himalayan Rabbit
McKinley Preschool PM ...... Netherland Dwarf Rabbit
McKinley K PM .......... Chinchilla
Jefferson 4th Grade .......... Black & White Ruffed Lemur
Jefferson 4th Grade .......... Black & White Ruffed Lemur
Jefferson 4th Grade .......... Black & White Ruffed Lemur
Joy & Dan Miller .......... River Otters
Isabelle Herred ................ Jaguar
Briana Pockrandt .......... Amur Tiger
St. Lawrence School Student Council .... Armadillos
Sophia Hemsworth .......... Gray Wolf

**GOING GREEN:**
Animal Chatter, the Lake Area Zoological Society Newsletter, is GREEN! If you would like to help us save money on printing and postage costs and help the environment, please drop us an email at bpz@brambleparkzoo.com with the words “It’s Easy Being Green” in the subject line and we will start sending your newsletter electronically. You’ll get the same information and pictures, without wasting paper and money. You’ll even get the news sooner if you choose to receive Animal Chatter via e-mail!

**Note:** Some editions will still be mailed via the US Postal Service due to important inserts located in the newsletter.
During the holidays the 5th Grade students at Waverly/South Shore thought it was better to give than receive. The students had a unique tour in which they were able to interact with some of the exhibit animals through enrichment. At school prior to their visit, they constructed a zookeeper approved paper mache reindeer complete with animal fur and meat inside. While at the zoo for their Christmas party, they had the chance to watch the wolves “play” with Rudolph. Fun was had by all!

**rehabilitation**

The noun rehabilitation comes from the Latin prefix re-, meaning “again” and habitare, meaning “make fit.”

When something falls in to disrepair and needs to be restored to a better condition, it needs rehabilitation. People seek rehabilitation after an accident or surgery to restore their strength. Bramble Park Zoo staff does the same for migratory birds.

Bramble Park Zoo is a raptor rehabilitation center, only one of 3 in South Dakota. Our job is to take in injured birds (usually found by the public) and “fix” them for eventual release or placement. We do this with the help of the vet and minimally invasive contact. We do not want these wild birds to become habituated or dependent on people for survival.

The birds that reside here at Bramble Park Zoo, such as the bald eagles, owls, hawks, vultures and ravens are the Animal Ambassadors for their wild counterparts. We can learn about them and learn from them to help the wild populations.

The zoo works hard to help injured animals through research and rehabilitation, but with spring coming please remember:

If You Care, Leave Them There!

Wildlife is meant to be wild. The above slogan reminds us all that we must leave young animals where they are found. For instance, it is common for a doe to leave her fawn behind while she feeds, so a solitary fawn should not be “rescued.”

If you find an animal that needs care by a permitted rehabilitator, contact your local GFP Wildlife Division office for assistance.

Olivia with a rehab Hawk
ACQUISITIONS

1.0 Ring-necked pheasant
1.0 Pygmy goat
0.2 Shetland ponies
1.0 Temminck's tragopan
1.0 Ring-tail lemur
0.1 Domestic goose
0.1 Raven
0.1 Spider monkey
0.1 Screech owl

DISPOSITIONS

5.3 African pygmy goats
0.0.17 Kenyan sand boa
1.1 Bourke's parrots
0.0.1 Diamond dove
0.0.6 Zebra finches
0.0.3 Temminck's tragopan
0.0.1 Cubian tree ducks
1.0 Peafowl
1.0 Ferret
1.0 Crested wood partridge
1.0 Black-bellied tree duck
1.2 Red kangaroos
1.0 Ruddy duck
0.1 Spoonbill
0.2 Snow geese

DEATHS

2.0 Temminck's tragopan
0.0.1 Red-eared slider
1.0 Crested wood partridge
0.0.1 Black-bellied tree duck
1.2 Red kangaroos
1.0 Ruddy duck
0.1 Spoonbill

BIRTHS & HATCHES

0.0.18 Kenyan sand boa
Lots of fledgling Cooper's hawks

REHAB BIRDS

1.0 Great horned owl
1.0 Prairie falcon
1.0 Ring-tailed hawk
1.0 Great blue heron
1.0 Cooper's hawk
1.0 White pelican

STATUS

6 Euthanized; 1 Released
1 Non-releasable
4 Euthanized; 1 Died; 1 Released; 2 Pending Release; 2 Non-releasable
1 Released
1 Died; 1 Pending Release; 1 Non-releasable
1 Died; 1 Pending Release
1 Euthanized; 1 Released
1 Euthanized

To save space when communicating with other zoos, we use this system to indicate the number and sex of each group of animals.

The mission of Bramble Park Zoo is to promote wildlife understanding and conservation through public education, maintenance of superior exhibits and high quality care for the animal collection.
LAKE AREA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 484
WATERTOWN, SD 57201

ZOO HOURS
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Extended Summer Hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day)
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

ADMISSION FEES
2 and under – Free • 3-12 years old – $7.00 + tax • 13 and over – $9.00 + tax
Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

LAKE AREA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Lake Area Zoological Society is to promote and stimulate interest in the Bramble Park Zoo and support the zoo’s development and programs through fundraising, marketing and other initiatives designed to enhance the zoo experience.

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Keep up with current events at
BRAMBLEPARKZOO.COM
Zoos exist to connect people with wildlife and to inspire and motivate them to take action for the future survival of all species.

KIDZOO
Animal Ambassadors

Second Nature Camp

Olive
Baby Kangaroo

on