



Bramble Park

ZOO

Come Closer.



ANIMAL CHATTER

WINTER 2018

HAVING A BALL

at the

Bramble Park Zoo



The zoo is always a blast!

Every day, every hour, something entertaining is going on.





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Dan Miller	Zoo Director
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John Gilman	Zookeeper
Olivia Wulff	Zookeeper
Bill Gallagher	Zookeeper
Michelle Miller	Zookeeper
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ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
QUARTER CENTURY AWARD
Bramble Park Zoo
FOR 25 YEARS
OF CONTINUOUS ACCREDITATION
2018

Accreditation

Bramble Park Zoo is proud to announce that it has held continuous AZA accreditation for the last 25 years. Accreditation is a process by which a program, organization, or institution is evaluated by recognized experts in the profession, and is measured against the established standards and best practices of that profession.

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are constantly evolving and standards are continuously being raised. Each zoo or aquarium must keep up with these changes to remain AZA-accredited. And to prove it, they must go through the entire accreditation process every five years. The Bramble Park Zoo is up for re-accreditation in 2019!"

Did You Know: Fewer than 10% of the approximately 2,800 animal exhibitors licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture are AZA accredited! The AZA logo is the easiest, most reliable way for people to choose zoos and aquariums that meet the rigorous accreditation standards. So, be sure to look for the "Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums" logo on web sites, advertisements, and at the gate!



The Holidays are right around the bend...

Looking for unique gift ideas? Give the gift of a VIP Tour! You and/or your guests could go behind the scenes with the animals and learn the inner workings of an AZA accredited Zoo. Doesn't this sound like a **ball**?! The Zoo has many gift options to choose from - stuffed animals and t-shirts to animal art and memberships. Stop in or give us a call today!



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Having a Ball!

Growing up in the suburbs of Milwaukee provided me the opportunity to explore the natural world around me. I had a **ball** riding my bike to ponds, grassy fields, and apple orchards; observing all the creatures large and small along my way. When I was in my teens, my parents purchased a cabin on a trout stream in northern Wisconsin. There, I learned the art of trout fishing and enjoyed my time beneath the pine trees. Like most people, I always found tranquility and peace in nature.

Today, I continue to enjoy working around animals, zoo staff, and visitors. I especially love the faces of children having a ball feeding the goats and chickens. I truly enjoy the ball the otters play with in the water. The zoo staff continues to have a ball working with 800 animals daily.

When I look at a ball, I imagine the earth and all the wonderful

things God created for us. From the magnificent tigers and roaming bison to the tiny Dakota Skipper. They have all improved the quality of our lives.

I would like to thank all the zoo staff, volunteers, donors, Zoo Society

members, and the City of Watertown for allowing our guests to have a ball while visiting the zoo.

See you at the zoo!

Dan Miller



Tribute to Gordy



Michelle and Gordy

Gordy, a black and white ruffed lemur, was born May 22, 2005 in Santa Barbara Zoo. He came to Bramble Park Zoo in February of 2009 with the rest of his family. He was a twin to Rufus who still resides here in Watertown. Gordy loved the zookeepers. He was picked on from time to time by his rambunctious younger siblings, because he was always a little slower and calmer, so he loved attention from his human caretakers.

He won the heart of his primary keeper, Michelle (Drake) Miller. He would groom her hair every morning, and enjoyed his daily snack of dried

fruits or cereal. Everyone who met Gordy fell in love with him. VIP tours left knowing Gordy and how great he was. If zoo guests ran into Michelle in or out of the zoo, they always asked about Gordy.

Unfortunately, for unknown causes, Gordy passed away on October 19th. He is greatly missed and will never be forgotten. He was cremated, as was Cali, and their remains will be kept here at the Zoo.



Enrichment



Campers creating rolly polly toys!

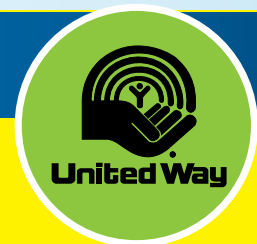


The animals need fun creative outlets too!

A daily requirement here at the Bramble Park Zoo is enrichment. The zookeepers work very hard to create enriching experiences for the animals. This can be providing novel food items, presenting the food in a different way, providing exercise opportunities, offering brain puzzles for the animals to master or simply giving them new toys like a ball or a box. Sometimes Ed"ZOO"cation program participants get to assist with making the enrichment items for the animals. This is a win-win for everyone!

ED'ZOO'CATION

Come have a **ball** with us! Education programs are offered year round for ages 2 and up. Zoo Education programs include a hands-on approach to animal discovery, activities, games, art and interaction with zoo animals.



EARLY OUT ZOO CLASSES

Continue your school day of learning and fun during these afterschool programs at the zoo scheduled on teacher in-service/early out days.

Time: Classes run from about 12:30-5:00 p.m. and include a snack

Fee: \$18 + tax per program

Happy Birthday BPZ Style, Friday, January 18

Reptiles, Wednesday, February 27

Animal Tales, Wednesday, March 27

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead, Thursday, April 18

school
ages

Also, the new CivicRec system will be launched soon. Once this program is active it will make signing up for all Park and Rec classes a breeze. You can create your new updated account now by logging in or stopping by the Zoo or Prairie Lakes Wellness Center during regular hours.

Having a Ball!

at the
ZOO



Jane
is having a ball
with her new
punching
bag.

Having a
ball during
a VIP Behind
the Scenes
Tour!



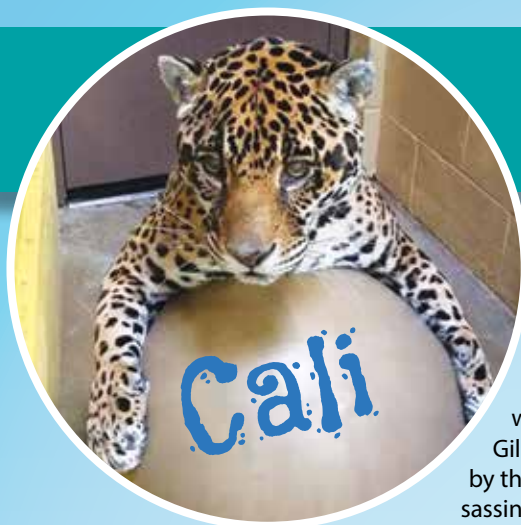
Owl
on a
round owl
pumpkin



34 Zoo Crew had
a ball at the Zoo this
year!



Tribute to Cali



By Dan Crisler,
Public Opinion Staff Writer

There is one less jaguar at Bramble Park Zoo.

After seeing Calamity Jane, or Cali, suffer from cancer that spread from her mammary gland, zoo staff and Dr. Andrea Hennen, Glacial Lakes Veterinary Clinic veterinarian, ended Cali's suffering Thursday, November 15, 2018 by euthanizing the 22-year old spotted jaguar.

It was a somber process for all involved but made necessary within the past week when Cali had trouble balancing as the cancer spread throughout her body.

Still keeping her sassy personality to her final moments, Cali was one of the older jaguars as she beat the 15- to 20-year lifespan.

Born on July 10, 1996, in Rosamund, Calif., Cali lived her first three years at the Tulsa Zoo in Tulsa, Okla. In 1999, Cali was transferred to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb. After spending nearly a decade there, one of the nation's premier zoos, Cali made the nearly 300-mile trek to Watertown's zoo in 2008.

Having worked with Cali throughout her stay, zookeeper John Gilman saw both sides of her colorful personality.

As can perhaps be expected, the jaguar generally didn't act like a cuddly kitten.

"Cali was the one cat that scared me," Gilman said Thursday. "She was an aggressive cat. I always called her the most dangerous animal in the zoo. She just kind of had that evil glare in her eye."

Of course, it was not always a rough go.

"At times, she was a very sweet cat. She picked up on training really well and was a very smart cat. She was very food- and keeper-motivated," Gilman said. "She was really loved here by the keepers. Everyone really liked her sassiness. When she would eat, she would growl and hiss at you. She would kind of wait and then snap at the piece of meat you had for her on the end of a pair of tongs. That was her personality."

During her time at Bramble Park Zoo, Cali was housed near a male black jaguar, Brutus. Initially, the two were housed together. But fights between the two quickly put an end to a shared indoor space.

"Jaguars are typically very solitary cats," Gilman said. "They were O.K. with each other being outside in the exhibit but didn't really interact with each other. We couldn't put them together inside because there would be big fights and things like that."

For most of her tenure, Cali's health wasn't a concern. But about two years ago, she was diagnosed with the initial tumor on her mammary gland. With Cali being 20 years old then, Gilman, along with zoo staff and Dr. Hennen, decided against performing surgery to take it out.

"She probably wouldn't have made it through the surgery with her advanced age," Gilman said.

Up until about a month ago, Cali kept her sassy personality. When her balance issues started to surface last week, that's when Gilman decided to recommend to zoo management to end her suffering.

With Cali having been a creature who enjoyed pleasant sunny days, Gilman lobbied for her to have one last day with those conditions Wednesday when the temperature reached 51 degrees.

"Wednesday was such a beautiful day. I wanted her to enjoy one last day of nice weather," Gilman said. "Cali was one that loved to be outside."

All the way to the end early Thursday

afternoon, Cali stuck to her training. That made it easier on everyone involved to end her life in the most comfortable fashion.



"She was very calm. We were able to follow through just like it was a training exercise for her," Hennen said Friday. "She was not at all worked up or stressed. It was very peaceful for her. We were all very pleased that her training helped us provide a quality end-of-life for her."

With Brutus still around, Gilman said the zoo is not likely to get another jaguar until something happens with Brutus. Now 18 years old, Brutus has lived at Bramble Park Zoo since he was three months old.

"He's never known any place else besides here," Gilman said. "Right at the moment, we don't think we're going to be doing anything as far as bringing another cat in or anything like that."

Although no longer in this world, a part of Cali will remain within Bramble Park Zoo. Gilman said her remains will be cremated and her ashes will stay with the zoo.



Having a Ball!

at the
ZOO



Having a ball hunting
for wiggly treats.



Raven with a snowball



There has
to be a hard boiled egg hiding in this ball pit!



Sloth curled up like a ball.

All the animals at bramble park zoo are having a ball!

Ball python creating a masterpiece



Hedgehog having a ball!



Armadillo having a ball painting.



Linus Update



Although he is usually just curled up like **a ball**, Linus is getting much more active in his new exhibit. Guests can watch him climb, eat, and of course sleep in his new "jungle" habitat down by the kangaroos and golden lion tamarins. He likes his accommodations a sweltering 82 degrees with 82% humidity daily! Follow his crazy antics on our Facebook page!

2019 Special Events

Event	Day	Date	Time
Mother's Day Celebration <i>Honor Mom with a visit to the zoo and receive a special gift just for ladies.</i>	Sunday	May 12	1 PM-4 PM
Father's Day Fiesta <i>Honor Dad with a visit to the zoo and receive a special gift just for men.</i>	Sunday	June 16	1 PM-4 PM
Farm Fun Day <i>A partnership between 4-H and other organizations to teach about agriculture in SD.</i>	Saturday	June 29	11 AM-3 PM
Sippin' Safari <i>21 and over fundraiser highlighting different foods, drinks, entertainment and animals from around the world.</i>	Friday	July 26	6 PM-9 PM
LAZS Member Appreciation Picnic <i>Members' only grill-out donated by Hy-Vee and Coca-Cola.</i>	Tuesday	Aug. 6	6 PM
Midco Free Day <i>Free admission, pop, popcorn, and entertainment.</i>	Thursday	Aug. 8	10 AM-7 PM
25th Annual Watertown Radio Chili Cook-off	Saturday	Sept. 21	10 AM-4 PM
ZOO BOO <i>Community supported trick-or-treating in a fun and safe environment.</i>	Saturday	Oct. 26	2 PM-6 PM
Breakfast with Santa <i>Breakfast provided by Burger King, photos with Santa.</i>	Saturday	Dec. 14	8 AM-10 AM



Breakfast with Santa

Visit with Santa and his animal friends at the Bramble Park Zoo on Saturday, December 15th between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Enjoy breakfast, provided by Burger King, along with other activities inside the Discovery Center. Please wear proper winter attire to view the animals outside at the zoo. Participation is limited to 250 people, so get your tickets early at the zoo or County Fair.

REDUCED FEE: \$6 presale (everyone 3 and over) or \$7 at the door (if available)

DATE: Saturday, December 15, 2018

TIME: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Training



During one of your visits to the zoo you may encounter a zookeeper training on animals. This is operant conditioning and the animals choose if they want to participate in a session. In this picture zookeeper Bill Gallagher is using a round red ball as a target for Ralph the swift fox. The zookeepers are working on calming these rambunctious canids and they are also building relationships with the animals so if the time comes where examinations or medications are necessary they can be implemented in a less stressful way for the animals.



Tiger with a boomer ball.

ANIMAL UPDATE

3.2.1 = 3 males, 2 females, and 1 unknown sex. To save space when communicating with other zoos, we use this system to indicate the number and sex of each group of animals.

ACQUISITIONS

0.1	Bactrian camel
1.1	Domestic ferrets
0.0.1	White pelican
0.0.45	African cichlids
2.0	Chinchillas
0.1	American bison
1.0	Emu
0.0.1	Boa constrictor
0.0.2	Leopard geckos
0.1	Snow leopard
1.0	Trumpeter swan
0.0.15	Northern pintails
1.0	Red kangaroo
0.2	Degus
2.0	Domestic rats
0.1	Chinchilla
0.0.1	Eastern hognose snake
1.0	Two-toed sloth
3.4	Golden pheasants
1.0	American Kestrel

DISPOSITIONS

10.6	Pygmy goats
2.0	Taveta weavers
0.1	Colobus
17.17.26	Prairie dogs (wild)
0.1	Pony
1.0	Chicken
1.0	Trumpeter swan
1.0	Bactrian camel
3.2	Red kangaroos
0.1	Boa constrictor
1.1	Bison calves
0.0.9	Domestic ducks
1.0	Ringtail lemur
0.1	Black tail prairie dog

DEATHS

1.0	Black & white ruffed lemur (unknown)
0.1	Screech owl (trauma)

DEATHS cont'd

1.0	Raven
0.1	Northern pintail duck
1.1	Domestic ferrets
0.0.1	Marine toad
0.0.1	Tarantula
0.1	Northern pintail duck
0.1	Walleye
0.1	American bison (complications from calving)
0.1	Scarlet ibis (tumors, hernia)
0.0.1	Rainbow trout
0.0.1	Great-horned owl
0.1	Snowy owl
0.0.1	Spoonbill (old age)
0.2	Chinchillas (MRSA)
0.1	Peahen (mink)
2.0	Buffalo weavers
0.1	American alligator (euthanized, dislocated shoulder and complications)
0.0.1	Snow goose
0.0.1	Bald Eagle
0.0.1	Zebra eel (12 years old)
1.0	Inland bearded dragon (old age)
0.1	Bald Eagle (suspect aspergillosis euthanized due to injuries)

BIRTHS & HATCHES

1.0	Debrazza's monkey
6.5	African pygmy goats
1.0	American bison

REHAB BIRDS

Red-tailed hawk
Red-tailed hawk
2 Red-tailed hawks
White pelican
3 Red-tailed hawks
White pelican
1 Bald Eagle
2 Bald Eagles
1 Bald Eagle
1 Bald Eagle
1 Golden Eagle
2 Red-tailed hawks
4 Coopers hawk chicks
24 mallard ducks
30 wood ducks
2 Canada geese
Red-tailed hawk
3 Screech owls
Swainsons hawk
24 mallard ducks
40+ wood ducks
10 hooded mergansers
Great horned owl
Red-tailed hawk
Red tailed hawk
Snowy owl

Bald Eagle

Great horned owl
Rough legged hawk
Snowy owl

Snow goose
Bald Eagle
Snowy owl
Great horned owl
American kestrel
Snowy owl
Snowy owl

Bald Eagle
Great horned owl
Red-tailed hawk

Bald Eagle
Osprey
Burrowing owl
Bald Eagle
Red-tailed hawk

STATUS

Euthanized
DOA
Released
Euthanized
Released
Euthanized
Euthanized/lead poisoning
Released
Died - suspect poisoning
Euthanized - mange/rare
Euthanized/broken elbow
Euthanized/WNV
1 euthanized, 1 released
1 died, 1 released, 2 release soon
Severe leg injury (euthanized)
Young hand raise (released)
Wing tip amputated (add to collection)
Severely broken wing (euthanized)
Non-releasable (added to collection)
Break-mid shaft humerus (euthanized)
Compound fracture of elbow joint (euthanized)
Severely broken humorous, bird shot (euthanized)
Hit by car (euthanized)
Broken wing (euthanized)
Compound fracture of elbow joint (euthanized)
Broken wing tip (add to collection)
Vet/fluids/lead treatment/died
Both wings broken; non-releasable
Missing right wing tip; non-releasable
Broken back; euthanized
Released
Minor break right humerus bone/release pending
Released
Severe break to upper ulna/euthanized
Compound fracture humorous/ euthanized
Muscle injury/releasable
Shattered carpus area of wing/euthanized
Missing wingtip/non-releasable
Healed shoulder break/non-releasable
Shatter humorous bone/euthanized

The Mission of Bramble Park Zoo is: To Come Closer To The Natural World Around Us.

The Vision of Bramble Park Zoo is: To Become the Region's Leading Experience in Education & Conservation of the Natural World.



Memberships

We hope all of our members, from individuals to benefactors, have a **ball** while visiting the zoo.

We truly appreciate Your Support!

Did you know if you have a membership card and are a "member of the zoo" you are part of the Lake Area Zoological Society (LAZS) the Zoo's non-profit support organization? The LAZS helps the zoo with extra projects throughout the year.

Note: In order to save space and paper, the zoo will no longer be printing a list of new or renewing members in each newsletter.



conserve paper

GO 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.



Social Media

Newsletters and other printed materials are difficult to produce, mainly because things change daily here at the Zoo! To stay on top of current events please visit our official website often (www.brambleparkzoo.com) and become a fan of our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BPZandLAZS).

Have a **ball** with us online!

Christmas tree fundraiser



'Tis the season for giving and for Christmas trees! Fifteen local non-profit organizations will have trees on display at the Watertown Regional Library now through December 31st. Visit the library and donate to your favorite organization(s). The Watertown Area Community Foundation will match up to \$300 for each organization's total donations and the organization with the most donations will receive an additional \$500 grant from the Foundation.

Organizations:

60's Plus Dining/Meals on Wheels
Beacon Center
Boys & Girls Club of Watertown
Codington County Heritage Museum
Friends of the Goss
Joy Ranch
Lake Area Zoological Society
Mellette House
My Happy Place
Town Players
Watertown Area People Against Child Hunger
Watertown Area Transit
Watertown Police – K9
Watertown Regional Library
Watertown Volunteer Center

Here's How to Vote for your favorite tree: Mark the organization's tree on the slips provided and turn it in with your donation (\$1 per vote) to a library staff member at the counter.

Thank you for your support and Happy Holidays



LAKE AREA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 484
WATERTOWN, SD 57201

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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Printed on recycled paper

ZOO HOURS & FEES

Regular Hours 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Daily

Extended Hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Daily

ADMISSION FEES UNTIL 12/30/18!!

2 and under - free • 3-12 years old - \$7.50 (\$8.18) • 13 and over - \$9.50 (\$10.36)

AFTER 1/2/19

2 and under - free • 3-12 years old - \$8.00 (\$8.72) • 13 and over - \$10.00 (\$10.90)

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.



The
Noteboom kids
having a ball in
the eagle
nest.

Tiger with a ball.



Having a ball.



Having a ball in any season!