

## ZOO

# Langurs and Giant Otters, Oh My!

Two rare species arrive at the Zoo.

The Zoo is excited to announce the arrival of two Francois's Langurs, a type of primate; and a duo of giant otters, the largest species of otter.

Francois's Langurs hail from southern China, northeastern Vietnam and west central Laos. Their preferred habitat is rain forests with limestone terrain. The cave formations and overhangs in these areas are used for refuge and shelter from weather.

It is believed that throughout the past 35 years, the number of Francois's Langurs has declined by at least 50 percent. Much of this decline is a result of habitat loss and hunting. Active and noisy, langurs are medium-sized monkeys. This male and female pair came to the L.A. Zoo from the San Diego Zoo and is part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP) program. The L.A. Zoo is one of 14 zoos in the United States to house these primates, so make sure to check them out in their new habitat, located near the tigers!

Taking up residence in the former maned wolf exhibit are a pair of giant otters. Giant otters are the largest of the mustelid family, which consists of fur-bearing carnivores including weasels, ferrets and badgers. Full grown, giant otters can reach a length of six feet, and adult males can weigh as much as 70 pounds!

Found in the tropical rain forests and wetlands of north and central South America, giant otters live in family groups. These family groups consist of an alpha pair and their offspring who will stay with their parents for two or three years. When the alpha pair breeds, the older cubs share babysitting responsibilities for their younger siblings.

Giant otters are endangered, with an estimated 1,000 to 5,000 of these creatures left. They're hunted for their pelts and face threats of habitat degradation, overfishing, mercury poisoning and pollution. The L.A. Zoo is one of only five zoos in the United States to exhibit this rare species.

The Zoo's maned wolf has moved next door to the otters in a newly replanted exhibit. Sometimes referred to as "a fox on stilts," the maned wolf is named for the long, mane-like strip of dark fur running from the back of the head to the shoulders.

Native to South America, these wolves are solitary creatures. Maned wolves weigh in around 50 pounds and stand three feet tall at the shoulder, making them the largest canid in South America.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Admission is \$13 for adults and \$8 for children ages 2 to 12. The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the L. A. Zoo Website at [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).



A Francois Langur at the Zoo.

## Newsbriefs

### LONG-LOST PET FOUND:

After a seven-year absence, Snoopy is home safe and sound, thanks to his microchip – and Animal Services.

In 2001, Alex Esparza and his family adopted a small white poodle from the North Central Animal Care Center. Before he left the Center bound for his new home, Snoopy was injected with a microchip, and the microchip number was registered in a national database.



The Esparza family and Snoopy.

Snoopy adapted quickly to his new family, but a year later he was gone. Alex's small son let him slip out an open door. Attempts to find Snoopy failed.

Seven years later, Snoopy arrived back at the East Valley Animal Care Center, turned in by a resident who found him wandering in their backyard. During his initial examination, staff scanned Snoopy with a hand-held device and found a microchip, which led them back to Alex Esparza. The Esparza family rushed to the East Valley Animal Care Center and brought him home again. "We didn't know if he would remember us after seven years," Alex said. "We're all really happy he's back."

Snoopy, like all pets adopted from LA Animal Services, received a microchip prior to leaving the Center. Once inserted, the microchip lasts a lifetime and causes no harm to the pet. LA Animal Services scans every pet received for a microchip in the hopes of a happy reunion. Collars and tags can become separated from pets, making microchips the best possible way for a lost pet to be returned home. LA Animal Services encourages all pet owners strongly to consider microchipping their pets.

### SEWER ANNIVERSARY:

Public Works held a ceremony Oct. 21 to mark the halfway point of the Collection System Settlement Agreement (CSSA), and recognize the 77 percent decrease in sewer spills since 2000. Awards and certificates were presented.

The event acknowledged the hard work of City staff and partners who have worked together to achieve the goals set forth in the CSSA, which include protecting Los Angeles neighborhoods and improving water quality by reducing sewer overflows and controlling odors.




# LA City Employees Club

## PRIVATE PARTY

**Other selected companies will attend**

- **FREE PARKING!** (After 5 p.m.)
- **Season Passes not accepted**
- **Children age 2 and under FREE!!!**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.**  
(Closed to the Public)  
**PARK HOURS: 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
**TICKETS VALID ALL DAY - WRISTBAND REQUIRED**

<p><b>PRIVATE PARTY Admission Only:</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$22<sup>25</sup></span>  <small>EACH</small></p>	<p><b>PRIVATE PARTY Admission with buffet:</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$32<sup>25</sup>*</span>  <small>EACH</small></p>
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GENERAL USE TICKET (REG. \$54.99)

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT:**  
CLUB STORE  
(888) 777-1744  
**HURRY! BUY NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!**







Due to maintenance and other circumstances certain rides and attractions, including new rides, may not be open to the public.

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