



# birthday party animal encounter

## **\$75 (MAXIMUM OF 50 PEOPLE)**

Join an El Paso Zoo educator for a 30 minute presentation to meet the Zoo's animal ambassadors. Children experience up close encounters and bio facts in this encounter! Animals in our education collection include: reptiles (snakes, tortoises and other reptiles), birds (parrot), insects (venomous and non-venomous) and mammals (chinchilla, hedgehog, ferret and other mammals).

For the safety of the animals we do not guarantee any individual animal or class of animals and special requests cannot be taken.

Animals shown are dependent on the birthday child's age and availability.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

No food nor drinks are allowed in the animal encounter areas. Birthday party animal encounters will take place at the El Paso Water Utilities Discovery Center Classroom. Reservations must be made two weeks in advance. There are a maximum of 50 people per animal encounter session.

There may be an option for participants to touch an educational animal depending on group size and age. We ask that you and the adult chaperones attending the program read the guidelines listed below on how you can help prevent any disease transmission associated with live animal encounters. Anyone who is sick, immune deficient or under age 8 should not come into close contact with animals.

## **PLEASE READ:**

Zoo animals are provided with regular veterinary care, disease screening and vaccinations to minimize the chances of disease transmission. However, there is no way to make animal contact completely risk free. Even healthy animals may carry some types of bacteria or other organisms that could cause illness in children if proper hygiene is not followed.

The most common routes of infection in children touching animals are:

- Placing unwashed fingers directly in their mouths.
- Touching something with unwashed hands that later ends up in their mouths (pacifiers, cups, pencils/markers, toys).
- Eating off of surfaces animals or unwashed hands have contacted.
- The single most effective way to avoid disease transmission is to make sure children wash their hands after touching animals.

## **WASH HANDS AFTER TOUCHING ANIMALS.**

El Paso Zoo offers hand sanitizing lotion when showing education animals. Please help ensure all people who come in contact with animals use the hand sanitizer promptly. Additionally, hand sanitizer helps kill some germs, but does not necessarily remove dirt and all germs. Please make sure to stop by the sink for a good soapy hand washing. Taking these precautions should make this an enjoyable and enriching day for everyone with as little risk as possible.

**Have questions on the program? Contact Zoo Adventure Education Specialist.**

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