

ELMWOOD PARK ZOO

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To: Laurie, Director of Education
September 16, 2015

Based on our discussions and my veterinary experience, I am submitting the following Protocol titled Temperature Limits for Education Animals. This is a guideline for the EPZ education staff to follow under normal conditions. Other factors such as the Animal's age, health status, and seasonal issues may alter the guidelines.

Temperature Limits for Education Animals

All animals are susceptible to illness when exposed to unsafe weather conditions. This includes high/low temperature, high/low humidity and weather-related events. Education animals are uniquely exposed to these weather issues due to the fact that these animals travel before and after a program. In all cases, if an educator feels that it is unsafe for an animal to be used, they should contact education curator or education director.

In hot environments, bring some ice, water, spray bottle, or cooling blankets
In cold environments, bring towels or snuggle safe heat pads.

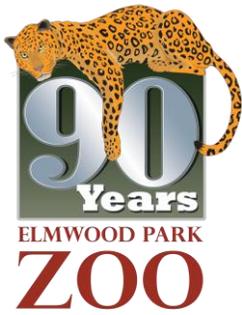
Our goal is to ensure that our animals and our staff are protected from these extreme weather conditions. Real Feel temperature or wind chill factor is what we will use for our evaluation, instead of direct temperature or humidity.

On-site programs can be conducted with any animal that is able to be used for educational programs as long as proper transport cages are used. Transport cages should be of the appropriate size, have adequate ventilation if needed, and be safe for the animal to prevent escape.

Off-site program animal use should be based on the Real Feel temperature at the Zoo as well as at the location of the program. If **an indoor program**, try to check ahead of time which room will be utilized. Make sure it is adequate in terms of size, safety, and temperature/humidity.

Off-site program animal use in **an outdoor environment** should be checked ahead regarding size, safety, and temperature/humidity.

Elmwood Park Zoo's mission is to foster an appreciation for wildlife and the environment that will inspire active participation in conservation.
1661 Harding Boulevard Norristown, PA 19401 P. 610.277.3825 F. 610.292.0332 www.elmwoodparkzoo.org



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For **all indoor animal program** use, Real Feel temperature must be between 65-75 at the location of the program and have adequate ventilation.

For **all outdoor animal program** use, Real Feel temp should be +/- 20 degrees of holding area. For Birds of Prey other than snowy owl that are housed outdoors, only use when Real Feel temp is below 85. For snowy owl, use when below 75.

For the safety of our staff, our animals, and our vehicles, zoo employees **will not** be Allowed to leave zoo grounds with any animal under the following conditions:

- Tornado warning
- Severe flood warning
- Severe icy conditions
- Hurricane warning
- Below 10 degrees wind chill factor
- Above 92 degrees Real Feel temp

Safe RealFeel temperatures for zoo education animals

Rabbits	40-80	Birds of Prey/Duck*	40-90
Ferrets	55-80	Snowy Owl	25-75
Chinchillas	50-80	Screech Owls*	50-85
Skunk	45-85	Snake	50-90
Opossum	45-85	Lizard	50-95
Hedgehog	60-85	Turtle	50-90
Parrots	55-90	Tortoise	60-95

*The duck and screech owls are shifted inside or outside depending on weather, and are e for the entire winter. The standard +/- 20 degree rule should be followed when they are used outside

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