

Update on the Emperor Tamarin Monkeys

We are grateful to the Dallas Police Department for their efforts in locating the emperor tamarin monkeys quickly and safely.

Emperor tamarin monkeys, Bella and Finn, were so happy to snuggle into their nest sack here at the Zoo last night! Our veterinary and animal care teams have said, beyond losing a bit of weight, they show no signs of injury and both started eating and drinking almost immediately once the team completed health exams on Tuesday night. We will continue to monitor them closely, but for now, we're so glad they are safe and back with us. They will not return to the habitat in the Lacerte Family Children's Zoo for a little while still - because they were taken off-grounds, they will need to clear a quarantine period before they are reintroduced to their Zoo habitat.

We are pleased that video from our surveillance cameras – which we shared with Dallas PD – seems to have been critical in generating a tip that led to the recovery of the tamarins.

We can also announce that the Zoo is increasing the reward amount to \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and indictment of whoever is responsible for these crimes. As a reminder, we are asking for the public's help to share any information that may be relevant to these cases. Please call 214-670-7694 to share information.

Security Updates

Our team is devastated by the unprecedented situation we have been faced with over these last few weeks. This has made us take a hard look at the onsite security measures we have in place. Although our security program had worked in the past, it has become obvious that we need to make significant changes. Words cannot express the frustration our team is feeling. Even with all the additional security measures we have put in place during the past two weeks, our animals and staff continue to be the target of these criminal acts.

We have consulted with security experts and have developed new strategies for securing the 106-acre zoo. Securing a zoo is a unique challenge that requires specific needs because of the environment; there is often extensive tree canopy, expansive habitats and behind-scenes-areas to monitor, and heavy traffic from guests, contractors, and staff. We have added cameras and patrols to areas that were challenging and will continue to evaluate other advancements that could help in these types of areas.

Adding more cameras, additional security technology, additional fencing, more than double the security patrols, and increased overnight staffing are some of the many changes we have made and are continuing to expand. Our security personnel, staff,

and volunteers all already undergo background checks. The Zoo is evaluating our internal policies and identifying additional partners with whom we will work to further strengthen security measures to protect the Zoo, our animals, our staff, our guests, and our community. We will absorb the cost of any further enhancements needed to ensure incidents like these are prevented in the future.

From a statement from Dan Ashe, President and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums

“... Dallas Zoo and its animals are victims of theft, presumably intended to take animals for personal reasons, or worse, to be trafficked. AZA and its entire member community stand squarely with Dallas Zoo and condemn these acts of violence against the Zoo, its animals, and the entire Dallas community.”

Link to complete AZA statement-

<https://www.aza.org/aza-news-releases/posts/dallas-zoo-animal-incidents-apparently-deliberate>