

Animal Trading Card



Common Name: Binturong
Scientific Name: Arctictis binturong
Distinguishing Characteristics: Binturongs are excellent climbers and can climb their hind legs backwards so that they can still grip onto a tree when climbing down it head first. They have elongated heads and pointed muzzles as well as scent glands under their tail and on their feet. They use these and their urine scent to mark areas, which produce a very distinctive smell, that of buttered popcorn. They use a variety of vocalizations to communicate, including howls, grunts, and hisses.

Habitat: Its natural habitat is in the canopy trees in rainforests of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. It is mainly arboreal and nocturnal.

Wild Diet: It eats primarily fruit, but also has been known to eat eggs, plant shoots, leaves, and small animals, such as rodents or birds.

Facts: The Binturong gives the appearance of a cross between a bear and a cat, hence the nickname "Bear Cat." Binturongs are listed as vulnerable in some parts of their range and endangered in others.

Nature's Unlikely Creature Ron Glazier, Santa Ana Zoo Director, Retired

Mother Nature has produced a number of "unlikely" animals: wrinkled-faced bat, duck-billed platypus, and star-nosed mole come to mind. However, surely the Giant Anteater ranks near the top of the list. How else would you describe a fist-walking, parasol-tailed, two-foot long tongue slurper, with a snout to rival the most bizarre caricature of the legendary Jimmy Durante. For those of you too young to remember, he was an actor/singer famous in the 40s and 50s for his very prominent nose, also an answer to a trivia question, who was known as the "Schnoz"



On the other hand, the Giant Anteater could be described as the perfectly designed creature that does what it does better than any other animal (with the exception of the African aardvark), and that is eat ants and termites. Despite its odd appearance, the Giant Anteater's peculiar features are uniquely suited for its survival. Found in Central and South America it ranges from tropical forests to savannahs in search of ants and termites, which make up its diet.

Although they have poor eyesight, anteaters have an incredible sense of smell that unerringly leads them to the termite mounds. Their long snout is actually not their nose but rather an elongated jaw that lacks incisor and canine teeth. The toes end in curved claws up to four inches long. To protect the sharpness of the claws for ripping holes into the termite mounds, they walk on their fists with their claws curled up off the ground. Once the termite mound is breached, the two-foot long tongue housed in the elongated jaw goes to work.

A combination of microscopically small

spikelike projections and sticky saliva secure the ants and termites to the tongue, which is then pulled back into the jaw where they are swallowed. The process is repeated up to 160 times a minute. During a day's foraging the Giant Anteater can consume up to 35,000 ants or termites. Interestingly, the Giant Anteater practices sustainable harvesting of termites. It does not destroy the termite mound but breaks into it just enough to feed for a minute or so and then moves on to the next mound. This practice also reduces the exposure to counterattacks by swarms of biting termites. The population of termites is not devastated and can easily repair the damage to their mound. This practice ensures the anteater another meal on its next visit to that particular termite mound. This sustainable practice of utilizing natural resources is something humans have begun to consider only relatively recently. That prompts an idea for a spinoff of a popular game show that we could call, "Are We Smarter than an Anteater?" Yes, we can learn a lot from

Mother Nature.

The Giant Anteater shuffles from mound to mound in its daily routine of sniffing and slurping, but if the sun rays become too oppressive, or a brief rain shower moves through, it curls up into a ball and uses its massive tail as a parasol to protect it from the elements. A large anteater may be up to seven feet in total length, half of it being its bushy tail.

The Santa Ana Zoo has long wanted to add the Giant Anteater to the collection. Our new exhibit, Tierra de las Pampas, which will open soon, will give our visitors an opportunity to see this unusual and uniquely adapted animal up close. In addition, we hope our pair will produce offspring and help contribute to the conservation of the Giant Anteater. In the wild they are considered threatened with extinction as only approximately 5,000 exist. In the U.S., zoos exhibit fewer than 100 altogether. Our pair, imported from Guyana, South America, introduces a new genetic line to the captive population, which is valuable to the conservation efforts. Perhaps, with luck, visitors will be able to see a baby clinging to its mother's back sometime next year. There are a lot of factors involved in the successful propagation of any zoo animal, but we have made every attempt to provide all the necessary elements in Tierra de las Pampas to provide an excellent home for our anteaters. At least, they won't have to worry about a jaguar sneaking up on them in the dead of night. However, they are quite capable of protecting themselves by rearing back on their hind legs being supported by that bushy tail and lashing out with those four-inch claws.



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Time Sensitive Material



Construction of Tierra de las Pampas



New FOSAZ Executive Board is anxious to work on the many opportunities that will benefit the Zoo. From left to right: Mark Harrison, Treasurer; Debbie Friedman, Vice President; Rip Ribble, President; Steve McGuigan, Secretary.

Zoo Info:

HOURS:
 Gates Open 10 AM
 Gates Close 4 PM
 Grounds Close 5 PM

The Santa Ana Zoo is open daily except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION:
 Adults (13+) \$8.
 Children (3-12) \$5.
 Seniors (60+) \$5.
 FOSAZ members and children under 2 are FREE.
 Train Rides \$3.
 Carrousel Rides \$3.
 11 AM-2 PM Every Day (\$5 Combo Tickets for Train & Carrousel available)
 Subject to change without notice.
 Call for further information (714) 836-4000.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
Recorded Zoo Info:
 (714) 835-7484
Education Dept.:
 (714) 647-6575
Gift Shop:
 (714) 542-9650
Friends of Santa Ana Zoo:
 (714) 953- 8555
WEB SITE:
 www.santaanazoo.org

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TO INSTILL A PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD THROUGH RECREATION, CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION

Animal Tales

A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE



Animal Trading Card
Smells like buttered popcorn?



New Executive Team
FOSAZ welcomes its 2010 officers.



Guanacos
A new male has joined our herd.

Spring 2010 - Volume 12, Issue 1

Special Events 2010

EVERY SECOND TUESDAY of the month: FREE admission for Santa Ana Residents Day. \$1 Train & Carrousel Discount Day (2nd Tuesday only).

March 6 - 7
Zoo Birthday Party — All-Zoo party with music, games and fun; 11AM-2PM — General Public - FREE with price of admission; Members — FREE.

March 21
Tierra de las Pampas VIP Donor Recognition Event - 3 PM.

April 10
Zoo-B-Que and Tierra de las Pampas Member Sneak Peek! — Sneak Peek of new exhibit. Members get FREE train rides, music, crafts, BBQ hot dogs & hamburgers, opportunity drawing, and extra discounts: 11AM-2PM.

April 17
Tierra de las Pampas Grand Opening! — Grand Opening of new exhibit. 11AM-2PM. General Public - FREE with price of admission; Members — FREE.

April 24
Party for the Planet — All Zoo event with booths promoting conservation. 11AM-2PM. General Public - FREE with price of admission; Members — FREE.

May 15 - 16
University of California Master Gardeners — Fun activities and helpful information for the gardening enthusiast: 11AM to 3PM. FREE with price of admission.

June 13
Sunset at the Zoo — Bring a picnic and join us for an evening of live music, coffee, dessert, train rides and animals: 5:30-7:30PM.

June 27
Sunset at the Zoo — Bring a picnic and join us for an evening of live music, coffee, dessert, train rides, crafts and animals: 5:30-7:30pm.

July 18
Sunset at the Zoo — Bring a picnic and join us for an evening of live music, coffee, dessert, train rides and animals: 5:30-7:30pm.

August 28
ZooFari 2010 — Black tie gala fundraising dinner/dance: 5:30pm – Midnight.

Dates are tentative and subject to change. For additional information on any event, please contact the Friends of Santa Ana Zoo at (714) 953-855 x12.

The Wait Is Almost Over: Tierra de las Pampas Grand Opening April 17!



On Saturday, April 17, the fences will come down, the dust will be cleared, and all the paths will be opened as the Santa Ana Zoo celebrates the grand opening of its spectacular "Tierra de las Pampas" exhibit. The Tierra de las Pampas (meaning "Land of the Grasses") exhibit occupies the northwestern corner of the Santa Ana Zoo and is the first of four major biomes (grasslands, forests, wetlands, and deserts) that will join the Crean Family Farm to establish five unique themed areas in the Zoo.

Be prepared to experience the wonders of the South American grasslands in this immersive exhibit, which includes two new multi-species displays. The first of these areas will house a breeding pair of **Giant Anteaters**, which range from 6 to 8 feet long, weigh up to 160 pounds, and have sticky tongues that can extend 24 inches outside the mouth at a rate of 150 times a minute! The second will house the **Greater Rheas**, the largest known American birds, which are flightless but have keen eyesight and hearing. Joining them will be the **Guanacos**, the tallest wild mammals of South America, which

can spit up to six feet with a particularly uncanny aim. Throughout the exhibit, you will learn about the "pampas" through education nodes, interpretive graphics, and interactive elements (physical and tactile). The majestic Ombu tree serves as a landmark for this beautiful realm. It can grow up to 60' tall and is a "survivor" because its wood is soft and spongy, retaining nearly 80% of available water. And it is not grazed upon because its sap is poisonous! The Pampas is considered to be one of the most endangered habitats on earth due to extensive livestock grazing and farming practices that make it one of the richest cultivated regions in the world – but that also are threats to its existence. This endangered land will be available right here in your own backyard when you come and visit us in the urban oasis that is the Santa Ana Zoo. A special "Sneak Peek" event will take place for Zoo Members only on Saturday, April 10. Be among the first to see the anteaters and view this new exhibit by joining as a Zoo Member and visiting the Zoo on April 10 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

