



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 7, 2017

CONTACT: Shayla Moriarty, director of communications
419-385-5721 ext. 2155 or Shayla.moriarty@toledo zoo.org

Enrichment Day: Play the Animal Way at the Toledo Zoo

TOLEDO, Ohio -- One of the ways that the Toledo Zoo provides the highest quality of animal care is through our enrichment program: creating objects and activities that encourage the animals to use their wild and natural instincts to explore their habitats, make choices about their day and find food. Simply put, enrichment is a large part of the animal version of a wellness program. On Saturday, September 23, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., the Zoo offers Enrichment Day: Play the Animal Way for visitors to see these efforts and more in action!

All across the Zoo, keepers and animal care staff will share enrichment demonstrations and information about the animals. While it may look like the animals are playing they are actually utilizing repurposed materials to display natural behaviors including hunting/foraging, scent marking and more. For example, it is not just a wreath with food smears, to gorillas it is a puzzle and to birds it is a supply of nesting materials. Other examples would be elephants using bowling balls as step stools, apes using blankets as umbrellas and shredded paper mounds as nests, cheetahs stalking cardboard boxes stacked to portray prey or the rhino using a dried pine tree as a scratching post! In addition to the animal demonstrations, there will also be opportunities for kids to experience hands-on enrichment activities in the Nature's Neighborhood workshop.

All activities are included with Zoo admission. The full schedule of Enrichment Day: Play the Animal Way activities is available at toledo zoo.org/enrichment.

Join the Toledo Zoo for Enrichment Day: Play the Animal Way... the fun and enrichment isn't just for the animals!

The Zoo is open daily at 10 a.m. and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit toledo zoo.org or call 419-385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge on non-holiday Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Valid ID showing proof of residency is required.

The Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join us in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, the Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things. Submitted by: Kim Haddix

###