HOW LUCKY GOT HIS SHOE
NEW CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK ABOUT SANTA BARBARA ZOO’S PENGUIN RELEASED WITH BOOK SIGNINGS ON JANUARY 21 – “PENGUIN AWARENESS DAY”

- Karen B. Winnick Also Wrote Gemina the Crooked-Neck Giraffe
- Book Signings on Saturday, January 21 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Zoo Penguin Exhibit; 2 to 4 p.m. at Chaucer’s Bookstore
- Real-life Humboldt Penguin “Lucky” Hatched at Zoo in 2010, Requires Custom Made Teva Shoe to Walk and Swim

(Santa Barbara, CA, January 4, 2016) – The Santa Barbara Zoo’s shoe-wearing Humboldt penguin named Lucky is the subject of a new children’s picture book by writer and illustrator Karen B. Winnick, who wrote about another memorable Zoo resident, Gemina the Crooked-Neck Giraffe, in 2013. How Lucky Got His Shoe is a colorfully illustrated, 36-page, hardbound book, measuring 8.75 by 8.75 inches, and is priced at $12.95. It is sold at the Zoo Store, at local booksellers, and online at www.sbzoostore.org. All book sales proceeds go directly to the Santa Barbara Zoo. How Lucky Got His Shoe goes on sale on Saturday, January 21, 2017, at activities during Penguin Awareness Day at the Santa Barbara Zoo, where Winnick will sign books from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Crawford Family Penguin Exhibit.

It follows the real life story of Lucky, who hatched at the Zoo in 2010, but had a right foot that did not develop properly. He could not swim or walk well, and faced possible death due to continued infections. Outdoor shoe company Teva stepped in and designed and created a custom-made shoe for the young penguin, which allowed him to join the Zoo’s Humboldt penguin colony, where he lives to this day.

“I was inspired to tell Lucky’s story because he does everything all the other penguins do, despite his disability,” said Winnick. “With his determination, wonderful caregivers, and his shoe, Lucky is truly a lucky penguin. I hope children everywhere will be inspired by his story, too.”

The book signing and related Penguin Awareness Day events are free with Zoo admission. A 20-minute pass is available for those wishing only to attend the signing. For more information, call 962-5339 or visit www.sbzoo.org.
Winnick will also sign books on that day, Saturday, January 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Chaucer’s Bookstore. For more information, visit www.chaucersbooks.com.

**Lucky Book Based on True Story**

The story follows Lucky from his hatching, early care by his parents in the nest, to his early attempts to walk and swim with a right foot that did not develop normally.

Rachel Ritchason, the Zoo’s real-life Curator of Birds and Records, is depicted as she works with Zoo veterinarians find a way to help Lucky. It was Ritchason who had the idea to approach Teva, whose corporate headquarters is located in nearby Goleta, to design a shoe for a penguin. Teva designers are shown working on several designs before finding the right fit.

“Working with partners in our community and seeing so many people come together to help an animal in need was a special experience,” said Ritchason. “I am so grateful that Lucky has had such passionate people that continue to care for him and provide for his every need.”

For this book, the author met with Lucky and his keepers, saw his shoe collection, took photos, and observed how the penguin walked and interacted with the other penguins.

Winnick began creating the images by drawing in pencil, then drawing on canvas before painting in oils. The book’s endpapers, inside the front and back covers, show drawings of Lucky made by children attending the Santa Barbara Zoo’s award-winning Zoo Camp. A photograph of Lucky is at the end of the book, along with a dictionary for children explaining terms used in the book, such as “splint,” “vulnerable species,” and “down feathers.”

**Books Depict Animals Living With Disabilities**

After *Gemina, The Crooked Neck Giraffe*, Winnick’s first book for the Santa Barbara Zoo, came out, the author heard from parents of children with disabilities reporting that their children were inspired by the book. She also heard that the book provided parents of children without disabilities with an opening to discuss and teach about sensitivity toward others.

“Both Gemina and Lucky sparked my interest in animals with disabilities in zoos and aquariums throughout the country,” says Winnick. “I’ve been researching and writing their stories – a blind sea lion, a sea turtle missing flippers, and so many more. These animals have adjusted to their situations because of the care they’ve been given. Most probably they would not survive in the wild.” She hopes to publish a book of these stories in the future.
About the Author

Winnick is the author and illustrator of many picture books for children including *Barn Sneeze*, *Mr. Lincoln’s Whiskers*, and *A Year Goes Round: Poems for the Months*. She also serves as President of the Los Angeles Zoo Commission. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.

# # #

Known as one of the world’s most beautiful zoos, the **Santa Barbara Zoo** is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to nearly 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the **Association of Zoos & Aquariums** (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA endangered species programs for Asian elephant, California condor, Channel Island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. A private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, the Santa Barbara Zoo depends on community support, not tax dollars, for operations and improvements. Visit [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org).