



NEWS RELEASE

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REINDEER AT SANTA BARBARA ZOO FOR HOLIDAY SEASON, FROM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 TO MONDAY, JANUARY 1

- First Time the Zoo has Exhibited Famed “Flying” Ungulates
- Reindeer Holiday and Lightning “are in Santa Barbara to Train for Santa’s Flying Team” Claims Zoo CEO
- Holiday-Related Activities; Santa Available for Gift Requests and Photos (Wednesdays Through Sundays from Nov. 22 to Dec. 24)
- Zoo Open Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve & Day, New Year’s Eve & Day

Santa Barbara, CA, - November 13, 2017 – For the first time in its 54-year history, the Santa Barbara Zoo will exhibit reindeer, on view only this holiday season from Wednesday, November 22, 2017, to Monday, January 1, 2018.

Two male reindeer, an adult named Holiday and a first-year calf named Lightning, will take up residence on the lawn opposite the Cats of Africa exhibit for holiday viewing. Winter-themed and holiday-related activities take place throughout the season, and Santa will be available for gift requests and photos on Wednesdays through Sundays from November 22 until Christmas Eve, December 24. There is no extra charge to view the reindeer.

The Zoo is open with the special hours of 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. It is open regular hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.

“I heard a rumor that Donner and Blitzen are retiring, and these two are the up-and-comers for their flying jobs,” jokes Zoo CEO Rich Block. “We’re their warm-weather ‘hoof camp’ due to our great climate. They have big harnesses to fill, and we’re here to support them with great nutrition, a highly trained keeper staff, a full-time vet, and ocean views from their temporary paddock across from

the lions. Our male lion Chadwick has agreed to an 8 p.m. roaring curfew so the reindeer can get their beauty sleep.”

Lightning and Holiday allow the Zoo to help answer questions from local children such as: *Do reindeer really exist? What’s the difference between a caribou and a reindeer? Do both male and female reindeer get antlers? What’s the difference between antlers and horns? How big are their antlers? Do they make sounds? Can they fly?*

“This will be the first time many local residents have ever seen a reindeer,” says Block. “The Zoo is proud to present these two to the community this holiday season. Both of them have antlers, though Holiday’s are a bit puny compared to Lightning’s huge display. Kids are going to love them, even if they don’t really fly.”

The two reindeer are on loan from Windswept Ranch, located in the foothills above Antelope Valley near Tehachapi, California. The facility is home to a collection of animals including camels, llamas, zebra, alpacas, sheep, goats, horses, deer, and reindeer. Many of the animals have been rescued or rehabilitated. For more information, visit www.capettingzoo.com.

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*The Santa Barbara Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$17 for adults, \$13 for seniors aged 65+, \$10 for children 2-12, and children under 2 are free.
Parking is \$7 weekdays, \$10 on Saturdays and Sundays.*

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](http://www.aaz.org) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA cooperative programs for endangered species including Asian elephant, California condor, Channel Island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. The Santa Barbara Zoo is the region’s top paid visitor attraction, attracting nearly 500,000 guests yearly, and has more than 15,000 members. Visit www.sbzoo.org.

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Lightning



Holiday