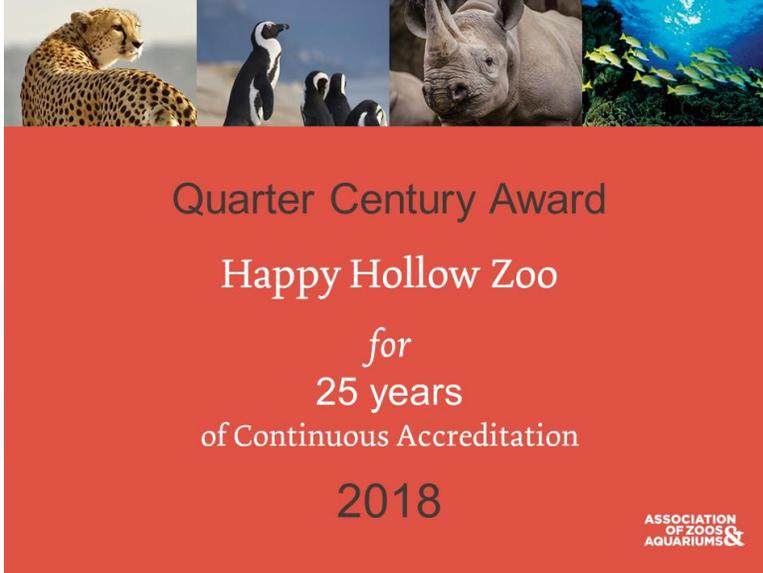




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Happy Hollow Park & Zoo receives Quarter Century Award



The [Association of Zoos & Aquariums \(AZA\)](#) has granted [Happy Hollow Park & Zoo](#) a Quarter Century Award, celebrating 25 years of continuous accreditation. Happy Hollow is owned and operated by the City of San Jose's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services and has been an accredited AZA member since 1984. Out of the 2,800 animal exhibitors licensed by the USDA across the country, less than 10 percent are AZA-accredited.

"AZA accreditation signifies that Happy Hollow meets the very highest standards in the zoological profession," said Kevin Hertell, Zoo Manager. "We are proud to be an AZA-accredited facility because it demonstrates our commitment to exceptional animal care and welfare, as well as providing meaningful and educational experiences for visitors."

Happy Hollow must pass a rigorous accreditation process every five years to reinstate accreditation. This ensures that the facility and staff continue to meet evolving guidelines for animal care and welfare, veterinary programs, conservation, education, and safety.

"AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums provide the public with essential connections to nature," said Amy Pizarro, Executive Director of Happy Hollow Foundation. "Happy Hollow's leadership in conservation





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and sustainability inspires visitors to help secure a better future for wildlife locally and around the world.” The Foundation works in partnership with Happy Hollow, raising money to support the park in creating a sustainable environment for play, education, and conservation.

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are also leaders in the protection of endangered species. Happy Hollow participates in Species Survival Plan programs to ensure long-term planning for conservation breeding, habitat preservation, field conservation and supportive research to ensure survival for many of the planet's threatened and endangered species.

“Our leadership team and I are extremely proud of our dedicated staff, Foundation, and volunteers,” said Happy Hollow General Manager, Shannon Heimer. “It takes a great deal of time and effort to ensure the professional care of these animals, while fulfilling our mission of connecting people to nature through play.”

About AZA accreditation

The AZA has been the primary accrediting body for zoos and aquariums for over 40 years. The accreditation process begins with a detailed application, followed by a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the institution’s operation, including animal care and welfare; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; visitor services; and more.

The AZA then holds a formal hearing to interview a zoo’s top officials, after which accreditation is granted, deferred, or denied. If an institution is denied, they may reapply after one year. Happy Hollow will begin a new accreditation application in 2020, and will undergo evaluation in 2021.

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Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is a division of the City of San Jose Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, and works in partnership with the Happy Hollow Foundation. The mission of Happy Hollow is connecting people to nature through play. Happy Hollow provides a variety of outdoor play experiences for all ages, including an AZA accredited Zoo; rides and nature-themed amusement; celebrations and private events; as well a robust animal education and wildlife conservation program. Visit www.happyhollow.org for more information.