

# Oregon Zoo schedules events on October 14 to help Cheetahs



**Cheetahs, the world's fastest land animals, can reach speeds of 60-70 mph.**

Though the cheetah can outrun all other land animals, its most important race right now is the race for survival. On Sunday, October 14, Oregonians can help these spotted cats by participating in three events at the Oregon Zoo: Run for the Cheetah, Cheetah Camp and "Big Cat. Big Party."

The three cheetah events benefit the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), an organization working to ensure the long-

term survival of the cheetah.

"With only 12,000 wild cheetahs left on earth, time is running out for these endangered animals," said CCF founder Dr. Laurie Marker, a Time magazine "Hero for the Planet" award recipient and world-renowned cheetah expert.

The third annual Run for the Cheetah begins with a kids' half-mile dash at 8:00 a.m., followed by an 8K run/walk at 8:30 a.m. and a 5K run/walk at

8:45 a.m. Dr. Marker and former Gov. John Kitzhaber, the honorary chair for the event, kick off the race and hand out awards. The run begins near the zoo entrance and winds through Washington Park.

To register for Run for the Cheetah, visit [www.runforthecheetah.org](http://www.runforthecheetah.org) or call 503-644-6822. The Cheetah Conservation Fund is donating \$5 of each \$20 registration fee to support the Oregon Zoo. Children must be registered for the kids' dash by Oct. 12.

Children ages 4 to 11 are invited to Cheetah Camp from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Campers are divided into age groups and are able to visit with Dr. Marker and two cheetahs, Kamau and Kgosi. Kgosi is an extremely rare king cheetah, one of only about 30 king cheetahs on earth. Campers will also create gifts for children in Namibia, Africa, CCF headquarters. For further information or to register, visit [www.oregonzoo.org/Education/families/cheetah-camp.htm](http://www.oregonzoo.org/Education/families/cheetah-camp.htm).

For cool cats who like to party, CCF's sixth annual "Big Cat. Big Party" takes place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The patron party begins at 5:00 p.m. with Dr. Marker answering questions about her feline friends, Kamau and Kgosi, in a more intimate setting before dinner and the auction.

During the party, there will be both a silent and a live auction. Rebecca Webb from KINK-FM will be the master of ceremonies. Among other items, cheetah-themed plates designed by local high school students are available for bidding.

A portion of the proceeds from "Big Cat. Big Party" supports the Predators of the Serengeti exhibit, which will bring lions, cheetahs and African wild dogs to the Oregon

Zoo in 2009.

Tickets may be purchased for \$90. For tickets, call 503-690-3532 or e-mail [ccforegon@cheetah.org](mailto:ccforegon@cheetah.org). Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 9.

The zoo opens at 9:00 a.m. daily and is located just off Highway 26. The zoo is also accessible by MAX light rail line. General admission is \$9.75 (12-64), seniors \$8.25

(65+), children \$6.75 (3-11), and infants 2 and under are free; 25 cents of the admission price helps fund regional conservation projects through the zoo's Future for Wildlife program. A parking fee of \$1 per car is also required. Additional information is available at [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org) or by calling 503-226-1561.

## Take precautions with wood heat

Oregonians will be turning to their woodstoves or fireplaces to keep warm now that cold weather is upon us. However, state and local fire safety officials urge you to take the necessary safety precautions. The Oregon Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association urges people to follow these steps for a safe heating season:

Maintain your smoke alarm – Smoke alarm maintenance is one of the simple precautions that can prevent not only extensive property damage but the loss of lives as well. Change smoke alarm batteries twice a year and replace any older than ten years. Vacuum and test smoke alarms to ensure they are working properly.

Clean and inspect the chimney – Fireplace inspection is perhaps the most essential precaution. Every year firefighters respond to chimney and flue fires that could have been easily prevented had the homeowner taken the time to clean and inspect their fireplace system. The most important step is to clean the stovepipe or chimney before lighting the first fire in the fall. A chimney fire can occur in a dirty chimney if you do not clean the flue. You can clean it yourself but fire officials recommend hiring a professional chimney sweep.

The cleaning process in-

volves special tools to clear away creosote, the sooty buildup made of tiny unburned particles of wood fuel. Creosote is very flammable. Flue fires start because accumulated creosote heats up until it turns bright red and ignites. As air rushes in to oxygenate the ignited creosote, temperatures inside the chimney can surpass 2000° Fahrenheit. The rushing air may sound like loud roaring inside the stovepipe and may shake loose sections of pipe, emitting burning particles and flames into the house. These intense fires can cause extensive damage, igniting the house inside and out, and create enough smoke to be fatal to indoor occupants. Should you experience a flue fire, shut off the air supply to the woodstove, get everyone out of the house and call 911.

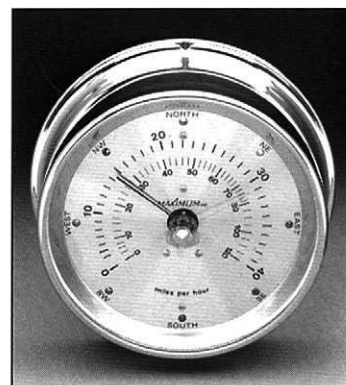
Dispose of ashes properly – Another precaution includes disposing of ashes properly in a covered metal container. Keep the metal container outdoors and at least three feet from anything flammable.

Keep combustibles away from heat sources – Combustible materials such as furniture, drapes, and decorations should be kept away from the fireplace or woodstove itself. Using a fireplace screen can also help prevent sparks and ashes from escaping the fire and landing on surrounding furniture and carpet.

Do your part to preserve air quality – In Oregon, thousands of homes rely on outdated woodstoves or fireplace inserts installed during the energy crisis of the late 1970's. Many of these have not been installed or maintained properly. In addition, these old stoves produce far more smoke and burn less efficiently than modern emis-

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