For Immediate Release

Zoo’s Animals Get Early Treats

Some of the animals at Springfield’s Dickerson Park Zoo will enjoy Halloween treats a little early with this afternoon’s annual “Pumpkin Stomp.”

Zookeepers use the pumpkin enrichment to provide novelty and variety in the animals’ diets and “play” activity. Today’s featured animals are

- Capuchin Monkeys (at the entry plaza) – 1 p.m.
- Hippopotamus – 1:30 p.m.
- Asian elephants – 2 p.m.
- Warthogs – 2:30 p.m.

The pumpkins are left over from those carved and used as decorations for the annual Halloween SPOOKTACULAR, which continues nightly through Halloween night from 6:30-9 p.m.

Tickets for SPOOKTACULAR are $6 at the gate for everyone age one and older. Advance tickets can be purchased for $4 each at McDonald’s restaurants in Springfield, Battlefield, Ozark, Nixa, Republic and Willard. Children younger than age one and Friends of the Zoo members are admitted free.

Halloween SPOOKTACULAR is the largest on-grounds fundraiser for Friends of the Zoo, and proceeds benefit the zoo’s conservation education programs. Halloween SPOOKTACULAR is sponsored by McDonald’s and Friends of the Zoo.

Dickerson Park Zoo is open for daytime visits from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily, weather permitting. Daytime admission fees are $8 for adults and teenagers, and $5 for children ages 3-12. Admission to Halloween SPOOKTACULAR is not included with daytime admission fees. For more information about the zoo or its events, visit www.dickersonparkzoo.org or call 417-864-1800.

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