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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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“Quit Bugging Me” Valentine’s Event Returns to the El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens

Keep Your Ex From Crawling Back Into Your Life

EL PASO, Texas – One of the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens most popular events is back for Valentine’s Day – the global phenomenon “Quit Bugging Me” returns.

From now until Valentine’s Day (Wednesday, February 14), fans are encouraged to submit names of people who are bugging them (donations encouraged but not required). Name a cockroach after anyone who is bugging you (an ex, significant other, boss, or mother-in-law) and get a cathartic release as the Zoo feeds the roaches to hungry zoo animals.

Names can be submitted at the El Paso Zoo website www.ElPasoZoo.org. All names submitted will be displayed anonymously and only first names will appear. Feeding of the roaches will happen at the Meerkats exhibit at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, Valentine’s Day. Visitors are encouraged to visit the zoo, but the public can also see the feedings on Facebook Live and the Zoo Instagram page.

In addition, for every \$1,000 that is donated, El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director Joe Montisano will eat a cockroach before an audience.

Zoo animals are regularly given enrichment to keep them stimulated both mentally and physically. Madagascar hissing cockroaches are ethically frozen and given to insectivores as determined by our zoo veterinarian staff. Insects are a normal part of these animals’ diets, in captivity or the wild.

Donations collected will go to the El Paso Del Norte American Association of Zookeepers Chapter. The nonprofit organization helps fund its mission of providing support to wildlife organizations, acquiring enrichment for Zoo animals, and providing professional development opportunities to Zoo staff.

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens was the first in the world to host the eye-catching event more than six years ago and is proud to bring it back for another year. Since then, zoos across the country and around the world have replicated the event that El Paso originated.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens stretch across 35-acres and house animals representing over 220 species, including critically endangered species. Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the El Paso Zoo celebrates the value of animals and natural resources. It creates opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature. To learn more, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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