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**NEWS
RELEASE**

02/04/2025

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

Zoo Offers A Fun Way to Let Go After a Breakup

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens’ popular Valentine’s event, the global sensation “Quit Bugging Me,” is back!

From now until Valentine’s Day, Friday, February 14, participants can submit names of people who are “bugging” them—whether it’s an ex, a boss, a mother-in-law, or anyone else—and watch as the zoo’s critters take care of the rest.

Donations are encouraged but not required for participation. You can name a cockroach or any of the zoo’s small critters, such as worms, slugs, crawlers, or crickets, after someone who’s been bugging you. Then, experience a little emotional release as these small critters become a snack for the zoo’s hungry animals.

How to Participate:

- Submit names through the El Paso Zoo’s website at www.ElPasoZoo.org.
- Names will be displayed anonymously, with only first names shown.
- The featured feeding of the Madagascar hissing cockroaches will take place at the Meerkats exhibit at 2:15 p.m. on Valentine’s Day.

Can’t make it in person? No problem! The event will be streamed live on the Zoo’s Facebook and Instagram pages.

The “Quit Bugging Me” event isn’t just about fun—it’s also good for the animals. The zoo regularly provides its residents with enrichment activities to keep them mentally and physically engaged. Madagascar hissing cockroaches are ethically frozen and provided to insectivores under the supervision of the zoo’s veterinary team. Insects like these are a natural part of the animals’ diets, both in captivity and in the wild.

Supporting Wildlife Conservation:

Donations collected during the event will be managed by the Paso del Norte Community Foundation, which helps fund:

- Wildlife conservation efforts,
- Enrichment programs for zoo animals, and
- Professional development for zoo staff.

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens was the first in the world to host this eye-catching event over seven years ago, setting a trend that zoos across the U.S. and around the world have since adopted. The zoo is proud to bring it back for another year of fun and creativity.

Learn more about the event and the zoo: Visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

MEDIA: Members of the media interested in covering the event should arrive by 1:45 p.m.

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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