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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Invites Community to Name New Penguin Mascot

New Mascot, Name to be Revealed at Break the Ice Event

EL PASO, Texas— The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens will soon open the Penguin Exhibit but before that happens, the zoo is asking the community to help name a new penguin mascot that will represent the Magellanic penguins.

The zoo's team has narrowed the selection of names to five finalists and is putting the final choice down to a vote.

- Pablo
- Pancho
- Patches
- Pebbles
- Pepe

Passionate zoo fans have until midnight, Wednesday, November 15 to vote by visiting the City of El Paso and El Paso Zoo's Facebook and Instagram accounts. A pinned posting will display the potential mascot names and a link for users to vote. Voting is limited to one vote per person. The winning name and the mascot itself will be revealed during the Scherr Legate WinterFest Break the Ice event at 5 p.m. Thursday, November 16.

The penguin mascot represents the Zoo's educational resources, conservation efforts, and services provided by the El Paso Zoo.

The El Paso Zoo will soon be receiving a colony of Magellanic penguins. The aquatic, flightless, warm-weathered birds are native to South American coastal regions such as Argentina and Chile. A state-of-the-art penguin encounter will be home to the penguins. The encounter will have glass viewing areas above and below water and web cameras for online viewing.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens are a 35-acre facility that houses 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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