

LIBERTY WILDLIFE PRIVATE TOUR PLAN

Plan for 1 hour tour, if shorter tour, can condense

1. Lobby – about 5 minutes

- a. Welcome everyone, show bathrooms/water fountain
- b. Introduce yourself, explain your role as a guide/volunteer etc
- c. Ask if people had heard of Liberty Wildlife
 - i. Did they bring an animal to us? See at an event
- d. Explain our mission
 - i. Nurture the nature of Arizona through wildlife rehab, education and conservation
 - ii. We are a wildlife hospital with the goal of taking in sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. We hope to release as much as possible back into the wild
 - iii. We are mostly known for birds, but do take in mammals and reptiles
- e. History
 - i. Liberty Wildlife was founded in 1981 by Dr. Kathy Orr out of Scottsdale, AZ.
 - ii. local vet who saw the need for a group to help with injured wildlife
 - iii. started Liberty Wildlife in her own backyard on 1.25 acres of land
 - iv. After 30 years of rehabilitation, Liberty Wildlife garnered enough donations and funding to buy a 6.5 acres along the Rio Salado and open the Rob and Melani Walton Campus of Liberty Wildlife.
 1. 2016 – half year in Scottsdale, half here we took in about 6,800
 2. 2017 – 7,300
 3. 2018 – 9,545
- f. The building
 - i. We brought everything in to this land – trees, wetlands etc
 - ii. Solar panels from SRP on roof
 - iii. Water catching cisterns with sloping rooves to use rain water for landscaping
 - iv. Reclaimed snow fence from Wyoming (?)
 - v. Platinum level LEEDS certification (highest level)
 - vi. Hospital wing is only open to staff/volunteers but have the west wing for public hours, tours, field trips, rentals and events

2. NEFR (optional)

- a. Discuss protected migratory birds due to Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
- b. How this helps the Native American tribes

3. Hospital

- a. Only staff and volunteers are allowed inside
- b. Only 6 paid staff
- c. Over 300 volunteers to cover all types of positions
 - i. Intake window, guides, ed team, daily care, med services, hotline, guardians, owl team, OC, bunny care, guardians, NEFR, rescue/transport

4. Triage Window -- about 15 minutes

- a. Our hospital is similar to how a human emergency room works
- b. Animals are brought to our intake window either from general public or rescue/transport – info is collected on species, age, location found – similar to information you give in Admissions at the ER
- c. Brought to triage room to find cause of pain/illness and stabilize patient. Same as in human hospital. Med services volunteers have taken a class on site to learn how to stabilize, assess, and make a treatment plan
- d. Once stabilized, animals are moved to ICU – similar to being moved to a room in the hospital for treatment.
- e. Once ready for release, move to outdoor enclosures to work on building up muscles – similar to PT for humans
- f. Release rate is 60%, higher than national average
 - i. If non-releasable, can go to other facilities, go on our education permit or become a foster parent (you can talk about this program here)
- g. Talk about what animals are in the triage room while you walk by, talk about animals you have seen there

5. Posters

- a. Chat a bit about each picture if you have time

6. Surgery Window – about 5-7 minutes

- a. With this new facility, we no longer have to transport animals to vet clinics around the valley, which was an added stress for them
- b. Digital x-ray machine next door to get images ready ASAP
- c. Our veterinarians are volunteers as well
- d. Talk about surgeries you have seen done or know have been done
- e. Perfect time to talk about the plight of the California Condor since we do surgeries on them in here
 - i. In the 1980s only 24 left in the Grand Canyon/Vermillion Cliffs area
 - ii. Peregrine Fund stepped in to create breeding program
 - iii. They suffer from lead poisoning – talk about lead bullets and how bullets splinter into pieces throughout the carcass's body –
 - 1. The lead causes CROP STASIS – stomach is hungry, bird eats, but food cannot pass through the crop to sustain
 - iv. We put a feeding tube into the crop to help push food through. Takes three people to do daily feeding/medical on a very large bird

7. Orphan Care room

- a. you cannot see it, but you can discuss what this room is all about

8. Wetlands – about 3 minutes

- a. We have 3 representations of different Arizona biomes
 - i. Upper Sonoran desert, Wetlands, Riparian (along the waterways)
 - ii. Peace Trail – planned to run from Tres Rios by Avondale through Mesa. Open for foot traffic and non-motorized bikes. The Rio Salado does have water throughout the year in various pockets. We see much wildlife along this area ranging from coyotes, beavers, muskrats, osprey, herons, red tailed hawks and others. City of Phoenix Park Rangers maintain this land and have helped with the clean-up and revitalization of the area. They reported sightings of a bobcat along the trail closer to 19th Ave in 2016. We have seen bald eagles flying overhead since we have moved in.
 - iii. Wetlands - run by a pump system that recycles its own water. We have seen dragonflies around the area and hope that they have laid their eggs in the reeds along the water. The dragonfly larva actually survives off mosquito eggs and larva so they are a great natural repellent. We have some minnows and goldfish in the pond now but hope to work with Game and Fish to get the endangered desert pupfish and top minnow. Also have leopard frogs that have found their way up here

9. Library/Boardroom/Classroom/outside space & amphitheater

- a. All are available for rentals for meetings, weddings, cocktail hours etc

10. Interactive Room – 15-20 minutes depending on interest in reptiles

- a. Monthly topics/activities
- b. Reptiles – have reptile certified people take a few out and discuss natural and individual histories

11. Tortoises

- a. Talk about them if they are not brumating (hibernating)

12. Education Trail – amount of time depends on you/tour group

- a. This interpretive trail houses all of our non-releasable education animals. All animals have permits from the US Fish and Wildlife. These animals work with our education team and hand feed volunteers to ensure that they are comfortable in front of the public and going out to classrooms and events. While the animals are habituated to being around humans, they are all still wild animals and have their basic instincts. Therefore, make sure you stay on paths and do not approach any of the enclosures.
- b. Show them the poster of the bird wings and have them measure themselves against the condor – great photo op 😊
- c. Depending on time, you can either walk them through the trail or allow them to wander on their own