



## **Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo Filming and Photography Guidelines**

The following guidelines apply to production companies interested in filming programs about the Zoo or its animal collection, documentary filming for educational/informational purposes, or commercial shoots. No photos, audio or video recordings taken at the Zoo should be used for commercial purposes without the advance consent of the Zoo's marketing department.

### **Application Procedures:**

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is pleased to consider requests to film educational, informational, commercial or entertainment-based programming on premises. All requests must be made in writing to the Zoo's marketing/PR department a minimum of two weeks in advance of the requested shoot. Requests should include information about your organization, when/where the program will air or photos will be published, audience/viewership numbers, desired date(s) and alternate date(s) requested for filming, specific location(s) or setting(s) desired within the Zoo, activities to be filmed, interviews (if applicable), estimated time required and number of persons involved. The Zoo retains the right to refuse or decline filming on Zoo grounds.

### **Photo/Film Policies:**

- A member of the Zoo's marketing staff accompanies film crews/photographers on premises.
- All film/photos shoots are scheduled on weekdays, unless otherwise approved by the Zoo.
- Zoo hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. We encourage film/photo shoots to take place during these hours. However, if before or after hours are needed, special permission will be required and fees may apply to cover staff overtime charges.
- If animal care staff is required for filming (handling, interaction, feeding, oversight, interviews, background info, etc.), a "zookeeper fee" may be charged in half or full day increments in order to ensure the care and well-being of the animals without interruption.
- Film crews are encouraged to make a site visit prior to filming to review and agree upon all shooting locations, property access and other needs.
- Film crews are permitted in visitor approved areas only, unless prior approval is obtained. Filming in the manatee hospital area is allowed, but with special restrictions due to the nature of the sick and injured species who reside there.
- No harm, physical intrusion or disturbances to animals, exhibits or public will be permitted.
- Filming is not permitted in the veterinary clinic, treatment, quarantine, animal night houses or other areas deemed inaccessible by the Zoo.
- Visitors must not be denied access to viewing of any exhibit.
- Normal Zoo rules and regulations apply. Outside food and beverages are not permitted within the Zoo. No balloons or objects that present a threat to the animals will be allowed.
- For commercial shoots, a valid certificate of insurance covering all persons participating is required.

The health and safety of animals and visitors is our primary concern. Zookeepers, curators, veterinarians and other Zoo staff, in conjunction with marketing/PR staff, may set limitations on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, most restrictions apply to those areas off public view, and in some cases, in which the health and safety of animals, guests or staff would be at risk. This applies, in particular, to the Zoo's manatee hospital.

**Fees, If Applicable:**

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit cultural organization. **Site fees** apply to shoots deemed "commercial" by the Zoo and are based on length of time needed for the shoot in public areas of the Zoo during regular business hours. Hours before and after normal business hours will be billed additional.

For filming or photography which requires animal care staff for lengthy interviews, handling, interaction, feeding, etc., a **zookeeper fee** may apply. This ensures the staff in the designated animal department will have an extra keeper on the day of the filming to cover necessary routines and responsibilities in the area. This also ensures a designated animal expert for your filming needs.

Facility rentals, catering, equipment, special electrical hookups or services provided by the Zoo, *including animal care staff required for half or full day shoots*, will be billed additional.

Cost estimates, including additional charges, are available following receipt of your filming application.

**Contact Information:**

For additional information on location filming at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, or to make a written request, please contact:

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo  
Office of Public Relations  
1101 W. Sligh Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33604

813-935-8552 ext. 212  
813-935-8634 fax

[Email](mailto:)  
[www.LowryParkZoo.org](http://www.LowryParkZoo.org)