



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nov. 18, 2014**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kelly Thompson, Marketing & Development Coordinator, Abilene Zoo

Office: 325-437-4692

E-mail: [kelly.thompson@abilenetx.com](mailto:kelly.thompson@abilenetx.com)

**Zoo seeks name for new Alligator Snapping Turtle**

**ABILENE, TEXAS** – The Abilene Zoo has a new Alligator Snapping Turtle, and he needs a name.

The 37-year-old turtle is new to Abilene from the San Antonio Zoo. He weighs about 150 pounds and is 3 ½ feet long.

A zoo committee has selected three potential names for the animal and is asking the public to vote on a favorite. A drawing then will be held from the winning entries, and the winner will be awarded a \$50 gift card to the Zoo Store.

Here are the potential names, their origins and meanings:

- **Geronimo**: (Native American/Mescalero) means the “one who yawns.”
- **Holata** (Native American, Seminole) means “alligator.”
- **Beauregard** (French, Cajun) means “beautiful gaze.”

Voters can email their personal information and favorite name to [Abilenezoo@abilenetx.com](mailto:Abilenezoo@abilenetx.com) or stop by the zoo gift shop and cast a ballot in person.

The large turtle, which is native to North America, is now on exhibit at the zoo’s Elm Creek Backyard building .

###

**About the Abilene Zoo:**

The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 900 animals from 250 species. The Zoo offers many educational programs and kids’ activities, including camps, birthday parties and Behind the Scenes Tours.

The Abilene Zoo is open 7 days a week (closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last admittance is 4 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 3-12, \$5 for seniors aged 60+. Members are admitted free. Memberships start at \$30. [www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org). 325-676-6085. During the summer months, the zoo is open every Thursday until 9 p.m., with admission ending at 8:30 p.m.