



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zoo to show public alligator feedings through September

ABILENE, TEXAS –Albert the Alligator is getting ready for winter, and that means eating hearty meals.

Guests can watch the 14-foot-long reptile devour a carnivorous dinner every Sunday at 3 p.m. through the month of September– or until the alligator or weather decides it’s time to for him to start his “brumation.”

“Brumation is the hibernation-like state that cold-blooded animals use during cold weather,” explains Reptile Supervisor Tony Baez. “During the winter, Albert is awake, but he won’t eat and barely moves to preserve energy until spring when brumation ends.” The animal will go off exhibit into a heated building for the winter.

The 450-pound, 55-year-old alligator is the zoo’s oldest resident – first coming to the Abilene Zoo in 1966 when the zoo opened. Alligators can live 70 to 100 years in captivity.

About the Abilene Zoo:

The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 900 animals of 250 different species. The zoo is open 7 days a week (closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and 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. 325-676-6085. Each summer, the zoo remains open every Thursday until 9 p.m.

Mission Statement: *The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.*