

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 2, 2015

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kelly Thompson

Marketing & Development Coordinator

Office: 325-437-4692

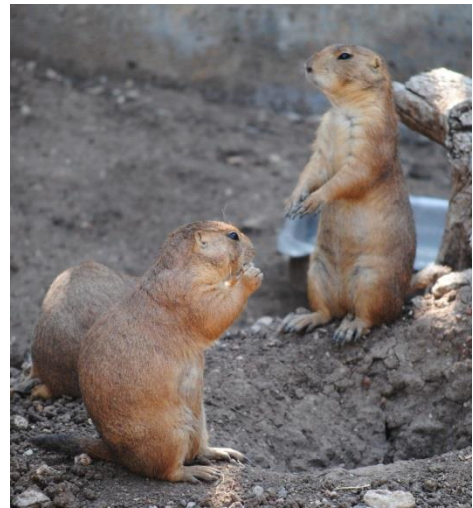
kelly.thompson@abilenetx.com

New prairie dog colony gets upgraded digs at the zoo

ABILENE, TEXAS – After several weeks of renovations, the prairie dog exhibit at the Abilene Zoo is once again filled with the activity of these energetic rodents.

Eight new animals from the El Paso Zoo, ranging in age from five years old to less than a year were added to the exhibit.

To prepare for their arrival, zoo keepers created some man-made tunnels and sleeping dens. New signage that includes information about prairie dog colonies in the wild also was added.



“Prairie dogs are famously entertaining to watch, and we’re glad to have this species back on exhibit,” said Executive Director Bill Gersonde. “They are a Texas native and play an important role in the ecosystem of the North American grasslands.”

Something fun to keep in mind when you watch the new colony: Prairie dogs greet each other by touching teeth.

About the Abilene Zoo:

The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 1000 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 \$7 for adults, \$4.50 for children ages 3-12, \$6 for seniors aged 60+. Members are admitted free. Memberships start at \$35. www.abilenezoo.org. 325-676-6085.

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.*