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**The Scoop on Poop exhibit at Point Defiance Zoo mixes fecal facts with fun
*Zoo kicks off new exhibit with a giant poop party May 21 and May 22.***

Tacoma, Wash. – Nearly every kid thinks poop is funny: They giggle when they talk about it, snicker when they see it and call poop all sorts of names from ca-ca to doo-doo.

Now Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is turning all that silliness into some serious learning with *“The Scoop on Poop: The Science of What Animals Leave Behind.”* The new exhibit runs from May 21 through Sept. 11.

Based on the book by popular science writer Wayne Lynch, the Scoop on Poop exhibit examines what poop is and how animals and humans use poop for all sorts of things, from building houses and cooling off to attracting mates and warding off predators.

The zoo will celebrate the exhibit’s opening weekend (May 21-22) with a Giant Poop Party complete with games and prizes. You might find yourself competing in a poop toss or examining some animal excrement to glean clues about the creature’s health.

The Scoop on Poop exhibit features colorful graphics and interactive displays that tactfully talk about fecal matters, while keeping it fun. You can test your No. 2 IQ at “Stool School” or hop on a scale to see how long it would take an elephant to poop your body weight.

The latter doesn’t take as long as you’d suspect. Each elephant poop weighs two to five pounds. And elephants drop more than 100 poops per day!

You can also track wild animals by clues left in their scat, become a dinosaur dung detective or listen to the noises of an animal’s digestive track.

There’s even a poop app. While at the zoo you can use your iPhone or Droid phone to access the free app “Scvngr” to play a special scavenger hunt game. The app connects your newfound fecal knowledge to the rest of your visit at the zoo and provides players with exclusive rewards.

The Scoop on Poop exhibit is presented by TAGRO® City of Tacoma and Honey Bucket/FloHawks, divisions of Northwest Cascade Inc.

Free with admission, the exhibit will be housed on the upper floor of the North Pacific Aquarium. For information on zoo hours and admission rates, go to www.pdza.org.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).