

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 5, 2017

ALL DADS GET HALF-OFF GENERAL ADMISSION AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO ON JUNE 18

And Father's Day is a great time to visit and see superstar Magellanic penguin father Red and his two chicks

Tacoma, Wash. – Take one Superstar Dad. Add in two adorable Magellanic penguin chicks. Then think about an entire day of family fun, animal-watching and learning more about wildlife and wild places.



Add in half-price general admission for all fathers, and you have all the ingredients for a day that's sure to make Dad smile.

Sunday, June 18 is Half-Price Dad's Day at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, and all fathers can score a ticket for just \$8.98.

Each ticket to the zoo comes with the opportunity to see the all-new live-action animal show "The Wildest Show in the West;" touch stingrays and small sharks; view 16 massive sharks in the South Pacific Aquarium; get up-close views of polar bears, walruses, sea otters and

other marine mammals; see an array of endangered animals; and learn how simple human actions can benefit the environment and the animals with whom we share Earth.

"Red," and his mate, "Pink," are parents to two chicks hatched in late May as the result of the zoo's participation in the Species Survival Plan® for Magellanic penguins.

The zoo's penguins aren't named but rather are known by the colors of the identification bands on their wings.



Top, "Red" in the penguins' burrow at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Above: Staff biologist Amanda Shaffer examines one of the two penguin hatchlings at about 10 days old.

Red has been an excellent father,” said Amanda Shaffer, a staff biologist who is the zoo’s lead penguin keeper. “Males are involved in the hatching and rearing of chicks from the moment eggs are laid, with the parents taking turns sitting on them and then later warming the tiny chicks. Red has done his duty to brood the hatchlings from the very beginning.”

By Father’s Day, the chicks will have grown quite a bit and should be quite visible as they move about their burrow, Shaffer said. Keepers will conduct a special penguin talk at 11:30 a.m. on Father’s Day. Visitors also can view keepers feeding the animals in their exhibit.

For more information, go to www.pdza.org.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest’s only combined zoo and aquarium, practices and 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.

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