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07/ 16/ 2026

El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Rhino to Predict World Cup Winner

WHO: El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens
WHAT: Greater One-Horned Rhino to predict World Cup winner
WHEN: 11 a.m., Saturday, July 18
WHERE: El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens
4001 E. Paisano Dr.

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens invite the community to watch Taj, the Zoo's Greater One-Horned Rhino, predict the winner of the upcoming World Cup match between Spain and Argentina.

As part of the Zoo's animal enrichment program, Taj will make his prediction by choosing between two soccer ball-shaped piñatas; one representing Spain and the other Argentina. Both piñatas will be filled with identical treats and placed by zookeepers, allowing Taj's choice to determine his match prediction. This marks the first time Taj has predicted the outcome of a World Cup match.

"World Cup prediction enrichment gives our animals a fun and engaging opportunity to stay physically active while stimulating their natural curiosity and problem-solving behaviors," said El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director Gary Lunsford. "In the wild, animals spend much of their day foraging and exploring for food. Providing enrichment activities that encourage those same natural behaviors is an important part of ensuring their overall health and well-being."

The prediction is one of the many enrichment activities provided to Zoo animals each day. Enrichment is a vital component of high-quality animal care, encouraging natural behaviors while supporting the animals' physical and mental well-being.

Visitors are encouraged to wear their favorite team's jersey or game-day attire and cheer Taj on as he makes his prediction.

To learn more about the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, visit ElPasoZoo.org.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens spans 35 acres and is home to over 220 animal species, including many that are critically endangered. The El Paso Zoo celebrates the value of animals and natural resources. It creates opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature. For more information, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

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Media Contact: Rick Isaías
Strategic Communications
Isaiasra@elpasotexas.gov
(M): 915.355.6611