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# Valentine’s Day *Quit Bugging Me* Event Returns to El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens

## Zoo to Feed Animals Cockroaches Named after an Ex

**EI PASO, Texas** – The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens is excited to announce the return of the wildly popular *Quit Bugging Me* Valentine’s Day event that allows scorned lovers to get back at an ex while giving back for a good cause.

From February 1 through February 10, the public will have a chance to name a cockroach after their insignificant other or someone who’s been “bugging” them on the El Paso Zoo website at [www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org). Participants who submit a name are encouraged, but not required to make a monetary donation to the Zoo.

Donations will be used by the Zoo for conservation efforts to further the Zoo’s mission. As a special incentive to encourage donations, El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director, Joe Montisano, has agreed to eat one cockroach, for every \$1,000 raised.

Zookeepers will feed Madagascar hissing cockroaches, named after ex-lovers, to different zoo animals including meerkats, birds, and primates. The cockroaches will not only serve as a treat for the zoo animals but will also give everyone a chance for relationship closure – with a dash of humor.

The hissing cockroaches are ethically frozen and regularly fed to select animals. The Zoo purchases approximately 1.5 million insects annually to feed to Zoo animals.

“Insects are actually the perfect protein and have been consumed by humans since the beginning of time. Today, they are a special treat for our animal friends,” said El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director, Joe Montisano. “The fact that you can assign a name of a former spouse, a boss or really anyone or anything that is bugging you adds a cathartic aspect to this event. I know I will be purchasing a few cockroaches named for COVID-19, face masks, and maybe even an ex-wife or two!”

In 2021, the Zoo received over 10,000 name submissions from people from more than 85 countries and more than \$10,000 in donations.

The Zoo will feed the roaches to the animals on Saturday, February 12; Sunday February 13; and, of course, on Valentine’s Day, Monday, February 14. All three feedings will be streamed on the [El Paso Zoo Facebook Page](#).

For more information about the *Quit Bugging Me* Valentine’s Day event, visit the El Paso Zoo at [www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org).

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