

# Bergen County Zoological Park Monthly Newsletter

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## P R A I R I E D O G E X H I B I T

**James J. Tedesco, III**  
**County Executive**

**Board of Chosen  
Freeholders**

**James Koth,**  
**Director of Parks**

**Marianne Vella**  
**Zoo Director**

The Bergen County Zoo is happy to report that the construction for the new prairie dog exhibit has been completed. We are excited to have a new home for our prairie dogs and are eager to see them enjoy it. Currently the prairie dogs are located underground and are in the midst of burrowing their new tunnels and reestablish their colonies.



The new exhibit design gives

the feeling that you are underground and experiencing the tunnels that these animals are so fond of making. There



are also several graphics that give our patrons vital information of these precious animals.

With the reopening of this exhibit, patrons now have access to the new boardwalk

and can see the bison, elk and eagles.



## F R I E N D S O F T H E B E R G E N C O U N T Y Z O O

The Friends of the Bergen County Zoo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing financial support to the Bergen County Zoological Park for the welfare of its animals, educational programs and family-friendly facilities. It is the generous support of our sponsors, donors, members and zoo visitors that allow us to meet this mission. The Friends offer a variety of memberships for individuals and families. Please visit [www.communitypass.net](http://www.communitypass.net), choose "Friends of the Bergen County Zoo, NJ" (for Community or Organization) and continue through to either Create an Account or Existing Users can Log in. Visit us at [www.friendsofbergencountyzoos.org](http://www.friendsofbergencountyzoos.org) or like us on Facebook! The Friends look forward to seeing you at the Zoo!

**S P O T L I G H T   A N I M A L :   A M E R I C A N   E L K**

The American Elk is a large deer with slender legs and a thick neck. Usually, brown or tan in coloring with the males having a dark brown mane on the throat and large branched antlers. They have cloven heart shaped hooves and are much larger and more rounder than those of smaller deer (but there are smaller than a moose).

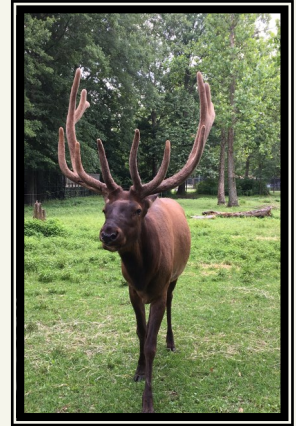
These animals have a range from northern California to

Michigan. The greatest numbers are found in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Washington.

These herbivorous animals feed on many kinds of plants and bark. They are primarily grazers, in the zoo they are fed timothy and alfalfa hay as well as high fiber pellets.

The two elk that are currently at the Bergen County Zoo were born here from a

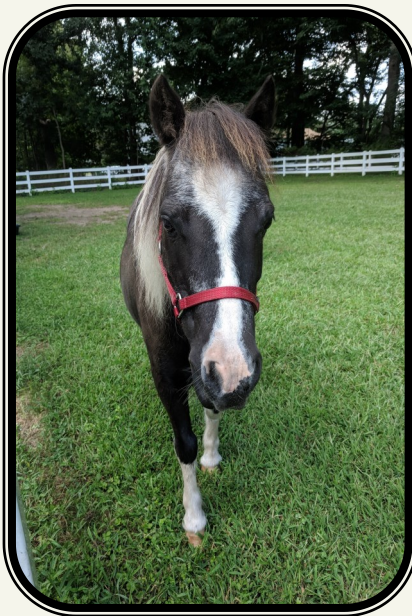
breeding pair. Breeding season occurs from late August to November with usually one calf being born. Once the calf is born, it will be entirely dependent on the mother for milk for approximately one month, but may suckle for up to nine months.



**Male American Elk on Exhibit  
Photo by Carmen Baca**

**W A N T   T O   R I D E   A   P O N Y ?**

The Bergen County Zoo has taken over the pony ride concession located at the Forest Avenue entrance of the Van Saun County Park. We have leased three ponies for the remainder of this season and they will be available to the public until November 15th and will return next season. Hours of operation are seven days a week, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM (weather permitting). Fees are listed as \$3 for one ride around the track and \$5 for two rides around the track. Please come and meet them:



**SPIRIT**



**ALLIE**



**TACO**

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THE ZOO

There are numerous ways to support the Bergen County Zoo:

- Consider becoming a zoo member
- Sponsor an Animal
- Enroll in our docent/volunteer program
- Purchase Animal Art

Information on all of these programs is available at the Zoo, our website or by calling 201-634-3100 ext. 3110



**Bergen County Zoological Park**  
**216 Forest Avenue**  
**Paramus, NJ 07652**  
**201-634-3100**

Bergen County Zoological Park



[www.co.bergen.nj.us/bcparks](http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/bcparks)

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## ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

The Bergen County Zoo is proud to be an AZA Accredited Zoo.

The Association of Zoos & Aquariums provides its members with the services, high standards, best practices, and program coordination to be leaders in animal welfare, public engagement, and the conservation of species.

### Reminders:

Bergen County Residents must provide proof of residency to receive the discounted rate. Forms of proof are: Driver's License, Utility bill to the residence, Bergen County issued ID Card.

Zoo Members must show their membership card to enter the zoo for free.

**James J. Tedesco, III**

**County Executive**

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**