GILCREASE
Nature Sanctuary

CONTACT US

ADDRESS
8103 Racel Street
Las Vegas, NV 89131

PHONE
(702) 645-4224

EMAIL
info@gilcrease.community

WEBSITE
www.gilcrease.community

PUBLIC HOURS

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 AM–3:00 PM

WEEKEND HOURS
Saturday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

VOLUNTEER

Please check our Website for more information.

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OUR MISSION

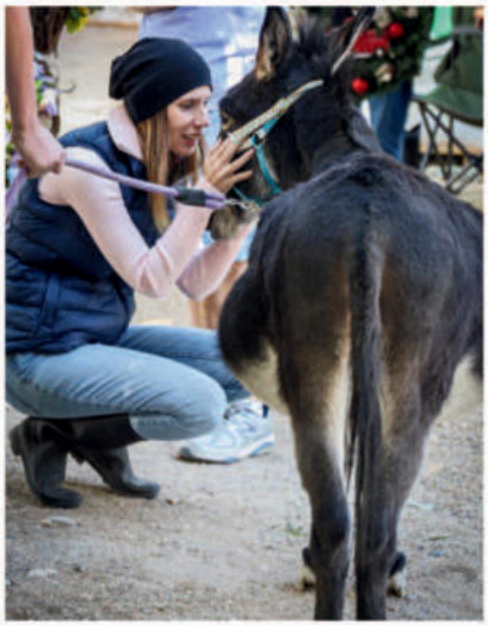
At the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, our mission is to educate individuals about responsible exotic pet ownership. Our goal is that no animal be adopted without thorough research and deep consideration of the lifetime commitment. We care for over 150 rescued residents including parrots, reptiles, pigs, donkeys, emus, and so much more.



ABOUT US

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit sanctuary committed to the care and protection of rescued exotic and farm animals. From birds to barnyard friends, our mission is to provide a safe, loving environment where animals can thrive – and where families can learn, connect and be inspired.

DECEMBER 2025



Rico enjoying attention from Executive Director Jenn.

GILCREASE NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Scarff – President

Bill Townsend – Vice President

Dr. Christopher M. Smith – Treasurer

Kristina Miller – Secretary

Jeff Richards – Director

Wanda Hubal – Director

Madison Weingardt – Director

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Sanctuary,

Welcome to our very first printed newsletter. It means so much to me that you are here, taking a moment to connect with the heart of Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. This place is filled with life, personality, and purpose, and I am grateful to share it with you.

Every day we are guided by a simple truth. We love the animals who call this sanctuary home. Their safety, comfort, and happiness shape every improvement we make and every dream we plan for the future. Whether it is the joyful chatter of our parrots, the gentle steps of our tortoises, the playful nature of our goats, or the quiet presence of our larger resident, each animal reminds us why this sanctuary matters.

Over the past two years we have made many positive changes across the grounds. We have refreshed enclosures, improved habitats, increased enrichment, and welcomed more helping hands through our volunteer program. These changes have already made a difference, and we are excited to continue building a better environment for the animals and for the community that visits them.

There is still much ahead. New aviaries, upgraded spaces, and future projects all are part of our mission to keep improving and growing. Your support, your kindness, and your belief in what we do give us the encouragement to keep moving forward.

Thank you for being a part of the Gilcrease family. Together we are creating a sanctuary filled with compassion, care, and hope for every living creature who resides here.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jennifer Langford
Executive Director
Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Scouts are welcome to contact us if they are interested in completing an Eagle Scout project at the sanctuary. We can discuss available needs and see if a project is a good fit. Donations of supplies or funding for approved projects are very much appreciated, and sponsorships include a plaque on the finished build.





BUILDING WITH HONOR

Peyton Davenport from Troop 678 brought some amazing energy to the sanctuary with his Eagle Scout project. He designed two brand new pig houses from the ground up, creating cozy and sturdy new homes that our pigs will love. With help from his troop, Peyton spent days measuring, building, and hammering until both houses were ready for their new residents. His hard work earned him his Eagle Scout badge, and we are thrilled to celebrate the difference he made for our sanctuary family.

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jarvizu@4LPi.com
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04 DID YOU KNOW?

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

DEC 4 **WORLD WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DAY**
Raises awareness about protecting threatened and endangered species around the world.

DEC 4 **INTERNATIONAL CHEETAH DAY**
Recognizes efforts to protect cheetahs and their shrinking habitats.

DEC 10 **INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RIGHTS DAY**
Promotes awareness of animal welfare and the importance of protecting them from harm.

DEC 27 **VISIT THE ZOO DAY**
Encourages people to support accredited zoos and learn about wildlife conservation.



A VETERNARIAN'S PERSPECTIVE: THROUGH THE EYES OF FLIGHT

BY CHRISTOPHER M. SMITH DVM

They say the eyes are a window to the soul. I'm not sure about that, but they are certainly windows to disease. Most people see a red eye and immediately think "allergies," but in my practice, allergies account for only about five percent of the red eyes I examine. Far more often, the cause is something more serious. Conditions like blepharitis (eyelid infection), uveitis (inflammation inside the eye), glaucoma, dry eye, or corneal ulcers. Vision is a precious commodity, and the eye is an intricate, sensitive structure. Protecting it is always the priority.

Here in Las Vegas, we face challenges that make eye care even more difficult. Our desert heat and low humidity are tough on the eyes and on the rest of the body. When you add in the unique needs of birds, who often hide illness until it's advanced, the work becomes even more demanding. These are the challenges that Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary meets every day with patience, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to care.

Birds themselves offer a fascinating reminder of how remarkable the eye can be. In many ways, avian eyes are more advanced than our own. Raptors live up to their reputation for "eagle eyes," able to focus and see with incredible clarity at great distances. Owls have elongated, tube-shaped eyes built for low-light hunting. Hummingbirds can see a broader spectrum of color that we can, helping them find nectar-rich flowers with ease.

The eye tells a story – in humans, in pets, and in the birds we protect. At Gilcrease, that story is one of resilience, adaption, and care. Caring for vision is one small part of the larger work happening every day. With your support, the sanctuary can continue giving these birds the clarity, comfort, and safety they deserve.

Dr. Christopher M. Smith, DVM, serves as both our dedicated eye veterinarian and a member of the Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary board. His expertise in veterinary ophthalmology helps us give our animals the clear, healthy vision they deserve. He practices at Eyecare for Animals at 5231 W Charleston Blvd STE 150 in Las Vegas.



LACIE

ONE SWEET GOAT

Lacie is one of the sweetest goats at the sanctuary, always ready to climb, explore, and charm every visitor who stops to say hello. She loves hopping up on platforms to get a better view and never turns down a good scratch behind the ears.

Goats like Lacie have incredible balance and agility, along with rectangular pupils that give them a wide field of vision to watch everything happening around them. She enjoys spending time with her herd, investigating new enrichment, and brightening the day of anyone who meets her. Lacie's fun personality makes a perfect choice for Resident of the Month.

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06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

All About Birds



Across

4 Ducks spend a lot of time in the _____

5 Tallest bird

8 An animal that eats other animals

9 An animal that is eaten

11 To be up at night, to sleep during the day

13 Where ostriches live

15 Ostriches use their_____ to cover their nests

Down

1 Birds that live in New York City

2 All birds have ___

3 Means to come out of an egg

6 A red bird

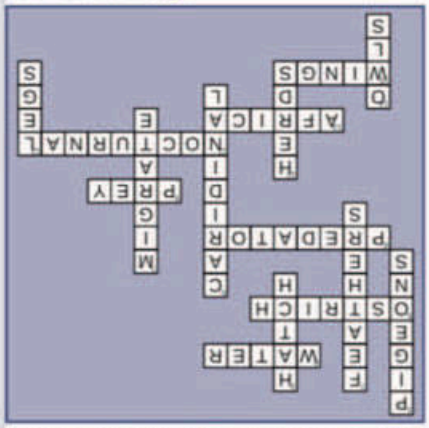
7 To travel from one place to another

10 Ostriches live in groups called _____

12 Ostriches have strong

14 Their eyes do not move

Answer Key



Word Scramble Answer: reindeer

Word Scramble

Hint: Christmas

nederire

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

FUN FACT

Cheetahs cannot roar like lions or tigers. Instead, they make soft chirps, purrs, and yelps that sound almost like birds. Their unique voice comes from completely different throat structure, which also helps them stay lightweight enough for incredible bursts of speed.

Congo African Grey



08 LABOR OF LOVE

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY:

SERVING KINDNESS OUTDOORS

On November 11, a team of 11 volunteers from The Cheesecake Factory at The Forum Shops at Caesars spent their morning helping out at the sanctuary. They cleaned up after our goats, cleared yard debris, and worked together with so much enthusiasm that the entire place felt more lively.

They also enjoyed meeting many of our animals and learning about the sanctuary and its mission. Their kindness and positive energy made a real difference, and we are grateful for their support and the care they showed during their visit.



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WINDY'S RANCH & RESCUE



A VOICE FOR THE FORGOTTEN PIGS OF NEVADA

In the quiet town of Overton, Nevada, Windy's Ranch & Rescue stands as a true refuge where compassion and education come together. Founded in 2009 by Janice Ridondo, this all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit provides a safe home for abandoned and neglected potbellied pigs as well as other rescued animals.

Janice and her team work tirelessly to care for the animals and to educate the public about what they call "the Mini Pig Lie." Many people buy "teacup" or "micro" pigs believing they will stay small. When the pigs grow to full size, often weighing more than one hundred pounds, many are given up or left behind. Windy's Ranch accepts them and gives them a lifetime of care, respect, and love.

Every donation to Windy's goes directly toward the animals' food, shelter, and veterinary care. Janice takes no salary and relies on community support to keep the rescue running. Visitors often describe the ranch as a place filled with laughter and heart, where pigs bask in the sun, guardian dogs watch over their friends, and a rooster named Napoleon keeps everyone on their toes.

Windy's Ranch & Rescue reminds us that true rescue means more than saving lives. It means standing up for animals who have no voice and teaching others how to make choices rooted in compassion.

"Please, do your research before bringing home a pig," Janice says. "They are wonderful companions, but they are a lifetime commitment."



PIG FACTS

LIFESPAN: 15-20 YEARS

SIZE: VARIES BY BREED, UP TO 200 POUNDS

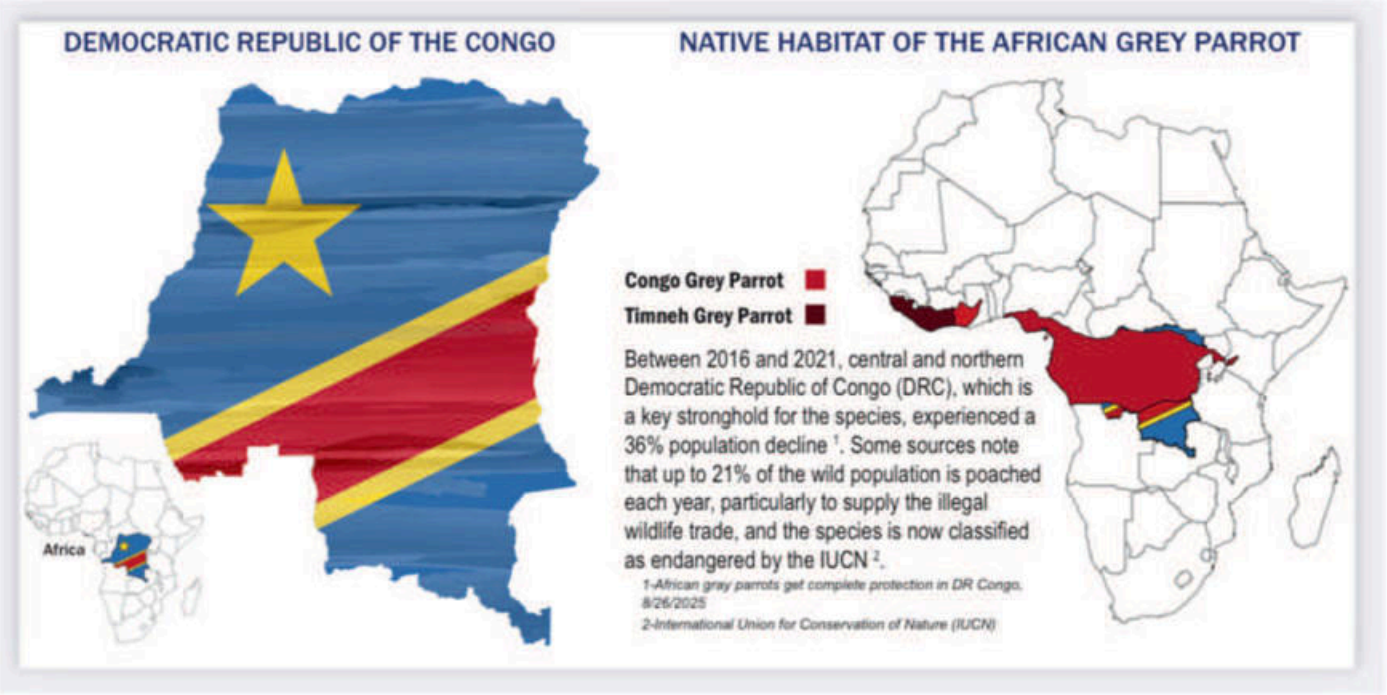
DIET: MIX OF PIG PELLETS, VEGETABLES/FRUITS, BERMUDA HAY

SUPPORT WINDY'S RANCH & RESCUE

VENMO:
@WINDYSPIGRESCUE

ZELLE:
702-816-7711

EMAIL:
JANICE@WINDYS.ORG



PROTECTING THE WILD CONGO AFRICAN GREY

The African grey parrot is one of the most intelligent birds in the world, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo plays an important role in protecting this remarkable species. The DRC is home to a large portion of the remaining wild population, which make conservation efforts in the region essential.

Recently, the DRC has strengthened protections by increasing penalties for illegal trapping and expanding protected forest areas. Conservation groups work with wildlife officials to monitor nests, reduce poaching, and rescue birds that have been removed from the wild. Community outreach also helps people to understand the value of keeping these parrots in their natural habitat.



African greys are capable of amazing things. They can learn hundred of words, understand concepts like colors and shapes, and even solve puzzles that require advanced problem solving. They mimic voices and sounds with incredible accuracy, and they show strong emotional intelligence and long term memory.

At our sanctuary, we care for six Congo African greys and one Timneh African grey who remind us every day why this work matters. Their intelligence, sensitivity, and social nature inspire us to support conservation through education, public outreach, and responsible care. We share their abilities and personalities with visitors to raise awareness about the challenges they face in the wild. Through this work, we hope to play a small part in ensuring a safer future for African greys everywhere.

NEVER MISS OUR NEWSLETTER!

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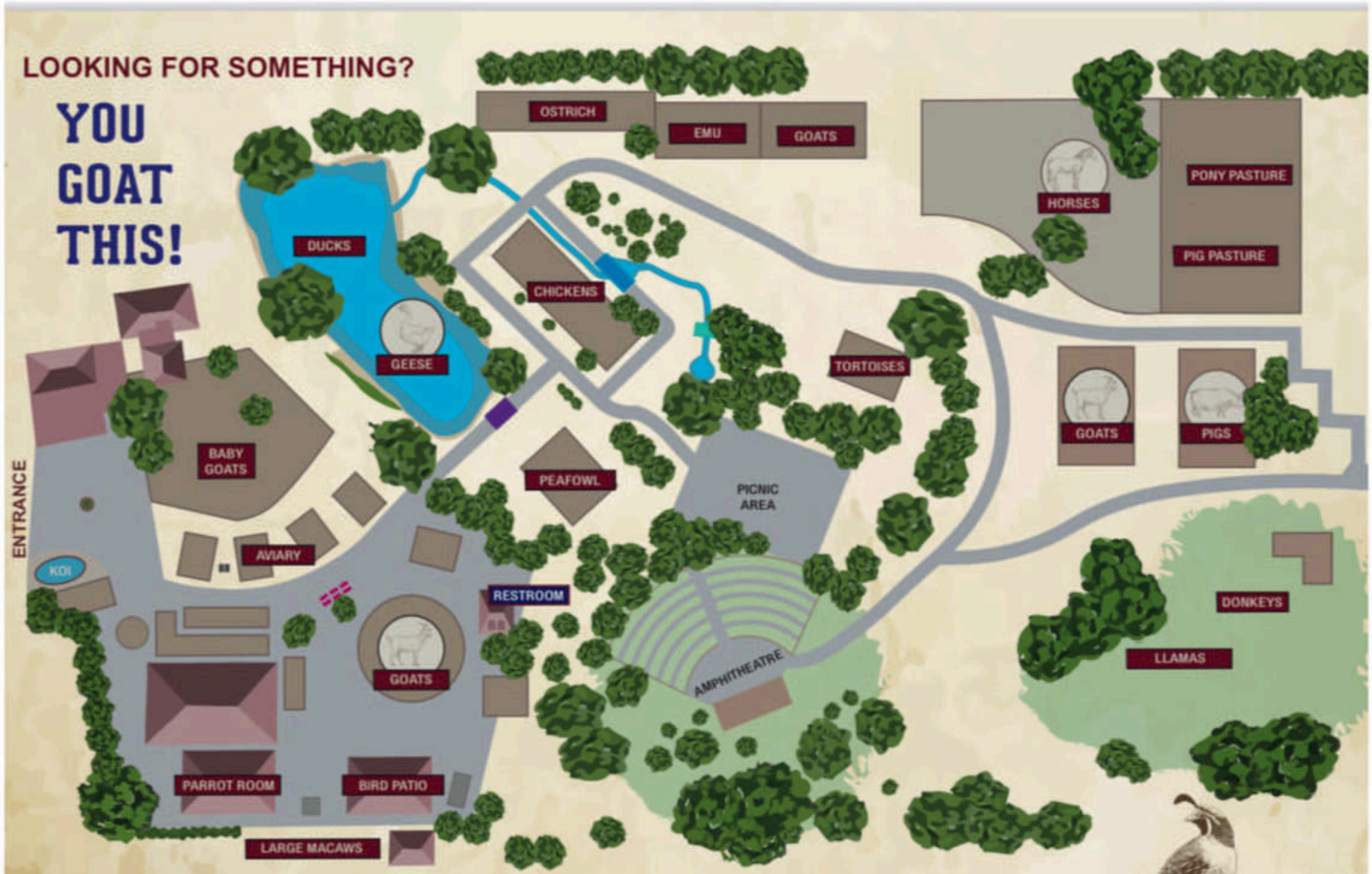
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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

YOU GOAT THIS!





The historical seven acre property offers a serene home retreat for over 500 exotic birds and domestic animals that have found a refuge when their owners can no longer take care of them.

Sanctuary management and staff are dedicated to the continued awareness of responisble pet adoption. Through onsite classes on animal wellness, presentations, and tours of the facility, citizens are encouraged and taught the serious responsibility of pet ownership.

EST 1979

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