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

OFFICE 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.

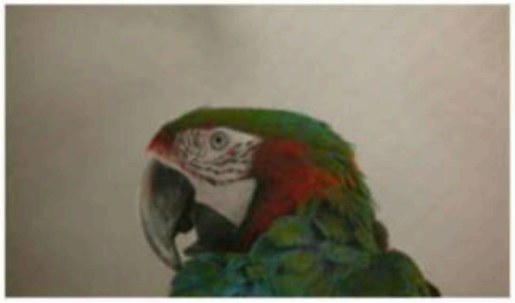
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OUR MISSION

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.

JANUARY 2026



Director Jenn and RayRay sharing our mission through outreach at a local Las Vegas Middle School.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Sanctuary,

As we begin a new year at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, I find myself thinking about the importance of conservation and what it truly means for the animals who depend on us. Conservation is more than protecting a single species. It is the work of protecting entire ecosystems and the delicate connections that allow life to thrive. Every bird, every goat, and every rescued animal at our sanctuary reminds us that the world is changing and that our choices today shape the future they inherit.

Many of the challenges facing wildlife seem distant at first. Habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and declining species numbers can feel like problems that happen somewhere else. But the truth is that everything is connected. When forests disappear, birds lose their homes. When waterways become polluted, entire chains of life are affected. When species decline, ecosystems begin to break apart. What begins as an animal problem eventually becomes a human one, because healthy wildlife and healthy people rely on the same stable environment.

This is why we share conservation stories in our newsletter. Although our sanctuary does not take in wildlife, we believe strongly in advocating for them. Awareness helps people understand the bigger picture. When our readers learn what is happening to animals around the world, they begin to see how closely our lives are tied to theirs. These stories remind us that the wellbeing of wildlife and the wellbeing of human communities are connected at every level.

Sanctuaries like ours are part of the solution. We provide a safe place for rescued and surrendered animals to heal, and we teach others why care and respect matter. Conservation happens when people learn, when they ask questions, and why they choose compassion in their daily lives.

This year we will continue to grow, to educate, and to advocate for both the animals in our care and the wildlife who share our planet. Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping us protect the animals who rely on every one of us.

With heartfelt thanks,

Jennifer Langford
Executive Director

GILCREASE NATURE SANCTURY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Oscar Gilcrease – Founder

Denise Scarff – President

Bill Townsend – Vice President

Dr. Christopher Smith – Treasurer

Kristina Miller – Secretary

Jeff Richards – Director

Wanda Hubal – Director

Madison Weingardt – Director

HOW TO 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.







A SHELL OF A PROJECT

Jaiden Flagg from Troop 678 designed and built a beautiful new tortoise house for Newman, giving him a safe and comfortable space to enjoy for years to come. Jaiden planned the project from start to finish, gathered materials, and worked with his troop to complete the build. We are grateful for his hard work and dedication to helping the animals at our sanctuary.

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Jaime Arvizu
jarvizu@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x5831

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04 DID YOU KNOW?

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

JAN 2

NATIONAL PET TRAVEL SAFETY DAY

This day reminds pet owners to keep animals safe while traveling.

JAN 5

NATIONAL BIRD DAY

Encourages people to learn about birds and their care, habitats, and conservation needs.

JAN 20

PENGUIN AWARENESS DAY

A spotlight on penguins and the environmental challenges they face in a rapidly changing world.

JAN 24

CHANGE A PET'S LIFE DAY

A day that inspires people to adopt, foster, volunteer, or support rescued animals in need.



A VETERINARIAN'S PERSPECTIVE: PET EMERGENCIES

BY ISABELLE VERNAZ, DVM

Even with preparation, emergencies happen to us all – including our furry family members. It is important to be able to assess if the situation is a true emergency warranting prompt arrival at a veterinary hospital, or if first aid can be performed at home. If you attempt first aid at home and the situation is not improving, or is worsening, then your pet should be evaluated by a veterinarian.

- **Basic signs of a pet emergency** – meaning first aid should not be performed at home:
  - Bleeding wound or orifice that doesn't stop after a few minutes (excluding animals in heat).
  - Trouble breathing such as labored breathing when the animal is not being active, extending their neck to try and get more air, or a cat that is panting.
  - White/pale/gray/purple gum color (normal is pink and moist – excluding pets with pigmented gums).
  - Straining to urinate (especially male cats) can be signs of urinary blockage.
  - Vomiting soon after eating/drinking,
  - Seizure lasting longer than five minutes, having more than one seizure in a 24 hour period, or a seizure that isn't stopping.
- **Did your pet eat something they weren't suppose to?** If it is human medication, or potentially something toxic to your pet, you should call ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435 and bring your pet to a veterinarian immediately for further treatment. The toxicologist that you called will help your veterinarian with what appropriate next steps are for the specific thing your pet ate.



DR. ISABELLE VERNAZ, DVM

Dr. Vernaz completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Nevada, Reno and earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree at Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona.

PEACHES: FEISTY BUT FULL OF LOVE



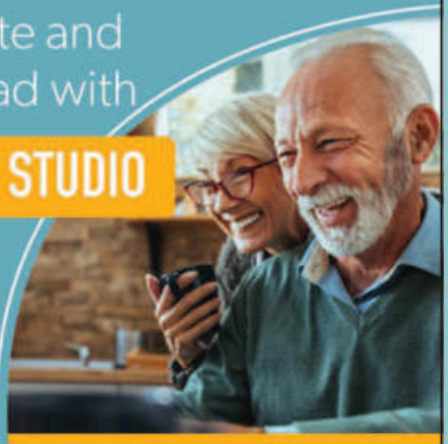
Peaches is one of our beautiful Moluccan cockatoos, and she brings plenty of personality to the sanctuary. She can be a little feisty with her caretakers, but she makes up for it with her love of cuddles and quiet moments of affection. Peaches enjoys spending time perched up high so she can watch everything happening around her, and she always lets us know when she wants attention. She also loves showing off her stunning feathers during her excited "happy flaps," which always makes our staff smile. Peaches has a playful spirit, a big voice, and a gentle side she shares with the people she trusts. She reminds us every day how unique and expressive cockatoos truly are, and we are so happy to celebrate her as our Resident of the Month.

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06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

GNS Words in the Wild

HUNT FOR THE HIDDEN SANCTUARY WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

E	H	D	E	M	S	Y	E	R	G
P	E	A	C	H	E	S	P	F	T
T	A	O	G	H	M	Z	Z	A	T
Z	N	F	C	A	C	T	U	S	U
U	G	A	R	D	E	N	U	S	R
V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	T
F	E	S	C	O	U	T	X	E	L
U	T	D	D	S	G	I	P	C	E
U	X	N	J	O	X	W	H	B	E

GOAT CACTUS SCOUT

PEACHES GARDEN PIGS

GREYS VOLUNTEER TURTLE

MINI CONSERVATION TIP

Picking up just one piece of trash at the beach can help protect turtles who mistake the litter for food. Together we can make a difference and keep our oceans safe for everyone.

JANUARY RIDDLE

QUESTION

I carry my house wherever I roam,
I never complain when I'm slow going home.
I lived with the dinosaurs long, long ago,
What kind of animal moves this slow?

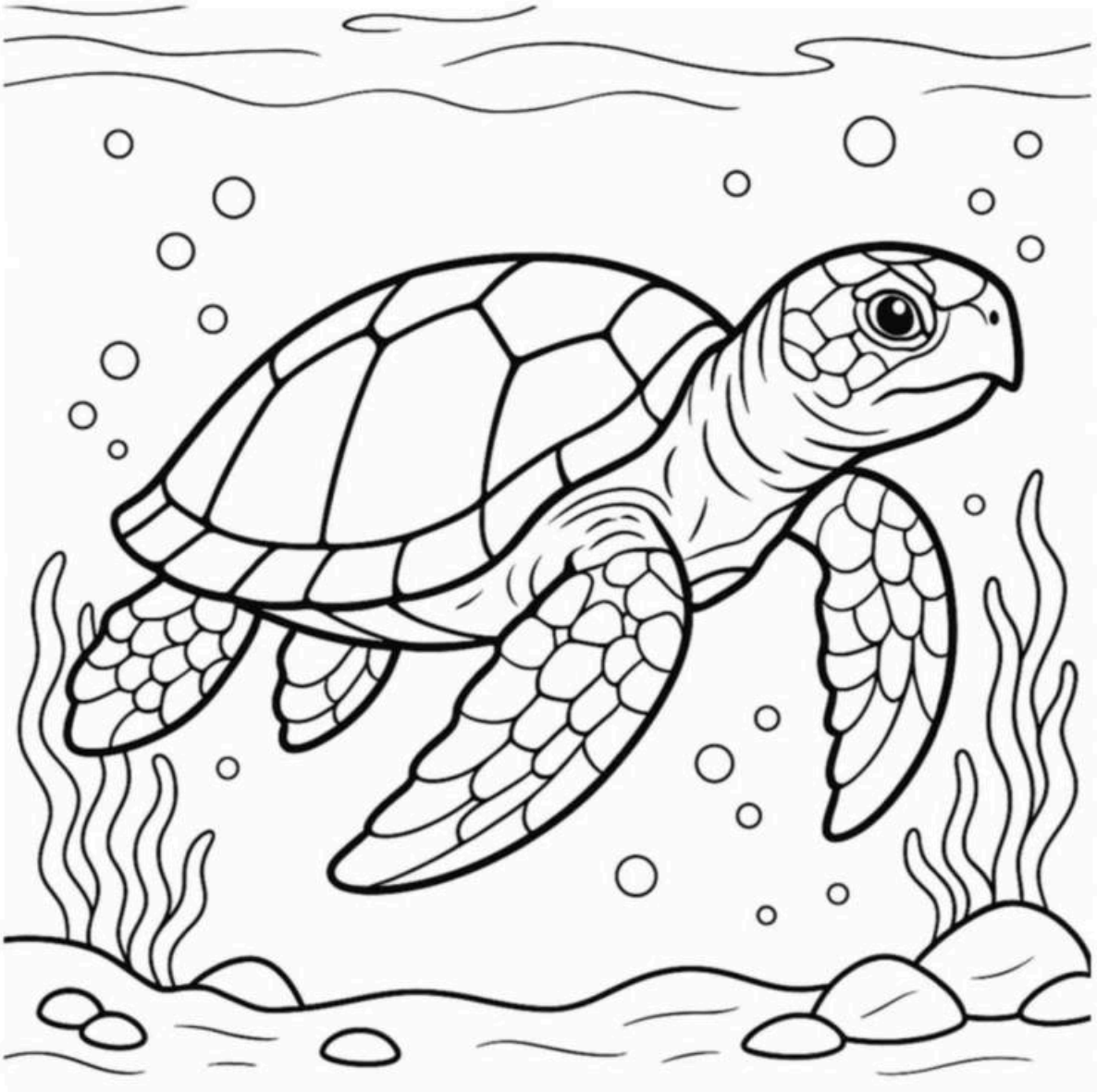
ANSWER

A tortoise.

FUN FACTS: SEA TURTLE EDITION

- **Sea turtles can hold their breath for hours. Some species rest underwater for up to 7 hours without coming up for air.**
- **Females return to the beach where they are born. They use the Earth's magnetic field like a natural compass.**
- **They cannot retract into their shells. Unlike land turtles, a sea turtle's shell is streamlined for swimming and cannot close.**
- **Hatchlings emerge from their nests primarily at night or when the sand is cooler to avoid daytime heat exhaustion and to escape from predators.**
- **Leatherback sea turtles are the deepest divers. They can reach depths of more than 3,000 feet.**

Hawksbill Sea Turtle



PICERNE REAL ESTATE GROUP:
IMPROVING OUR CURB APPEAL IN THE BEST WAY



Our cactus garden has always been a peaceful corner of the sanctuary, and thanks to the generosity of Picerne Real Estate Group, it has been brought back to life. Their team donated new plants, fresh soil, and their time needed to refresh and restore the entire space. The garden now feels bright, renewed, and full of color again. Their work was truly a labor of love, done with care, patience, and a genuine desire to improve a space that brings peace and beauty to our visitors.

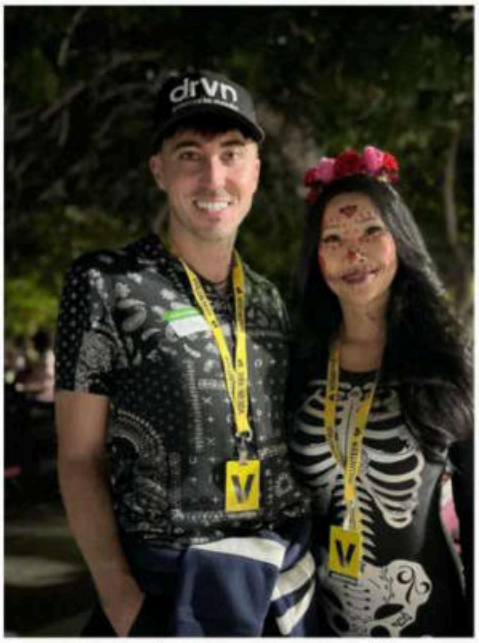
Picerne's donation did more than improve a garden. It showed how deeply they care about the Las Vegas community and the places that make it unique. Their support helps us continue creating welcoming spaces for families, students, and visitors who come to learn about animals and conservation. We are grateful for their generosity and the heart they put into this project.



VOLUNTEERS OF VEGAS:
PARTNERS IN KINDNESS AND COMMUNITY GROWTH

At Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, we believe that strong communities grow through kindness, compassion, and teamwork. This month, we are proud to highlight one of our dedicated community partners, Volunteers of Vegas (VOV). Founded by Benjamin Berard in April 2025, VOV was created after Benjamin noticed a shortage of free, group-based volunteer opportunities in Las Vegas. His goal was simple and meaningful: bring people together to do good, build friendships, and support the heart of the city.

VOV recruits and organizes volunteers for a wide range of charitable projects across the valley. From food drives and cleanup events to community outreach and support programs, their work shows what is possible when people unite for a shared purpose. Their motto, "Mobilizing Kindness. Empowering People," reflects their belief that lifting others creates stronger and more connected communities.



Founder Ben Bernard & volunteer Holly Young

Volunteers of Vegas have also become an essential part of our own sanctuary events. Their team supported us during both our Fall Festival and Day of the Dead: Xatanolo Festival. They helped with guest services, activities, and overall event flow, bringing positive energy and a strong work ethic. We truly could not have hosted these festivals without their help. Their presence makes a noticeable difference, and their partnership has become something we deeply value.

VOV is proudly sponsored by drvn, a private ground-transportation management platform based in Florida. drvn provides travel and event managers with seamless mobility solutions around the world. drvn is committed to giving back to the community. They contribute a portion of their efforts to local causes and proudly support organizations like VOV. Their belief in community uplift is a big part of why VOV can continue growing and making an impact across the valley.

At Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, we see every day how volunteers bring hope and unity to our community. Organizations like Volunteers of Vegas remind us that helping others creates real change not only for the animals in our care but also for the people who give their time and heart. We are grateful for the VOV team and for drvn's support in helping kindness throughout Las Vegas.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Volunteer with VOV and make a difference. Sign up at volunteersofvegas.com.

FUTURE VOV EVENTS

January 3, 2026
Final Showdown:
Merry Mary Storage Purge

February 7, 2026
Park Cleanup

February 10, 2026
The Mats Project!

February 14, 2026
Superhero's Give Blood

February 28, 2026
Mystery at the Museum

PLEASE NOTE: NO WALK-UP VOLUNTEERS -- REGISTRATION REQUIRED!



HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLE: A CRITICAL OCEAN GUARDIAN



The hawksbill sea turtle is one of the most endangered marine animals in the world, and January is an important time for conservation because it is peak nesting season in many tropical regions. These turtles are known for their beautifully patterned shells and for the important role they play in keeping coral reefs healthy by eating sponges that would otherwise overwhelm the reef.

Hawksbill turtles face serious threats from habitat loss, illegal trade, coastal development, and warming oceans. They depend on clean beaches for nesting and on strong coral reef system for food and shelter, so the decline of these environments puts their future at risk and affects the balance of entire marine ecosystems.

These turtles live in tropical waters throughout the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific. Their presence supports coastlines, fisheries, and the health of coral reefs that protect both wildlife and human communities.

Because hawksbill turtles are critically endangered, knowledge becomes one of the strongest tools we have to help them. When people learn where these turtles live and understand the challenges they face, it brings communities together to protect nesting beaches, coral reefs, and the ocean habitats they depend on. Their future now rests in human hands, and the more we share their story, the better chance we have to save these amazing animals.

NEVER MISS OUR NEWSLETTER!

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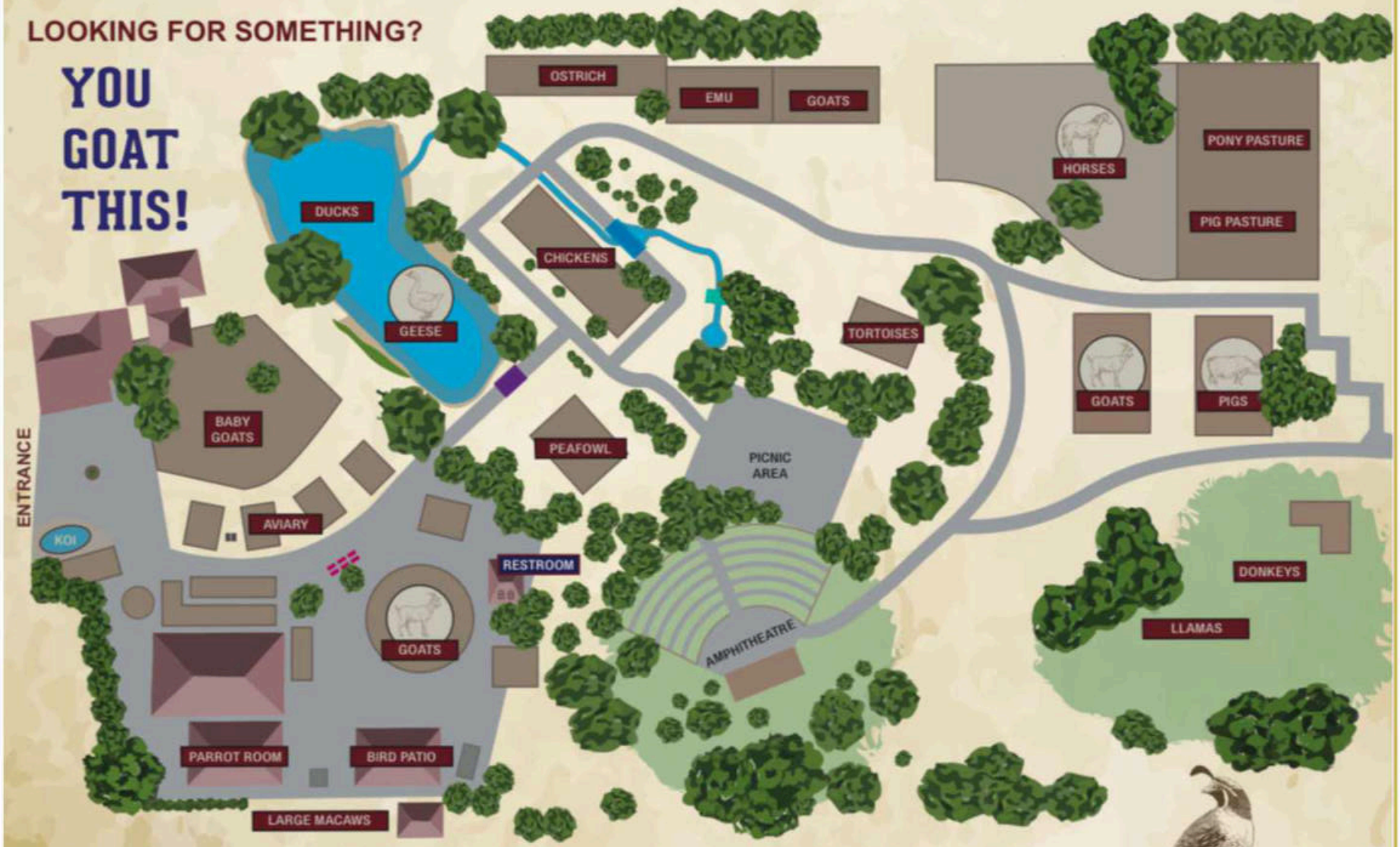
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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

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

GILCREASE

Nature Sanctuary

LAS VEGAS, NV