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

VISITING 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.

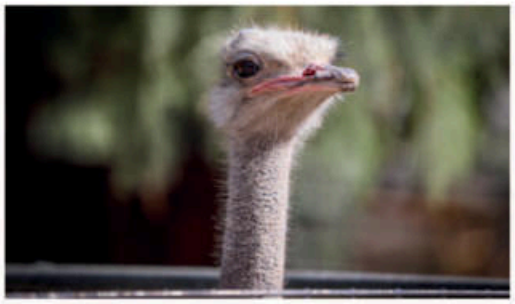
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OUR MISSION

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

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.

FEBRUARY 2026



Ray Ray and Director Jenn welcoming guests to the sanctuary.

GILCREASE NATURE SANCTUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Oscar Gilcrease - Founder

Denise Scarff - President

Bill Townsend - Vice-President

Dr. Chris Smith - Treasurer

Kristina Miller - Secretary

Jeff Richards

Wanda Hubal

Madison Weingardt

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

FEBRUARY REFLECTIONS FROM THE SANCTUARY

Dear Friends of the Sanctuary,

February is often seen as a month about love. Cards, flowers, and kind words shared between people. At the sanctuary, love looks a little different. It looks like early mornings, late nights, muddy boots, and steady hands at work. It looks like choosing to show up every day for animals who rely on us completely.

Love is not just a feeling here. It is a responsibility. It is a responsibility we carry for the animals, the land, and the legacy entrusted to us.

When Bill Gilcrease envisioned this land, conservation mattered deeply to him. He believed in protecting animals, preserving history, and creating spaces where people could learn to care about the world around them. The sanctuary carries his name, but more importantly, it carries that responsibility forward.

Every act of care at the sanctuary is an act of love tied to that original purpose. From feeding and enrichment, to medical care, to educating visitors about why conservation matters, love is what connects it all. It is love for the animals in our care, love for the land itself, and love for the idea that humans can do better.

This year we are making important changes that strengthen that mission. These changes are guided by compassion, integrity, and a deep respect for why this sanctuary exists in the first place. Love does not avoid hard work or difficult decisions. Love chooses what is right, even when it is not easy.

As we move forward, my hope is that every person who visits, volunteers, donates, or simply follows our story feels that love. Not just in words, but in actions. Because when love is paired with responsibility, it becomes something powerful and lasting.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we are honoring the past, protecting the present, and building a future rooted in care.

With love,

Jennifer Langford
Executive 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.







SHELLTERING WITH PURPOSE

BUILDING SAFE SPACES FOR OUR TORTOISES

Caspian Wind of Troop 430 recently completed his Eagle Scout service project at the sanctuary by building two new tortoise houses. His work provides safe, durable shelters that help our tortoises stay protected and warm during the winter months. Projects like this make a lasting difference for both the animals and the sanctuary. We are grateful for his dedication, craftsmanship, and commitment to giving back to the community.

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

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04 PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

Protectors of Tule Springs (POTS) has played a vital role in preserving one of the most important Ice Age fossil sites in our region. Beginning this month, they will have a dedicated page in our newsletter to share updates, key dates, and their ongoing conservation work. We are excited to partner with them and honored to share their story with our community.

FROM MAMMOTHS TO MONUMENTS:

THE BEGINNING

BY: DESIRÉ SCHULTZ

Imagine trekking through the Las Vegas Valley 20,000 years ago. Instead of dodging traffic through the glare of the neon lights; you're navigating herds of Columbian Mammoths, spotting American Lions, and keeping a sharp eye out for Saber-tooth cats.

Fast forward to 2006: A group of five visionary women – Sandy Croteau, Jill DeStefano, Kathryn Brandel, Lil Rothstein, and Sandy Valley – sat in a meeting and heard the unthinkable. These ancient fossils were being paved over for housing and power lines, in the wash north of Las Vegas. They decided right then that the "Big Dig" shouldn't end in a "Big Disappearance" and formed the Protectors of Tule Springs.

The Road to Protection What began as a grassroots effort evolved into a powerhouse coalition of conservationists, Paiute Tribal leaders, and military and business icons. After many years of relentless advocacy, the Protectors of Tule Springs saw their dream realized:

- **2012:** Formally established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit
- **2014:** Congress passed legislation and it was signed by President Obama designating 22,650 acres as the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument
- **2017:** Governor Brian Sandoval established the adjacent Ice Age Fossils State Park, home of the historic 1962 "Big Dig"

WANT TO CONNECT?

Interested in volunteering or learning more about the Protectors of Tule Springs, please email Desiré at desires@protectorsoftulesprings.org.



The Founding Five

Our Mission Today We don't just look at the past; we protect the future. We protect, preserve, support and promote responsible stewardship of our parks. As the primary partner for both Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument and Ice Age Fossils State Park, we support their efforts to educate the next generation of explorers and visitors of all ages, with monetary and volunteer assistance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 7

VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP TULE SPRINGS

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Horse and N Decatur

Sign up at:

https://bit.ly/CleanUpTuleSprings

FEB 14

COFFEE TALK

9:00 - 11:00 AM Ice Age Fossils State Park

Archeology w/ Dr. Gabriela Oré Menéndez

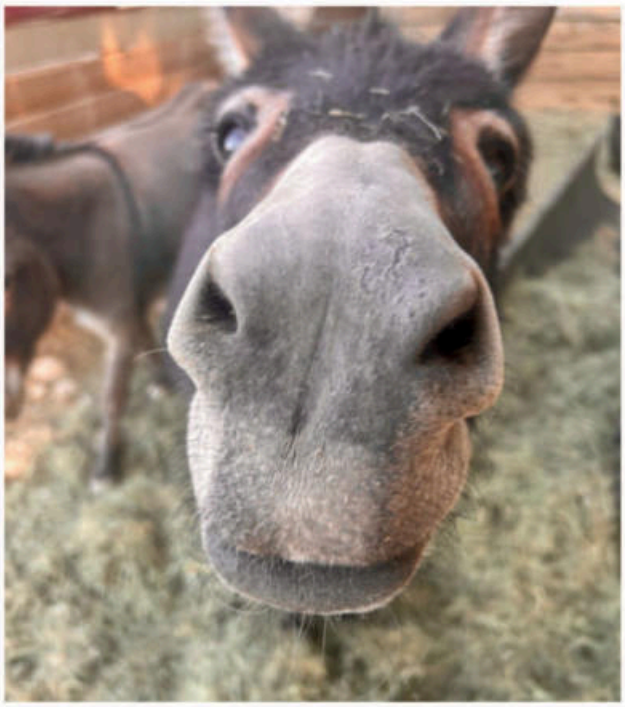
($3 an adult park admission)

FEB 24

PROTECTORS PUBLIC MEETING

6:00 - 8:00 PM Sun City Aliante Vista Rm.

Everyone is welcome. Free Event!



RICO: FROM ITALY WITH LOVE

Rico has been part of the sanctuary family for decades. Originally from Italy, his journey may have started far away, but his life has been rooted here for many years, surrounded by steady care and familiar faces.

As an elderly donkey, Rico moves at his own gentle pace. He is calm, observant, and quietly comforting to be around. He has seen seasons change, animals come and go, and the sanctuary grow around him. This has always been his home.

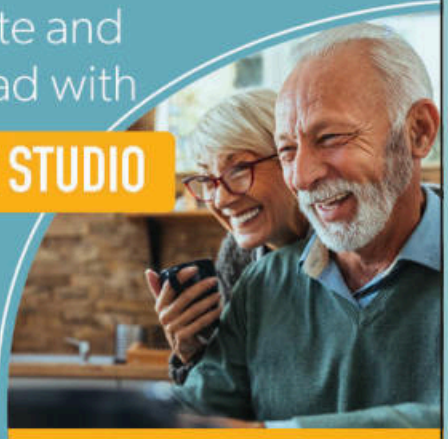
Rico represents what true sanctuary means. We do not rescue animals only for a moment in time. We commit to them for life through their younger years, their senior years, and everything in between. His life here reflects the promise we make to every animal who calls the sanctuary home.

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06 SANCTUARY SMARTIES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

WHO LOVES LIKE THIS?

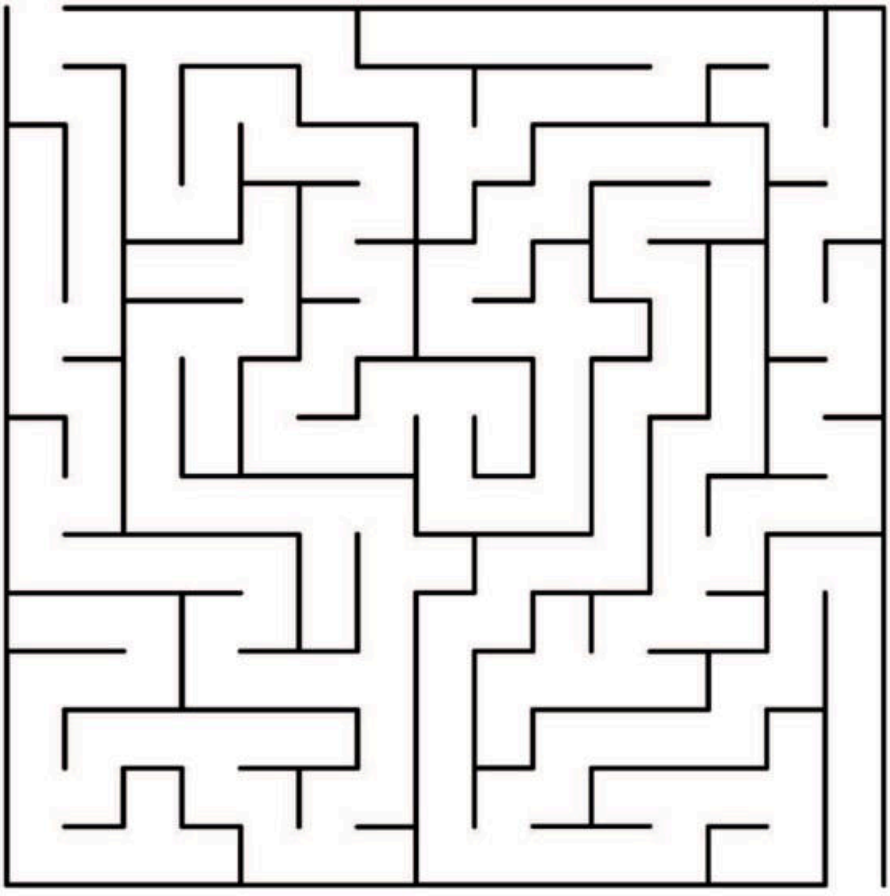
*Draw a line to match each animal with the way it shows **love and care.***

Penguin	**Dances during courtship**
Sea Otter	**Gives pebbles as gifts**
Crane	**Comforts friends with touch**
Elephant	**Holds hands while sleeping**



Can you guide the penguin all the way through the maze to deliver the pebble to the otter?

START



FINISH



MINI CONSERVATION TIP

Show the planet a little love this month by choosing products made from recycled materials. This simple switch reduces waste, protects natural habitats, and helps wildlife in small but meaningful ways.

FEBRUARY RIDDLE

QUESTION:

I wear a suit but not to dine,
I slide on snow in a wobbly line.
I cannot fly but I still glide,
I bring my sweetheart pebbles with pride.

ANSWER:

A PENGUIN

FUN ANIMAL FACTS

LOVE IN THE ANIMAL WORLD

- **Penguins give pebbles as gifts to the ones they like, almost like a tiny Valentine.**
- **Cows form strong social bonds and prefer spending time with close companions.**
- **Wolves mate for life, and some pairs even howl together to strengthen their bond.**
- **Flamingos dance in groups to impress a partner.**
- **Sea otters hold hands so they do not drift apart while they sleep.**
- **Sandhill cranes dance and leap during courtship. Their displays are some of the most graceful in the bird world.**
- **Clownfish families stay close, and the male helps care for the eggs.**
- **Elephants comfort each other with soft touches and rumbles when a friend is upset.**

RED CROWNED CRANES



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RED-CROWNED CRANE ON PAGE 10.

MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE, GIVE BACK ALWAYS

A VOLUNTEER WHO BRINGS SKILL, KINDNESS, AND CARE TO EVERYTHING HE TOUCHES.



After 35 years in St. Paul, Minnesota, running his own carpentry company, Mark Moore and his wife, Kim, moved to Las Vegas to enjoy retirement and begin a new chapter. Wanting to give back to his new community, Mark found his way to the sanctuary and quickly became an invaluable part of our volunteer family.

With a lifetime of hands-on experience, Mark has quietly taken on countless projects, fixing, building, and improving things wherever help is needed. Just as important as his skills is his attitude. He shows up with kindness, patience, and a genuine willingness to help, always understanding and always positive.

We are incredibly grateful for the care and craftsmanship Mark brings to the sanctuary. Volunteers like him remind us that community is built through generosity, shared purpose, and simply showing up to help. Mark truly is a gem, and we are honored to recognize him as our February Volunteer Highlight.



ALL FRIENDS ANIMAL SANCTUARY:

WHERE COMPASSION CREATES SECOND CHANCES



All Friends Animal Sanctuary is a place where compassion lives quietly but powerfully, just about one mile from the bright lights of the Las Vegas Strip. Founded in May 2019 by Tara Pike-Nordstrom, the sanctuary was born from a moment of reckoning. After witnessing the suffering of farm animals, Tara could not look away.

Instead she chose to act, creating a place where animals who had known hardship, neglect, or uncertainty could finally feel safe.

Today, All Friends is home to more than 150 rescued animals, from mammals and poultry to reptiles. Goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys, and geese roam a space created not for profit or display, but for healing. Spread across over two acres, offering something many of these animals have never known before: stability, patience, and peace.

GET INVOLVED.
Be part of their mission.

Volunteer Wednesdays
1:30 - 4:30 PM
Summer: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Text "AFAS" to (833) 799-0061 to receive updates on volunteering.

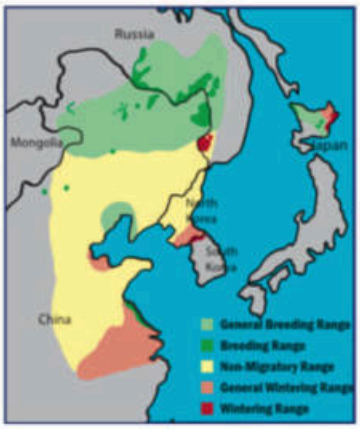
WWW.ALLFRIENDSANIMALSANCTUARY.ORG/



At All Friends, rescue is only the beginning. Daily care is provided with patience and intention, from safe shelter and thoughtful feeding to routine veterinary support and attentive human presence. Animals are allowed to settle in at their own pace, free from pressure or expectation. Over time, trust grows, and with it, a visible sense of calm that reflects what stability can provide.

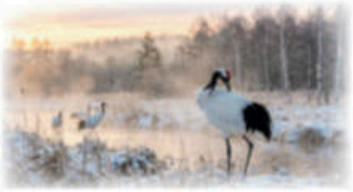
The sanctuary is deeply rooted in community and education. Volunteers do more than help with daily tasks. They become part of each animal's journey, learning firsthand about compassion, responsibility, and the impact of choosing kindness. Through outreach and education, All Friends works to reshape how farm animals are seen and valued.

All Friends Animal Sanctuary stands as a reminder that even in the heart of a bustling city, there is room for gentleness. It is a place where second chances are honored and where empathy leads the way forward. One animal at a time, Tara and her team are building a future rooted in care, understanding, and hope.



NATIVE HABITAT OF THE RED CROWN CRANE

Red-crowned Cranes breed in a long, cool arc of wetlands from the Amur–Heilong River basin on the Russia–China border down through the great marshes and reedbeds of northeastern China, with an isolated breeding pocket in the wetlands and river valleys of eastern Hokkaido, Japan; the Hokkaido birds are essentially resident, staying on the island year-round and shifting only locally among marshes, rivers, and farmlands, while the continental cranes vacate their northern breeding marshes in winter and move south to form two main wintering "lobes": one along the west coast and river valleys of the Korean Peninsula, especially near the DMZ, and another spread across China's middle and lower Yangtze and Yellow River regions.



RED CROWNED CRANE: LOVE, LOYALTY, AND A FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL



The Red-crowned Crane is one of the most beloved birds in the world, known for its striking red crown, graceful white feathers, and lifelong pair bonds. Once a male and female choose each other, they remain together for life, raising their young as a team and returning to one another year after year. Their courtship dance, with bows, leaps, and calls in perfect rhythm, is one of the most beautiful displays in nature and a powerful symbol of connection.



While the Red-crowned Crane represents love and hope, its story also reflects how fragile wildlife can be. This species once thrived across the wetlands of East Asia, but habitat loss, pollution, and changing water levels have greatly reduced their numbers. Today, fewer than 3,000 Red-crowned Cranes are believed to remain in the wild.

These cranes depend on healthy wetlands for feeding, nesting, and migration. When wetlands disappear, entire ecosystems are affected, along with the many species that rely on them. Protecting crane habitat helps preserve clean water, supports biodiversity, and strengthens the balance of nature. Protecting wetlands is not just about saving one species, it is about safeguarding the interconnected systems that sustain life.

Because Red-crowned Cranes are endangered, awareness plays a critical role in their survival. Learning about their lives and the challenges they face brings people together to protect wetlands and the wildlife that depend on them. Their future rests in human hands, and by sharing their story, we help ensure these remarkable birds continue to dance across the landscape for generations to come. This shared responsibility reflects the conservation values that have long guided Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary and continue to inspire our work today.

NEVER MISS OUR NEWSLETTER!

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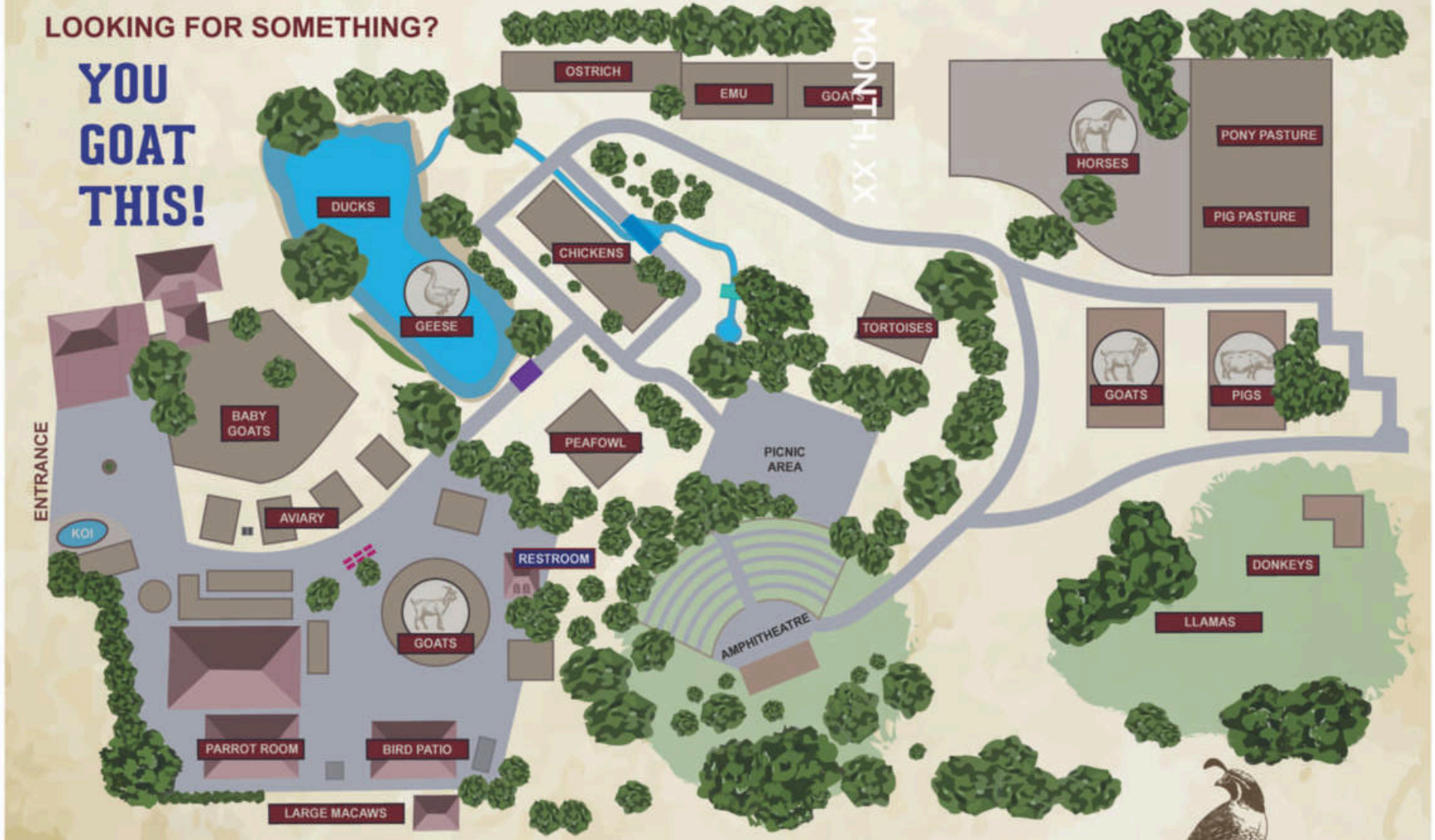


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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

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