GILCREASE
Nature Sanctuary

CONTACT US

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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.

PLEASE BE KIND

Our animals are ambassadors for rescue. Some carry physical reminders of neglect, injury, or trauma. We invite you to see beyond those scars and appreciate the incredible journeys that brought them to safety.

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.

AUGUST 2026



RayRay and Jennifer out in the community with Spread the Word Nevada.

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AUGUST MUSINGS

A NEW SEASON OF GRACE

August is a month of transition. Families are preparing for a new school year. Teachers are putting the finishing touches on their classrooms. Students are meeting new friends. And our daily routines are beginning to change. The roads get busier, schedules become fuller, and life seems to speed up almost overnight.

At the same time, Southern Nevada is still feeling the intensity of summer. The long days of extreme heat can leave us feeling tired, stressed, and a little more impatient than usual. It is a reminder that everyone we meet may be carrying challenges we know nothing about. A smile, a kind word, or a little extra understanding can make more of a difference than we realize.

As life becomes busier, I hope you will also take a moment to slow down and notice the natural world around you. Watch the hummingbirds zip about, listen to birds singing in the morning, or enjoy a quiet moment outside. Nature has a wonderful way of helping us slow down and appreciate the beauty that surronds us every day.

One of the greatest lessons nature teaches us is that every living thing has a role to play. From pollinators that help plants grow to scavengers that keep ecosystems healthy, each species contributes in its own unique way. We have an important role as well. We can choose patience over frustration, kindness over impatience, and curiosity over indifference. Those everyday choices strengthen our families, our communities, and our connection to the world around us.

At Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary , we believe conservation begins with appreciation. The more we learn about the animals that share our planet, the more we understand their importance and the role they play in keeping nature in balance. This month, my hope is that you will discover something new about the incredible wildlife around us and be inspired to help protect it for generations to come.

As summer gives way to a new school year, I wish you a season filled with kindness, curiosity, and a renewed appreciation for the world.

Warmly,

Jennifer Langford
Executive Director



Kara Brantley and Sophie Smith with Baby before her veterinary appointment.

A TRUCK, A TRAILER, AND TWO BIG HEARTS

When Baby needed specialized veterinary care, getting her to the appointment was the first challenge. Transporting a pony requires equipment our sanctuary does not currently have, including a truck and a horse trailer.

Our team member, Sophie Smith, made sure Baby received the care she needed by accompanying her to the appointment. Family friend and volunteer Kara Brantley generously stepped in by providing her personal truck and horse trailer, making the trip possible. Thanks to Kara's willingness to share her equipment and Sophie's dedication to Baby's care, the appointment went smoothly.

We are immensely grateful to Sophie and Kara for going above and beyond to ensure Baby received the veterinary care she deserved. Their compassion, generosity, and teamwork are wonderful examples of what makes our community so special. Thank you, Sophie and Kara, for being true Community Champions.

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04 PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary

AUG 22

COFFEE TALK ON ICE!

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park **Time:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM.
Enjoy cool beverages and conversation with rangers.

AUG 23

READING AND CRAFT WITH A RANGER

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park **Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM.
Listen to a story and do a craft to take home.

AUG 29

POP-UP PALEO LAB

Location: Ice Age Fossils State Park **Time:** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM.
Drop in and chat with a paleontologist as she works.

SEP 08

PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS MEETING

Location: Sun City Aliante **Time:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.
General meeting

SCAN TO SUPPORT THE PROTECTORS OF TULE SPRINGS!

DONATE, VOLUNTEER, AND HELP PROTECT OUR PARKS!



BECOME A B.A.R.K. RANGER

EXPLORE THE PARKS WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND

Protectors of Tule Springs is the official non-profit philanthropic partner and "Friends Group" for both Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument (TUSK) and Ice Age Fossils State Park (IAFSP). We are dedicated to supporting both parks by fulfilling their volunteer needs.

Bring Your Best Friend to the Parks!

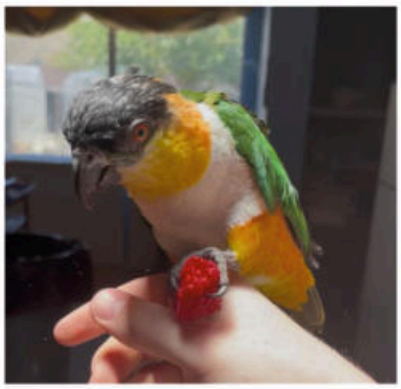
We love animals of all kinds – both the furry ones running around today and the ancient fossil versions preserved at our parks. While we ask that you leave the fossil versions behind for everyone to enjoy, our living, four-legged friends are always welcome at both of our parks!

To keep our parks safe and beautiful for everyone, we just ask that all pet owners follow the official B.A.R.K. Ranger rules:

- Bag your pet's waste (dispose of it properly).
- Always leash your pet (keeping them on a leash max 6 feet long).
- Respect wildlife (keep a safe distance from local animals).
- Know where you can go (stay on trails and be sure to bring enough water for your furry friend too).

Join Us for a B.A.R.K. Ranger Hike!

Check out our websites, protectorsoftulesprings.org, parks.nv.gov/parks/ice-age-fossils and nps.gov/tusk and follow our social media pages for updates on upcoming B.A.R.K. Ranger hikes led by a TUSK representative. We cannot wait to see you and your pup on the trails.



MEET BUDDY

THE CAGE-SURFING, RASPBERRY-LOVING CHARMER

Buddy is a black-headed caique with a personality much bigger than his little body. Curious, energetic, and always ready to be part of whatever is happening, Buddy has no trouble making himself known.

Buddy loves "cage surfing," flipping onto his back and scooting around his enclosure in true caique fashion. He also loves raspberries, and one of his funniest habits is letting staff member Kameron hold him like a cell phone.



About Caiques

Black-headed caiques are native to the forests of northern South America, where they live in small groups and forage for fruits, seeds, and other foods. As companion parrots, they are intelligent and social, but require daily enrichment, interaction, and consistent care. With lifespans that can span decades, welcoming a caique into your home is a long-term commitment.

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06 FUN AND GAMES

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary



In real life, finding even one saola is nearly impossible! Can you do better than the scientists and spot all 10?

FUN FACTS

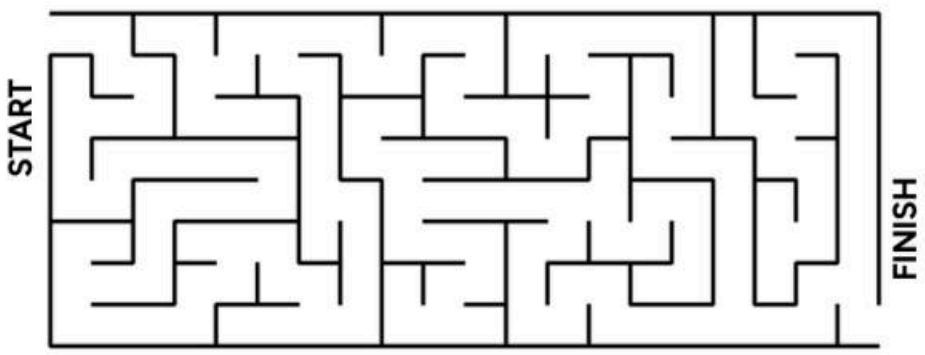
- Its nickname is the "Asian Unicorn," not because it has one horn, but because it is so rarely seen.
- Scientists did not know it existed until 1992. It was one of the largest mammal discoveries of the twentieth century.
- It lives nowhere else on Earth. Wild saolas are found only in the Annamite Mountains along the border of Vietnam and Laos.
- Almost no one has seen one in the wild. Most knowledge comes from camera traps, tracks, and signs they leave behind.
- There are very few photographs of wild saolas. Most images you've seen come from remote camera traps.
- Both males and females have horns. Their long, nearly parallel horns can reach about 20 inches (50 cm).
- They have beautiful white facial markings. These distinctive stripes may help them communicate with other saolas.
- They prefer cool mountain forests. They often stay near streams and dense vegetation.
- They are usually solitary. Unlike many antelope relatives, saolas are often found alone or in pairs.
- The biggest threat is not hunting for food. Most are accidentally caught in wire snares set for other wildlife.

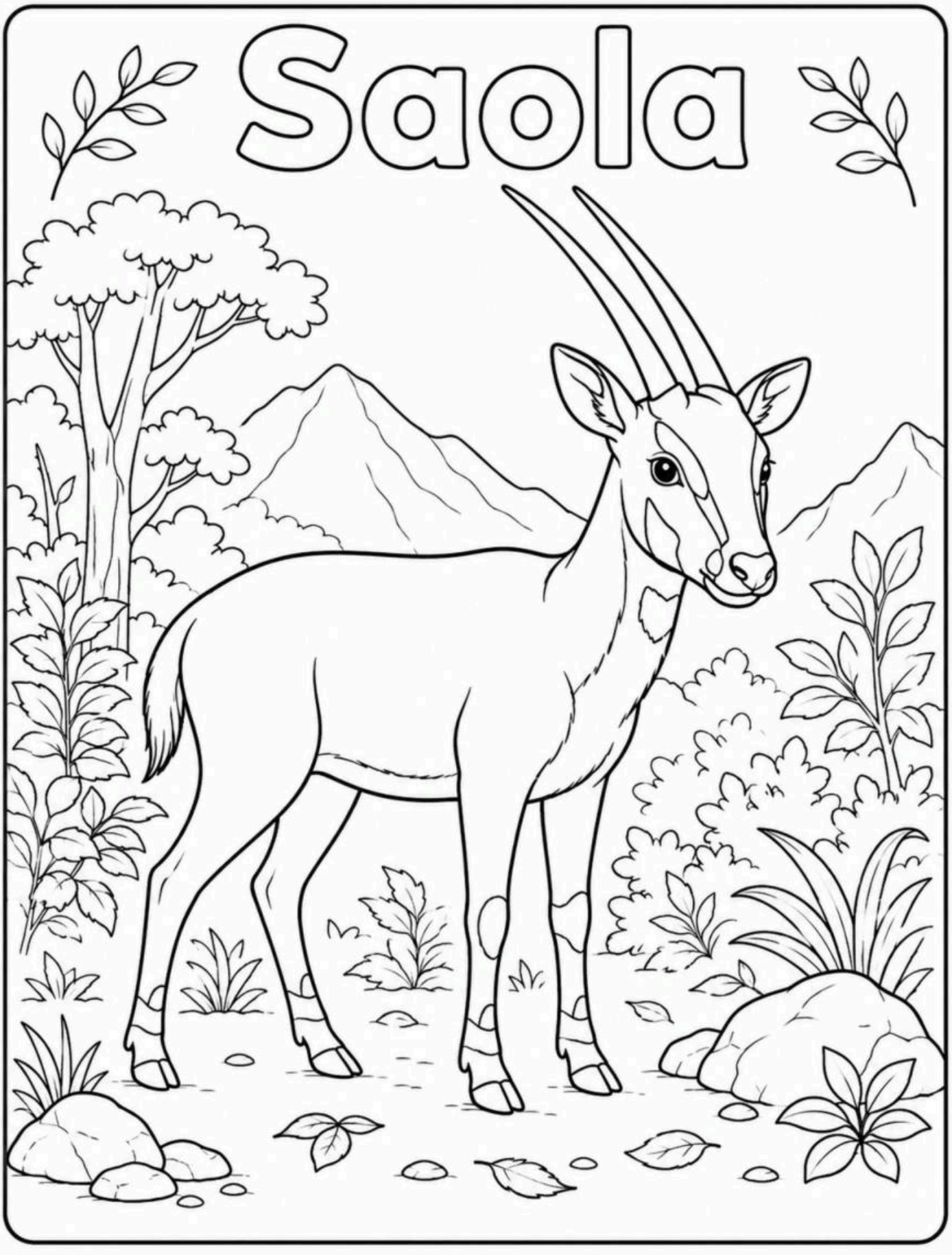
MINI CONSERVATION TIP

Choose sustainable wood and paper products.

Healthy forests are essential for rare wildlife like the saola, one of the world's most elusive mammals. By using recycled paper and choosing products certified from responsibly managed forests, you can help protect the habitats that countless species call home.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE ANNAMITE FOREST!




Saola

A RIPPLE OF GENEROSITY

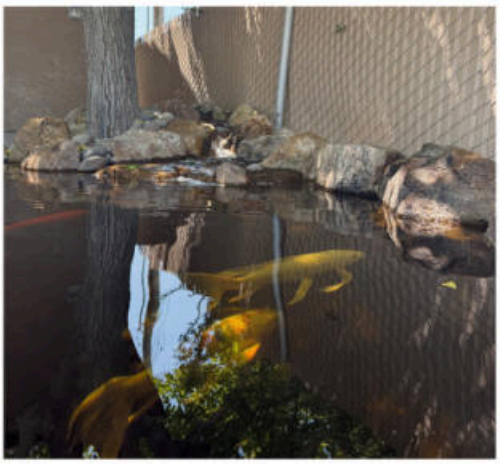
A $50,000 GIFT TRANSFORMS OUR BELOVED KOI POND

Our koi pond has long been one of the most peaceful and loved areas at Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary. Thanks to an extraordinary collaboration between Stonewall Creek of Las Vegas and Pond Diggers of Cherry Valley, California, this special space has been completely transformed.

STONEWALL CREEK

THE POND DIGGER
WATERSCAPE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Together, the two companies donated approximately $50,000 in materials, expertise, and labor to rebuild and improve the pond, giving the sanctuary a beautiful new feature designed to serve both animals and our visitors for years to come.



The transformation went far beyond appearances. A state-of-the-art filtration system now provides cleaner, healthier water for our koi, while a beautiful new waterfall improves circulation and oxygenation.

We are incredibly grateful to Stonewall Creek and Pond Diggers for their generosity and for creating something that will benefit our animals and visitors for many years to come.

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LPi



THE GROOVY SIDE OF COMPASSION

MEET THE LAS VEGAS NONPROFIT WHERE RESCUED ANIMALS AND COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER

This month, we are excited to shine a spotlight on That 70's Sanctuary, a local Las Vegas nonprofit founded by Tayla Hart. Dedicated to rescuing and providing lifelong care for farm animals, the sanctuary offers a safe, loving home where every animal is valued and given the opportunity to thrive.

The sanctuary is home to a variety of rescued residents, including mini zebu, pigs, goats, an emu, and more. Each animal has its own unique story, reminding us that with patience, compassion, and proper care, animals can overcome incredible challenges.

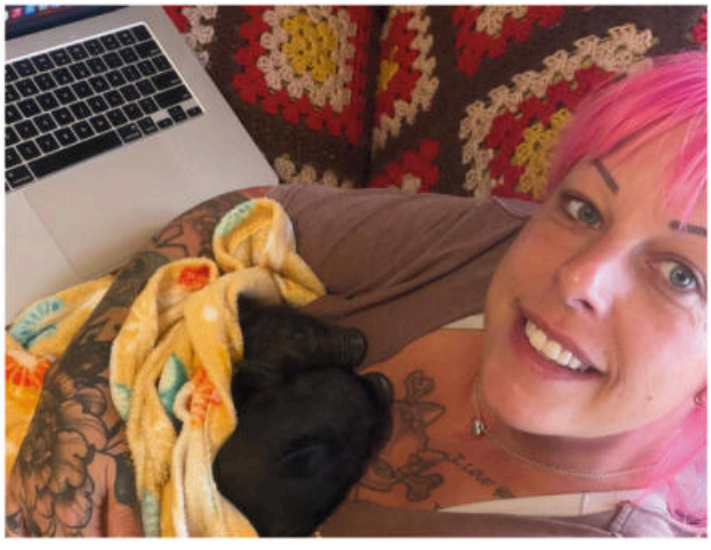
In addition to caring for its animal residents, That 70's Sanctuary brings the community together through unique experiences such as yoga with the animals, craft nights, special events, and volunteer opportunities. These programs help visitors build meaningful connections with animals while promoting compassion, wellness, and appreciation for the important role animals play in our lives.

These experiences do more than create fun memories. They help people slow down, connect with animals on a deeper level, and discover the compassion, trust, and healing that can grow through those relationships. It is a reminder of how much animals have to teach us about patience and connection. That 70's Sanctuary is inspiring a greater appreciation for the animals that share our world.

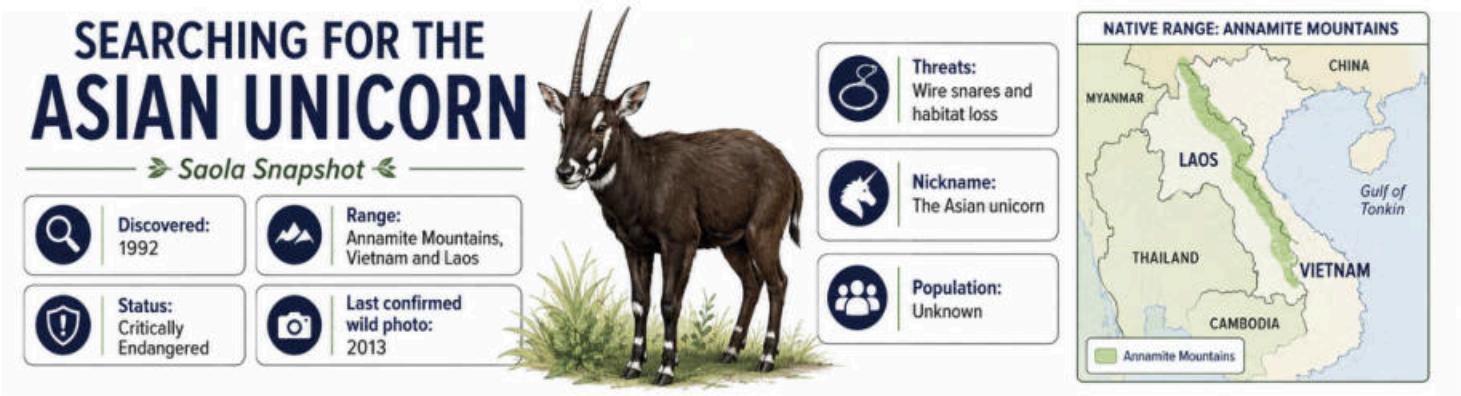
Animal welfare is strongest when organizations and communities support one another. We are grateful for the work That 70's Sanctuary is doing and are proud to recognize their commitment to giving rescued animals the lifelong care and compassion they deserve.

That 70's Sanctuary

Scan to meet the animals, explore upcoming events, volunteer, or make a donation to support That 70's Sanctuary.



Tayla Hart cuddles one of the piglets rescued from a recent Las Vegas cruelty case.



SAOLA

SEARCHING FOR THE ASIAN UNICORN

Some animals are famous for how they look. The saola is famous for how well it disappears.

Scientists discovered the saola in 1992 in the Annamite Mountains along the border of Vietnam and Laos. It was one of the most remarkable large-mammal discoveries in the 20th century. With its long, nearly parallel horns and distinctive facial markings, it quickly earned the nickname "Asian Unicorn."

Not because it is mythical, but because seeing one is almost unlikely.

No biologist has ever documented a living saola in the wild firsthand. Most of what scientists know comes from a small number of camera-trap photographs, animals briefly held in remote villages, and remains found in the forest.

The last confirmed photograph of a wild saola was taken in 2013. Since then, there have been no confirmed sightings. That does not necessarily mean the saola is gone. It means scientists must search for it in ways that do not depend on seeing the animal itself.

Researchers test water for traces of DNA, collect insects that may have fed on wild animals, and even study blood found inside leeches. The smallest clue could prove that saolas are still quietly moving through the forest.

The saola faces serious threats from habitat loss and wire snares set for other animals. Because no one knows exactly how many remain, the loss of even one could matter.

It is easy to feel discouraged by a story like this. We would rather tell you why it is not too late.

Conservationists are working to protect the forests of the Annamite Mountains, remove dangerous snares, and prepare for the possibility that living saolas may still be found. Protecting this habitat also helps many other rare animals who share the saola's home.

The saola reminds us that an animal does not have to be seen to be worth saving. Some species survive quietly, hidden from people who may never know they are there.

Most endangered-species stories come with a number: how many animals remain and how quickly that number is falling. The saola offers no such certainty.

And maybe that is its own kind of urgency: the not knowing.

A Forest Worth Protecting

Saving the saola means protecting its home, too. The forests of the Annamite Mountains shelter countless species, many found nowhere else on Earth.

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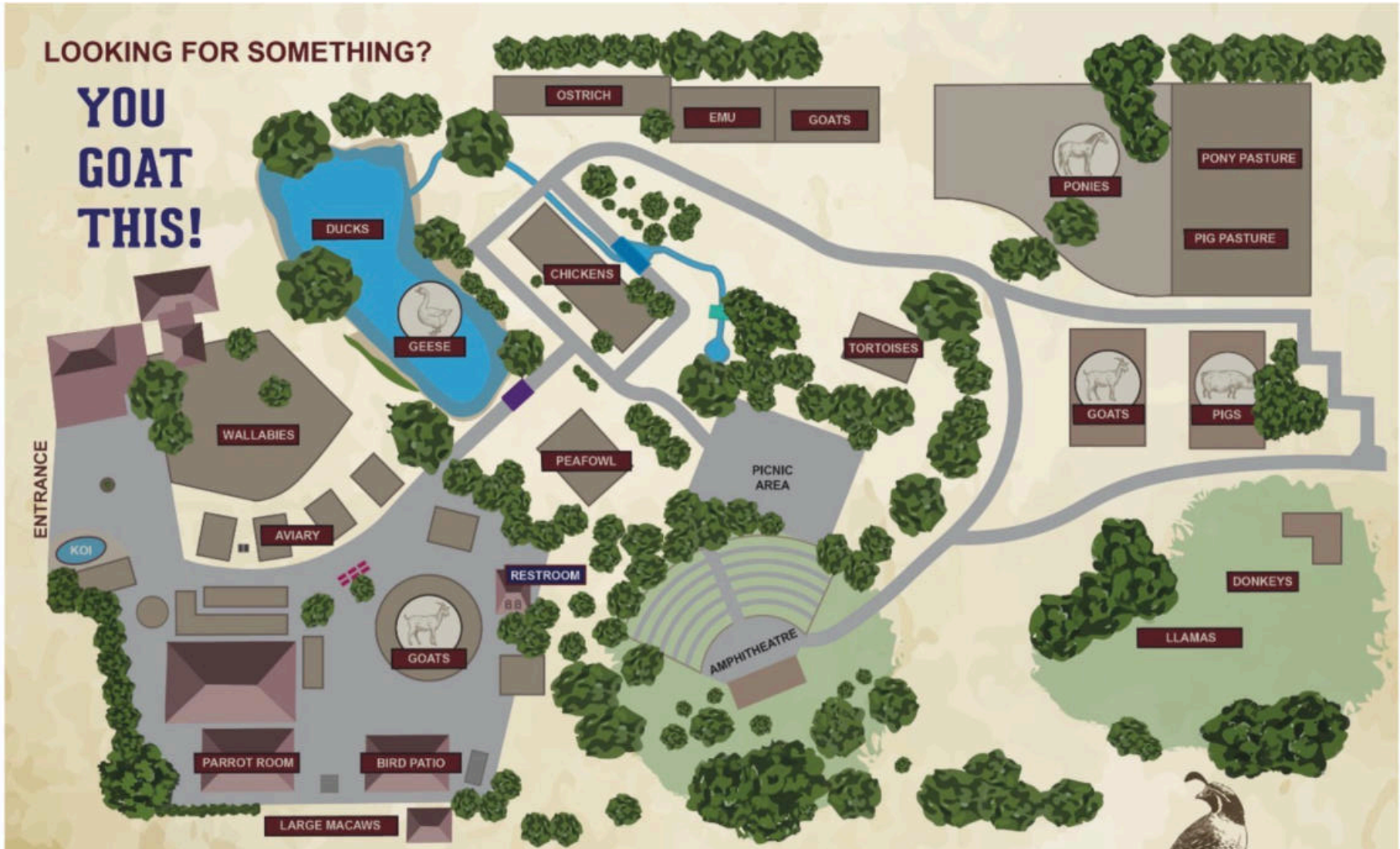
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LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

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