

SEARCH FOR SUNWISE ANIMALS AT YOUR ZOO

These animals are sunwise because they protect themselves from the sun's harmful rays. Just like these animals, you also should protect yourself from the sun by wearing sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, and by being in the shade. Print out this checklist and search for the sunwise animals at the zoo. If you read the signs at the zoo, you may find other sunwise animals too... Good luck!

☐ **Chimpanzees** avoid the peak hours of the sun. Most of their activity is in the early morning and late afternoon hours.

☐ **Ducks and Geese** have webbed feet that allow heat to escape from their body. This keeps them cool even on hot days.

☐ **Elephants** use dirt and hay as a natural sunscreen – they spread it on their backs to cover their skin. Elephants keep cool by snuffing up trunks full of water and spraying themselves.



☐ **Gorillas** avoid the peak hours of the sun. Most of their activity is in the early morning and late afternoon hours.

☐ **Hippos** secrete a pinkish colored oil that helps them keep their skin moist in the hot sun and acts like a sunscreen to protect their skin from sunburn.



☐ **Koalas** spend most of the day sleeping in a eucalyptus tree. In addition to providing a food source for koalas, the leaves of the tree protect koalas from the sun's strong rays. Koalas are nocturnal animals – they sleep during the day when the sun's rays are the strongest and are awake in the evening and at night when it's cooler.



☐ **Meerkats** have black rings around their eyes that absorb the sun's rays and protect their eyes from sun damage.

☐ **Polar Bears** have special eyelids that act like sunglasses, shielding against the blinding glare of the sun's rays hitting the snow.



☐ **Rabbits** are nocturnal animals. This means that most of their activity is in the evening or night and they rest during the day when the sun's rays are the strongest.

☐ **Rhinos** use mud as a natural sunscreen. They roll over in the mud to make sure they have a thick coating on their skin to protect themselves from the sun.

☐ **Tortoises** have shells that protect them from many dangers in the environment, including predators, rain, and the sun's strong rays.



Other sunwise animals at your zoo:



Don't forget to wear a wide-brimmed hat, use sunscreen with SPF 30+ and wear sunglasses to protect yourself from the sun's burning rays.



The Friday before Memorial Day is

Don't Fry Day™

www.skincancerprevention.org

Thanks to Sunwise Stampede for this resource