

## 22q at the Sacramento Zoo

### Awareness day for chromosome 22q11.2 syndromes

**WHAT'S HAPPENING:** The Sacramento Zoo will join hundreds of zoos worldwide on May 22<sup>nd</sup> by participating in the 22q at the Zoo Awareness Day where those impacted by 22q can meet, socialize and raise awareness of the most common genetic condition you've never heard about.

The International 22q11.2 Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people affected by chromosome 22q11.2 (22q) syndromes through family and professional partnerships, is hosting this sixth annual "22q at the Zoo" Worldwide Awareness Day at zoos around the world on Sunday, May 22, 2016. The event will kick off at 11 am local time in Auckland, New Zealand and travel around the globe, closing at 2 pm in California with zoo's including the Sacramento Zoo.

**WHERE:** Sacramento Zoo, at the corner of Land Park Dr. and Sutterville Rd. in William Land Park.

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 22, 11 am to 2 pm



Come out to the Sacramento Zoo and support people with 22q on May 22! Chromosome 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome (or 22q) is a syndrome where part of one copy of a person's 22nd chromosome is lost (or deleted) during prenatal development. This causes a range of medical complications and developmental and behavioral challenges 22q is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common genetic condition after Down syndrome. The Zoo is excited to participate in this 6<sup>th</sup> annual 22q at the Zoo. The event includes participants from 115 cities in twenty-four countries across six continents and aims to raise the public profile of chromosome 22q11.2 syndromes with affected families, healthcare providers, and educators in attendance.

Sheila Kambin, parent of a child with a chromosome 22q11.2 deletion and Board Chairman of the Foundation states, "The number of people walking around undiagnosed is staggering. With increased awareness we will drive enhanced detection, treatment and care."

The International 22q11.2 Foundation, helps to support families affected by both 22q deletions, due to a small piece of chromosome 22 that is missing, as well as those with the opposite problem, a 22q duplication, due to an extra piece of chromosome material.

"Both syndromes may cause a variety of medical problems such as heart defects, problems fighting infection, differences in the palate (roof of the mouth) and developmental delays or autism, to name a few, but no two children are affected in the same way. Most importantly, 22q11.2 syndromes are very common, and likely affect millions around the world," said Donna McDonald-McGinn MS, CGC, Associate Director of the Clinical Genetics Center and Program Director of the "22q and You" Center at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Locally, the UC Davis MIND Institute's 22q11.2 Research Center and Clinic is directed by Dr. Tony Simon. The Research Center and Clinic combine their scientific investigations and clinical expertise to study the interactions of intellectual, emotional, behavioral and psychiatric factors in 22q with the goal of providing explanations, recommendations and eventually treatments to improve the quality of life for all affected by 22q11.2 syndromes. More information at <http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/research/cabil/>.

For information on the Foundation and the Worldwide Awareness Day event, visit [www.22q.org](http://www.22q.org).

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*Sacramento Zoo – Wildly Inspiring!*

Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to more than 500 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park, the Zoo is wholly managed by the non-profit Sacramento Zoological Society. This Sacramento treasure inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. Daily admission is 9 am to 4 pm, Zoo grounds are open until 5 pm. General admission is \$11.75; children ages 2-11 are \$7.75 and one and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus #6. For information, call 916.808.5888 or visit [saczoo.org](http://saczoo.org).

The International 22q11.2 Foundation was founded in 2003 to improve detection and awareness, provide the latest information to families, support continuing research, improve available treatment strategies, and provide individuals with the syndrome support in leading successful and productive lives.

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