

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Sharon Dewar
(312) 742-2246
SDewar@lpzoo.org

Lincoln Park
Zoo

“Who” is she? Help Name the Snowy Owl at Lincoln Park Zoo

Chicago (Jan. 4, 2012) – While snow is evading Chicago, snowy owls from the Arctic are invading the city in record numbers this winter. A new owl has recently arrived at Lincoln Park Zoo and the zoo is asking for the public’s help to name her. Visit the zoo’s [Facebook page](#) this week to cast a vote on one of four possible name choices (sorry, Hedwig, Harry Potter’s famous snowy owl isn’t one of the choices).



The female owl, hatched in 2011 at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, recently arrived at Lincoln Park Zoo to become a companion for a male owl living here. Zookeepers have selected four possible names for the bird which include:

Dusty – in reference to the dusty brown coloration that is retained by females for nesting camouflage

Tundra- a nod to the owl’s native habitat

Freya – the Norse goddess of love and beauty

Skaydi – (pronounced like “Katie” with an S) – the Norse goddess of the hunt

Snowy owls are arriving in Chicago both inside and outside the zoo. They are a relatively rare sight to see in Chicago, but this year is a bit different. “Snowy owls rarely winter south of the Canadian border except in what we call invasion years,” explained Colleen Lynch, Hope B McCormick Curator of Birds at Lincoln Park Zoo. “These years are characterized by harsh winters with low rodent populations, driving the owls to venture further south. Luckily the Northern Illinois shoreline is a hotspot for snowy owls in these years. Depending on your perspective this is a good thing or a bad thing; birders have been flocking to Montrose Harbor to catch a glimpse of a wild snowy owl that has been hanging out there since early December, but this could be a sign of a cold winter to come!”

Snowy owls can be seen daily at Lincoln Park Zoo in the birds of prey exhibit. The naming poll for the female owl is available on the zoo's Facebook page now through Monday morning, Jan.9. Visit www.facebook.com/lincolnparkzoo to vote.

###

ABOUT CHICAGO'S LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, a historic landmark founded in 1868, is dedicated to connecting people with nature by providing a free, family-oriented wildlife experience. A leader in conservation science both globally and locally, the zoo exemplifies the highest quality animal care and educational outreach. The not-for-profit zoo, managed by The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, is a member-supported organization and one of the nation's only free, privately managed zoos. For more information, call 312 -742-2000 or visit www.lpzoo.org.