

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 309

Approved September 7, 2022

WHEREAS, The Roger Williams Zoo recently became home to a new red wolf pup which is significant as red wolves are an endangered species; and

WHEREAS, According to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) red wolves are critically endangered with less than 30 left in the wild, while roughly 250 remain in the AZA American Red Wolf SSP (Species Survival Plan) breeding program; and

WHEREAS, The American red wolf was one of the first species protected under the Endangered Species Preservation Act as well as one of the first species added to the list of endangered species after the passing of the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, Conservation efforts have long been underway to protect the American red wolf from extinction. Red wolf reintroduction programs intended to promote breeding in the wild and species survival in addition to genetic health have led to an increase in the population of wild red wolves; and

WHEREAS, As of today, the red wolf conservation program is helping to protect red wolves and increase populations, but further conservation efforts are needed to ensure species survival; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council received a moving letter from the Roger Williams Zoo Conservation Heroes Zoo Camp highlighting the importance of continuing the preservation efforts for the American red wolf population, a full copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council recognizes and supports the Roger Williams Zoo and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in their efforts to preserve the endangered red wolves as well as other endangered species in the United States.

BE IT URTHUR RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council recognizes and extends its deepest gratitude to the Zoo Camp for their tireless work and advocacy towards raising awareness of the vital role of the red wolves in the ecosystem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Providence, the Roger Williams Zoo Conservation Heroes Summer, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

IN CITY COUNCIL

SEP 01 2022
READ AND PASSED


JOHN J. IGLIZZI, PRESIDENT

Tina L. Mastromeanni
ACTING CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 9/7/22

Providence City Hall

7-20-2022

Attn: Councilman John J. Igliazzi

25 Dorrance St

Providence, RI, 02903

Dear Council President Igliazzi,

We are Roger Williams Zoo Conservation Heroes Summer ZooCamp, and this week we have been learning about endangered species. On Tuesday our curriculum focused on The Red Wolves, you might have heard that our zoo recently became home to a new red wolf pup. Which is exciting news because Red Wolves are a keystone species in their ecosystem, which means that they are very important and if they disappear, the entire ecosystem can collapse. When we realized how important these species are to their environment, we decided to do some research and share it with you.

Historically the Red Wolves ranged from Pennsylvania to Florida, and even as far west as Texas. Presently Red Wolves reside in a small region located in Eastern North Carolina, there are only about 20 Red Wolves left in the wild. This massive drop in numbers is due to poaching, trapping and habitat loss. We here at Zoocamp found this to be very concerning. We did learn that Roger Williams Zoo is one of many zoos' working to save this species from extinction by repopulating Red Wolves who are in human care, to boost their population and eventually release them back into their natural environment. Red Wolves have a bad reputation of being a pest, when in fact they help to regulate deer population and other prey like raccoons and other small mammals. Through this regulation they are directly helping to reduce damage to crops and other agricultural activities.

Red Wolves are currently critically endangered and the work at Roger Williams Park Zoo, our local conservationists, and here at Zoocamp realize their significance to their ecosystem. Red Wolves aren't the only endangered species we have learned about. We identified several endangered species that reside in our region, such as Eastern spadefoot toad, Northern

diamondback terrapin, American ginseng, to name a few. These along with the other endangered species in the United States are extremely important to the environment. We hope that this information helps you in understanding the significance of Red Wolves, and the local endangered species within our own region, and that you might do some of your own research as well. We would like to thank you for taking the time to read our letter, it means a lot to us.

Sincerely,

Roger Williams Park Zoo Conversation Heroes Summer ZooCamp

Garvin Skelly

Darren Claasius-Parks

Tyler Sinner

Marc Lombardi-Ortiz

Harley

Sophia Braga

Rubi Sung

Sophie Boe

Giada LeComte

Gabriella Watkins

Anna Jones

Cindy
DeRegny
Hen

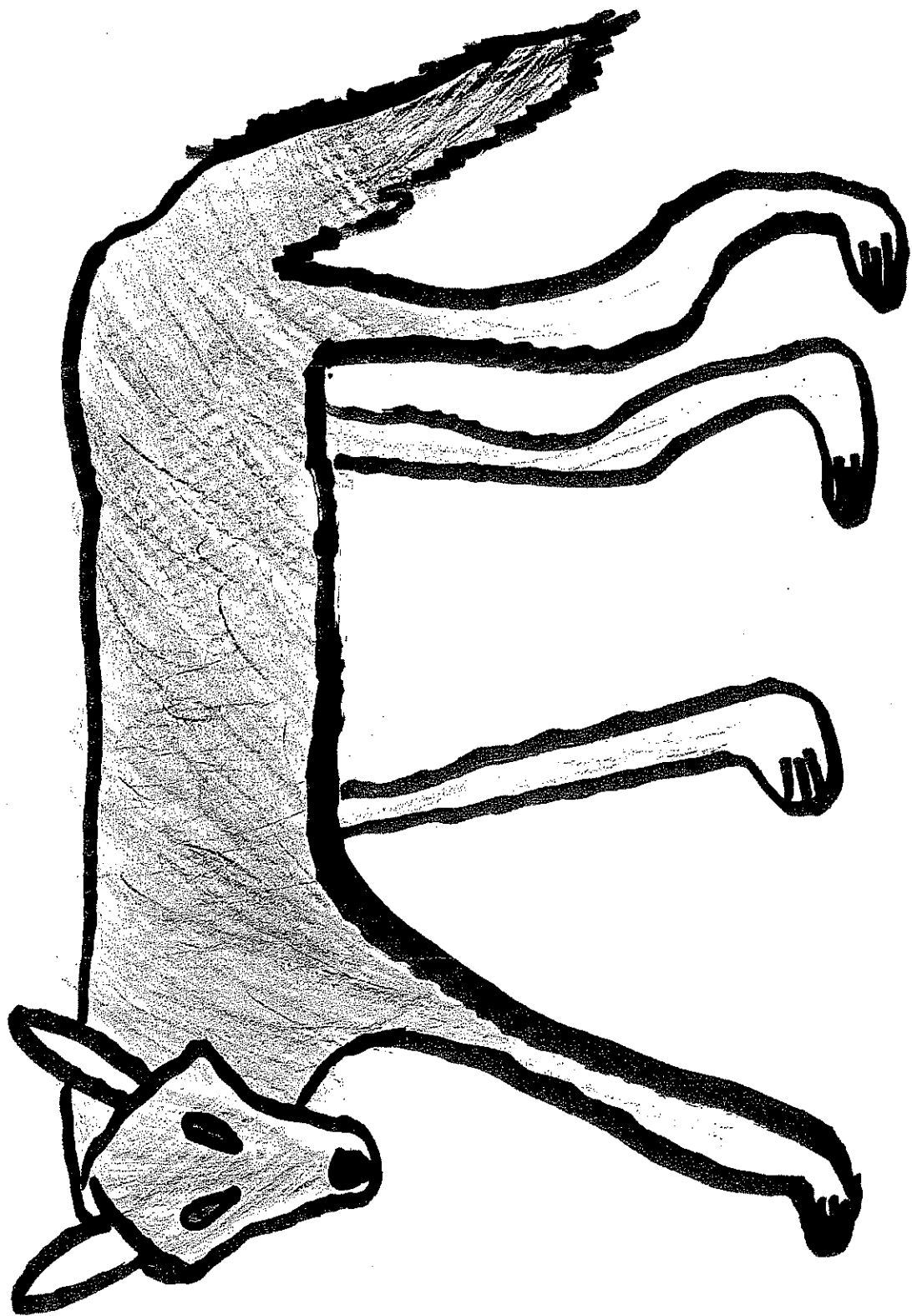
Lexi Mangiarelli

Giraff

Zykean

Matthew Verdi

ANGEL LOMBARDI-ORTIZ



SAVE
THE
WOLVES!



Levi

Save
the
Red Wolves!



De Cneltx

Red
Wolf



