

World Whale Day – February 17th



As Valentine's Day nears, let's interrupt our thoughts about love, roses, and chocolates and turn to a closely related subject: whales.

Yes, whales.

World Whale Day, which is always on the third Saturday in February, is a celebration of some of the planet's most-fascinating, well-loved, and yet elusive creatures, looming large in the popular imagination but still in many ways a scientific mystery. Established on Maui in 1980 to remind people about whales, their lives, and their plight, World Whale Day has been celebrated ever since with parades and various whale-focused events.

In recognition of World Whale Day, here are 6 facts about some of the largest animals that ever lived.

1. Let's start with the most-basic point—whales are mammals. With flippers, fins, and a torpedo-shaped body, whales look like fish, but forget about it: they evolved from an ancient, even-toed hoofed animal, making them relatives of deer, sheep, and gazelles, not guppies, tuna, or whale sharks, which, as the name suggests, are sharks.
2. Scientists divide whales into two general groups, toothed and baleen. The latter lack teeth. Instead, their mouths are fringed with plates made of keratin, same as our fingernails.
3. The blue whale is the largest animal that ever lived, weighing up to 200 tons, more than twice the estimated weight of the largest known dinosaur.
4. The smallest whale species is the dwarf sperm whale, generally less than 8.5 feet long and weighing as little as 300 pounds. Other small whales include the white beluga of the Arctic and the St. Lawrence River and the narwhal, another species of the cold, northern seas. Both grow to about 18 feet and 3,500 pounds, small enough to fall prey to polar bears lying in wait on sea ice near whale breathing holes.
5. Sperm whales use sonar (echolocation) to hunt prey and to sense the world around them. The sound waves they emit are so powerful that human divers swimming near the whales can feel the pulses.
6. Whales are among the world's deepest divers. When hunting squid, a sperm whale may spend as much as an hour on a dive to more than 3,000 feet, where the temperature hovers at 36 degrees F and the pressure is more than 1,400 pounds per square inch.

(Taken from <https://oceanconservancy.org/blog/2016/02/13/world-whale-day-6-things-to-know-about-whales/>)

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February Calendar of Events

Feb 3rd – Rexland Acres Vaccination Clinic – Sat – 9am – Noon
Feb 7th – Wednesday Night Vaccination Clinic – 5pm
Feb 14th – Valentine's Day
Feb 14th – Wednesday Night Vaccination Clinic – 5pm
Feb 19th – President's Day
Feb 21st – Wednesday Night Vaccination Clinic – 5pm
Feb 21st – ASC Meeting – 1115 Truxtun Ave – 6pm
Feb 27th – WORLD SPAY DAY
Feb 28th – Wednesday Night Vaccination Clinic – 5pm



ZIP

OUR TAKE



ZAP

A look at animal welfare from the eyes of ... these two!

ZIP: Love is in the air and I am so excited.

ZAP: Why are you excited? 'cause of Valentine's Day?? (hair ball gag).

ZIP: Yes, that's it. My honey and me are going out on the town. Planning a fun safe holiday with her. Sushi, wine ya know.... lovey dovey stuff.

ZAP: WHOA ZIP! Sushi.....you can't eat raw fish!

ZIP: Huh? Why not??

ZAP: Raw fish is toxic to dogs and cats. More so with dogs. It will almost always cause death!

ZIP: No way I had no idea.

ZAP: I mean you can have sushi, but it has to be cooked. I mean personally I like the spicy tuna roll. It's fried.

ZIP: So we can have cooked sushi, but the raw stuff is a no no??

ZAP: Correct. Cooked fish is great for a healthy diet, but you need to make sure that no matter what fish you eat, it is cooked thoroughly.

ZIP: Well maybe I need to think this out a bit. I have always wanted to try sushi but if it is bad for us, I am not sure if we should even try it at all.

ZAP: No, please go and try it There are a lot of options for us animals, but just be careful.

ZIP: For all of the junk you pull on me you really saved my honey and me.

ZAP: Ok ... enough stop getting all sappy!

ZIP: But you care

ZAP: Uhhhhh yeahok..... I don't like you, but I do love our column.

ZIP: Happy Valentine's Day, everyone

ZAP: Shut up, Zip (hair ball gag)

NEWS & NOTES

MILESTONE HOURS	
(as of Dec. 31st)	
Rhonda Montgomery	2445
Julie Langers	1349
Shawn Fernberg	1078
Barbara Fowler	966
Megan Reyes	856
Jean Absher	767
Crystal Struckhoff	696
Danny Spanks	564
Ben Neal	561
Tricia Lamas	554
Nancy Apodoca	549
Teddi Rawles	504
Rhonda Smith	460
Stan Cameron	438
Rowena Yong	435
Tabitha Sanchez	321
Sarah Abate	302
Maggie Sanchez	297



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	DAY
Brenda Ramirez	1
Maggie Sanchez	10
Ben Neal	20
Danny Litteral	22
Deborah Waxdahl	24
Parker Jacobs	26



"I'm afraid I can't treat you, Mr. Fisk. I have a conflict of interest."



Coordinator's Corner

Can you believe that it is already February? Love is in the air. Valentine's Day is almost here.

I am not sure if you – especially the newer volunteers -- can tell, but there have been many changes going on in the shelter as of late.

1. The puppy program lost a room. That's both a good and a bad thing. The bad part is that if we get a major influx of puppies, we will not have space for them, but the good thing is that we have had such an explosive, successful foster program in the last 18 months, we needed to convert the old puppy room into an exam room for foster returns. With almost 1300 foster animals out in 2017, the need was great!
2. Staff changes. Jessica Bridgen, a supervisor, has been out for almost two months and there is no time frame for her return. Instead, Angela Frank (formerly Stevens) who is the Rescue Coordinator, will be handling Jessica's supervisory duties while overseeing the rescue program from a distance. Jason Ruiz will be handling the Rescue program while he is recovering from a bite.
3. You may notice a couple of new faces on the medical staff, too. Two new RVT's have been brought on, Shelly and Angie. Shelly will be handling day to day activities like Angie, but in the near future Angie will be handling Foster returns and foster check-ups. Welcome them both.

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It's that time of the year again when we will be training some new people for the Ambassador positions within the shelter. Please Congratulate Erin Toogood, Taylor Lazurak and Gina Mattson as our latest candidates for this honor and training. They will be training and helping oversee the functionality of the volunteer program very soon.

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