

Empathy-Focused Animal Biography Signs



About ZooMontana

- Opened in 1995
- 501 c (3) non-profit organization
- Situated on 70 acres
- Home to ~85 animals across 59 species
- Earned our AZA-accreditation in 2019
- 170,000+ visitors and 15,000+ students served each year



Bert

- ◆ **Birthday:** September 1, 2017
- ◆ **My Story:** When I was a baby bison my herd trampled over me which broke my leg. I was cared for by a local vet before being donated to ZooMontana in 2018.
- ◆ **About Me:** I snort so much my keepers call me “Snorts McGee”. I buck around and dance a lot. I am the largest bison.



ADVANCING CONSERVATION THROUGH
EMPATHY FOR WILDLIFE



Amur Tiger

Panthera tigris altaica

Mostly Nocturnal

Birch Forests

Carnivore

Endangered

Tracks

- ✦ Also called Siberian tigers, Amur tigers are the world's largest cats. They live primarily in eastern Russia's birch forests, though some exist in China and North Korea.
- ✦ Tigers generally live and hunt alone. They will travel many miles to find prey, such as elk and wild boar, on nocturnal hunts, eating as much as 60 pounds in one night. They use their distinctive coats as camouflage and no two tigers have exactly the same stripes.
- ✦ Only an estimated 400-500 Amur tigers remain in the wild. Tigers are often hunted for trophies and also for body parts that are used in traditional Chinese medicine. All five remaining tiger subspecies are endangered, and many protection programs are in place. Poaching, though reduced, is still a very significant threat to these animals.
- ✦ Unlike almost all other big cats, tigers are very good swimmers. They enjoy bathing and playing in the water when young. As adults, they have been known to swim several miles to hunt or to cross rivers.

For more information, follow the QR link.

Sofi

- ✦ Birthday: November 12, 2012
- ✦ My Story: My sister Jasmine and I moved from Florida to Zoosafari in 2014. We are animal ambassadors for our species, which means we help to raise awareness and interest about tigers in the wild.
- ✦ How I Look: I have fewer stripes on my right side than Jasmine and my stripes make a backwards number "4" on my right cheek.
- ✦ About Me: Plastic barrels are my favorite enrichment item!

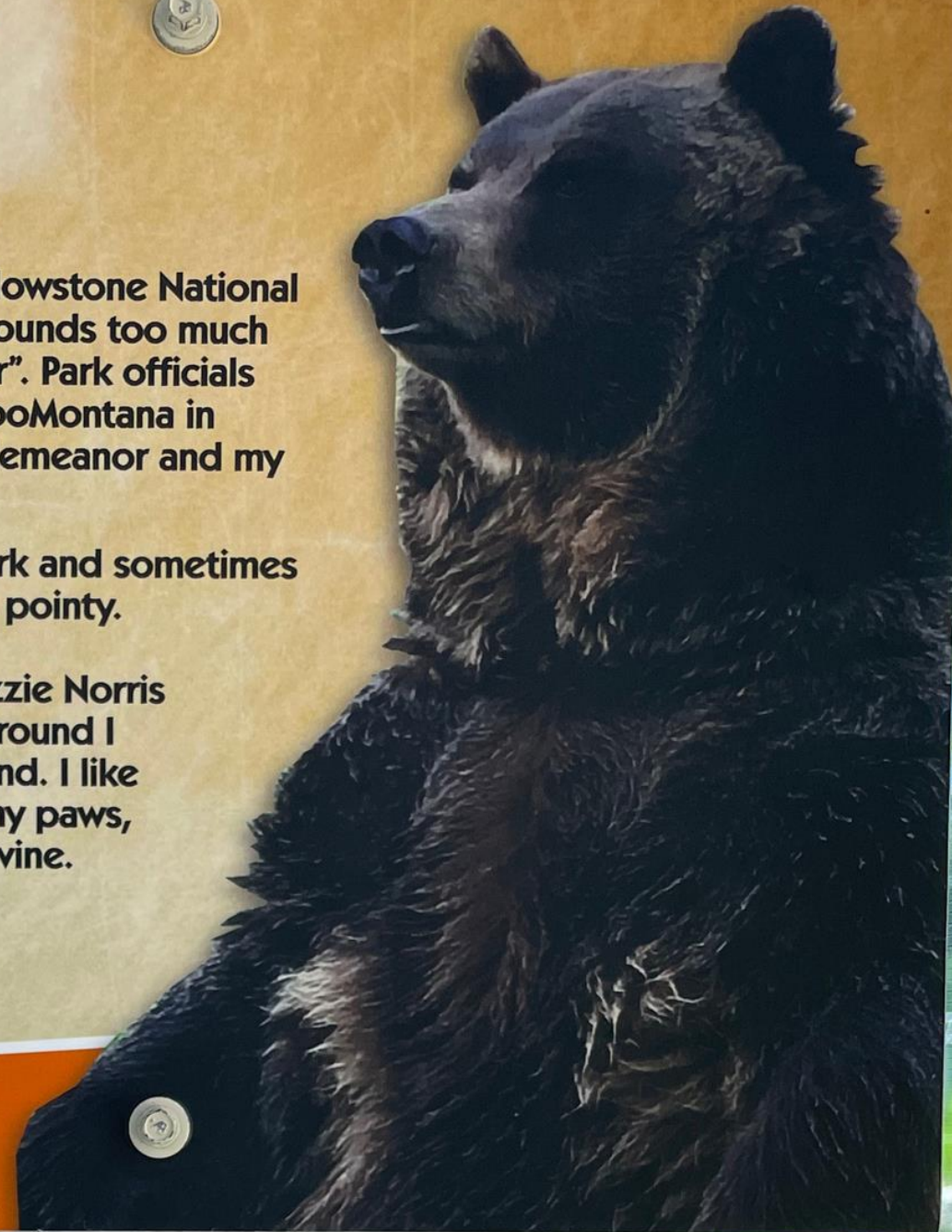
Jasmine

- ✦ Birthday: November 12, 2012
- ✦ My Story: In 2014 I moved here with my sister, Sofi. Just like my sibling pair, sometimes we need our alone time, so we might not always be outside together.
- ✦ How I Look: My stripes make a black outlined number "7" on my left cheek.
- ✦ About Me: I am always on the prowl and will sneak up on my sister when she least expects it.

WHAT IS ENRICHMENT?

OZZY

- ◆ **Birthday:** 2007-08 (estimate)
- ◆ **My Story:** I used to live in Yellowstone National Park but after visiting campgrounds too much I was labeled a “problem bear”. Park officials gave me another chance at ZooMontana in July 2010. Bruno helped my demeanor and my transition to zoo life.
- ◆ **How I Look:** My fur is very dark and sometimes looks black and my muzzle is pointy.
- ◆ **About Me:** My full name is Ozzie Norris which comes from the campground I frequented, Norris Campground. I like being read to, painting with my paws, and being fed grapes off the vine.



Bruno

- ◆ **Birthday:** 1998-2002 (estimate)
- ◆ **My Story:** I lived in a person's backyard in a cage and was used for television entertainment like car commercials. I was fed food like cotton candy and grape juice there. I was removed from that situation, lived at the Knoxville Zoo in Tennessee for a little bit, and in 2008 I moved to ZooMontana.
- ◆ **How I Look:** My fur is a sandy red color. I have a droopy lower lip, round ears, and a square muzzle.
- ◆ **About Me:** Red Lodge Ales brews a beer named after me called “Bruno's Montana IPA”. The smell of coffee is super interesting to me and I like when grapes are placed on my lower lip.



Leroy

- ◆ **Birthday:** 2013 - 2015 (estimate)
- ◆ **My Story:** My living conditions at my previous home weren't good for me but ever since I've arrived at ZooMontana in 2018, I've received all the care I need.
- ◆ **About Me:** I'm a gentle giant - I'm the largest snake at the zoo at about 6ft long and around 25lbs. I meet a lot of people since I participate in educational programs.



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Fierca

- ◆ **Birthday:** May 1, 2011
- ◆ **My Story:** My previous owner was a private individual who had me as a pet. That environment is neither safe nor healthy for a lynx, so I came to ZooMontana in 2014.
- ◆ **How I Look:** My face is very fluffy and round.
- ◆ **About Me:** Whip cream and car rides are a few of my favorite things and I am also trained to walk on a harness.



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EMPATHY FOR WILDLIFE



Animals have traits called adaptations that help them to survive in the wild. Many of these adaptations help animals to find food, water, and shelter. In human care, we do our best to provide the animals chances to use these adaptations.

For example, mink like Ivy are very good swimmers. In the wild, they spend a lot of time in the water hunting for food. Ivy has a water bucket, or sometimes even an ice bucket, for her to swim and roll around in to showcase these behaviors!

Please do not tap on the habitat windows. This is very loud for the animals that live there and for the animal care staff behind the scenes. If you want to say hi to any of the animals or staff here, please wave instead. We're happy to say hello back!

How do animals come to live at AZA accredited zoos?

#1

The animal arrives from another zoo. This happens if a zoo needs to rehome an animal for any reason.

#2

The animal is injured in the wild and unable to survive on their own. This is the case with many of the raptors that live at ZooMontana.

#3

The animal is rehomed at the Zoo after being brought in by a private individual. This is the case with many of the animals in the building, as they were previously pets.

It is no longer a common or accepted practice for AZA accredited zoos to remove animals from their homes in the wild. Today, this only happens in rare cases when the survival of the species is at stake.

It's tiring being a singing superstar; sometimes, all we need is a little quiet time to rejuvenate. Please keep this in mind if Sydney doesn't seem interested in talking.

