

# **Albuquerque BioPark Zoo celebrates International Polar Bear Day - The Daily Lobo**

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**Body**

The Albuquerque BioPark Zoo could ***bear***-ly contain its excitement for International ***Polar Bear*** Day on Feb. 27. The zoo hosted an event to celebrate these animals, which featured hands-on exhibits, story times and live fish feeding.

The resident ***polar bear*** of the BioPark is named Kiska - a 27-year-old male who has been living in the 505 since the '90s. His habitat was renovated and upgraded inFebruary. He now spends his days with a 20-foot waterslide and 14-foot pool, according to the Albuquerque BioPark.

Alongside Albuquerque, ***Polar bears*** and their advocates celebrate International ***Polar Bear*** Day across the globe.

International ***Polar Bear*** Day corresponds with the denning season of female ***polar bears***, according to ***Polar Bears*** International - the group that initially started International ***Polar Bear*** Day.

Denning season occurs when the ***bears*** give birth in the early spring and create dens on ice shelves to safely raise their young. Denning season is one of the most important factors in determining the size and health of the ***polar bear*** population, according to ***Polar Bears*** International.

It is also the season most threatened by climate change; as rising temperatures in the Arctic regions lead to increased ice melt, there is less ice for mother ***polar bears*** to make their den. It ultimately leads to them making longer, more treacherous swims to find opportunities to den, according to ***Polar Bears*** International.

Denning is essential to protect vulnerable ***polar bear*** cubs, as only half of all cubs make it to adulthood, according to ***Polar Bears*** International.

22,000 to 31,000 individual ***polar bears*** are living in the wild. Only an additional 300 live in captivity, according to World Population Review - one of which is Kiska.

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