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March 30, 2004

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RENO, NV, December 8

**Reno zoo won't have to sell animals after donation**

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The financially strapped Sierra Safari Zoo in Reno won't have to sell any animals after receiving the largest donation in its history.

The Reno Rodeo Foundation donated \$10,000 to the zoo this week, the latest of many donations made since news of the zoo's plight surfaced. Zoo officials say they're now about halfway toward their goal of raising about \$40,000.

The zoo is home to nearly 200 animals, including lions, tigers, monkeys and alligators. It's also one of only two facilities in the country to display a liger, a cross between a lion and tiger.

Low attendance has put the zoo, which is open from April through October, into financial trouble. Admissions revenue this year dropped by eleven percent, to \$57,000.

Zoo officials stress that the facility's money problems aren't over.

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