

Fundraising FAQs

Thank you for fundraising for Chester Zoo and Act for Wildlife's important conservation work. As a small department, the fundraising team will do all it can to support you/your group in your efforts. Below are some FAQs that we often get asked which will help you plan your activities.

Can we have some free zoo tickets to give away as prizes or for a raffle?

As we are a registered charity we do not normally provide tickets in exchange for a promise of donations in order to keep activities in the spirit of philanthropy and not seen as commercial or benefit-driven.

Can we use Chester Zoo as a venue?

Certain areas of the zoo are available for hire. Please see our [Events](#) section of the website for further details of availability and hire charges. Venues can be hired for different activities including private fundraising events, however venue hire is not to be used for activities involving visitor engagement. Our zoo visitors are asked to support our charity work with a donation when paying admission and are also given other charity messages during their visit. We therefore don't usually allow other approaches or fundraising asks on the zoo site in order to protect our visitors from fundraising fatigue. If you are organising an event in aid of Chester Zoo, please get in touch with us before promoting the event publicly.

Could a member of zoo staff come and speak to our school/group before we start fundraising?

We have many learning resources available on the [Education](#) section of our website and can provide a fundraising pack which includes lots of great tips and ideas. Where resources allow, a member of the team may be able to pick up a donation and say thank you to a group after fundraising activities have been completed, but this will depend on the distance and other demands on the team. To check availability please email development@chesterzoo.org once you have finished your fundraising.

Can a zoo keeper be a guest-speaker at our fundraising event?

As you can imagine, our keepers have their hands full looking after the 20,000+ animals we have onsite so are not usually available to speak at fundraising talks.

Can we borrow educational resources such as animal biofacts for our fundraising event?

Learning resources are available on the [Education](#) section of our website. Items such as the animal biofacts are subject to security restrictions and are not available to loan.

Do you provide cuddly animal soft toys as prizes?

We are unable to provide soft toys as prizes free of charge, although of course we have a wide selection for sale at our retail outlets. Please note that you can access the [gift shop](#) at the zoo's main entrance without having to pay admission.

Do you have branded fundraising materials or can we have the Chester Zoo/Act for Wildlife logo?

We have fundraising resources including poster paper and sponsorship forms, so there should be no need to use the Chester Zoo and Act for Wildlife branding.

Is there a calendar of events where we can find out what's happening at the zoo?

The best place to find out all the latest events and animal news is our [Chester Zoo](#) and [Act for Wildlife](#) websites. On the homepages you will also see links to our social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter.

Could we get some branded items such as t-shirts, bunting for our fundraising event?

We have [Act for Wildlife branded wristbands](#) available and also collection tins and buckets. If you are participating in an individual challenge event such as a run or a cycle then please get in touch with us by emailing development@chesterzoo.org.

I would like to do a charity skydive/trek/sporting event, would the zoo cover the participant entry fees?

Unfortunately, we are not able to pay upfront event entry fees. Occasionally we do have charity places in challenge events but please contact development@chesterzoo.org to check current availability.

We would like to fundraise for less popular species, what are they?

We have over 500 different animal species at Chester Zoo so it's impossible to rank all species in order of popularity. However, within our [annual reports](#) you will find our stock lists of all the animal and plant categories that are currently in the collection. You will see there are quite a few mouths to feed!

Can you support me to fundraise for other charities?

As a registered charity, we have a responsibility to focus our resources on fundraising for our conservation and education work. This includes the charity work we carry out at Chester Zoo, our ten major field programmes and over sixty additional conservation projects.