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Audubon Zoo Reopens Jaguar Habitat

(New Orleans, La.) - Audubon Zoo's jaguar habitat is reopen following several months of extensive research, manufacturing and repairs.

In an abundance of caution, the upgrades exceed the current industry standards outlined by [Association of Zoos and Aquariums Jaguar Species Survival Plan](#). Construction has taken several months while the habitat was undergoing a full remodel. The updates include:

- New woven stainless-steel barriers
- New welded panels added to the service door and rear wall of the habitat
- Camera monitoring system
- Horticulture upgrades
- New enrichment structures

“We’ve gone above and beyond safety protocols for the habitat and are confident our Zoo is a safe place for our guests to come visit,” says Joel Hamilton, Audubon Zoo Vice President and General Curator.

[While the exhibit was undergoing modifications](#), the Zoo was caring for Valerio, the Zoo’s male jaguar, behind the scenes where he received the highest level of care, training and daily enrichment consisting of items such as puzzle feeders, boomer balls, hanging toys, and warm water bath.

“Audubon Zoo is passionate about animals. Our top priorities are guest safety and animal welfare,” says Liz Wilson, Audubon Zoo Curator of Louisiana Swamp and Jaguar Jungle.

Like all big cats in the wild, jaguars’ numbers are declining in the wild.

“Audubon is committed to educating the community on the plight of threatened and endangered species,” says Hamilton. “We look forward to continuing our work as a member of the Jaguar SSP to save this species from extinction.”

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