

SPECIAL SPECIES

BFFs Living Near You!

by *Helen E. Tarbert*

Planning a vacation? Visiting relatives? Why not include a trip to at least one of the 24 zoos in the United States and Canada (with three to more to come) now displaying the native, distant relatives of our domesticated ferrets?

These exhibits range from display of a single animal in an enclosure to more elaborate, two-level habitat simulations complete with prairie dogs. At the Louisville Zoo, for example, BFFs Kachina and Rose are rotated in the Metazoo Education Center.

Particularly notable is the presentation at the Virginia Living Museum. (The prairie dog in residence there is a former pet.) An annual Mystery Safari is the fundraiser at this facility, and this year's event, to be held on May 22, will be devoted en-

tirely to the BFF.

BFFs on exhibit typically have passed their prime breeding or release age and are usually seven or eight years old. The two females at Zoo Montana, however, are approximately three years old.

According to a Zoo Montana spokesperson, having such young ferrets results from the zoo closely affiliated with the recovery program facilities. In contrast to older pairs of ferrets that have resided at the zoo, these young ferrets dislike each other so their habitat is divided. Zoo Montana may join the breeding program in the future.

So, if you have the opportunity to visit one of these elusive natives, take the time. They may even be awake!

1. Binder Park Zoo, Battle Creek, Mich. <http://member.kazoobiz.com/binderparkzoo.htm>.
2. Bramble Park Zoo, Watertown, S.Dak.
3. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs, Colo. <http://www.cmzoo.org>.
4. Dakota Zoo, Bismark, N.Dak.
5. Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, Nebr. <http://www.omaha.org/zoo.htm>.
6. Lake Superior Zoo, Duluth, Minn. <http://www.2havefun.com/LakeSuperiorZoo>.
7. Louisville Zoological Garden, Louisville, Ky. <http://www.louisvillezoo.org>.
8. Miller Park Zoo, Bloomington, Ill. <http://www.zoo2000.org>.
9. National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. <http://www.si.edu/natzoo>.
10. Phoenix Zoo, Phoenix, Ariz. <http://www.phoenixzoo.org>.
11. Potter Park Zoo, Lansing, Mich. <http://rdserv1.rd.msu.edu/outreach/zoo>.
12. Pueblo Zoo, Pueblo, Colo. <http://www.pueblozoo.org>.
13. Riverside Zoo, Scottsbluff, Nebr. http://www.prairieweb.com/scb_gering_ucc/a_rszo.htm.
14. St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis, Mo. <http://www.stlzoo.org>.
15. Hogel Zoo, Salt Lake City, Utah. <http://www.xmission.com/~hoglezoo>.
16. Zoo Montana, Billings, Mont. <http://www.wtp.net/zoomontana>.
17. Toronto Zoo, Toronto, Canada. <http://www.torontozoo.com>.
18. National Zoo's Conservation and Research Ctr, Front Royal, Va.
19. USFS Buffalo Gap National, Grassland V.C., Wall, S. Dak.
20. Racine Zoo, Racine, Wisc. <http://www.omnifest.uwm.edu/zoo>.
21. Hutchinson Zoo, Hutchinson, Kans.
22. Va. Living Museum, Newport News, Va.
23. Akron Zoo, Akron, Ohio.
24. San Antonio Zoo, San Antonio, Tex. <http://www.sazoo-aq.org>.
25. Lee Richardson Zoo, Garden City, Kans. (Future Site)
26. Utica Zoo, Utica, N.Y. (Future Site)
27. North Eastern Wisconsin Zoo, Green Bay, Wisc. (Future Site)

