WHERE ARE THE FEEDERS?

The public feed stations are no longer available at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo. Please help us respect the animal diets by not feeding any animals at the Zoo.

Why did the Zoo remove the feed stations?
There are several reasons for why the decision was made to remove the feed stations. Some of the main reasons include animal welfare, health, pest management and safety.

Animal Welfare
We are always looking to improve welfare standards for our animals. Recently, we have moved to a Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) management style with our animals. This means we have to manage animal diets very closely to ensure that our animal care team can work cooperatively with the animals in a safe manner. This method of training is 100% voluntary to which the animal gets rewarded for participating of its own free will.

Animal Health
To maintain good physical health it is important that the animals are receiving the appropriate food, vitamins and portions. Our animal diets are reviewed regularly by a qualified animal nutritionist who specializes in diets for zoological animals. By removing the public feed stations our animal care team can ensure long-term health by accurately monitoring the amount and type of foods received by the animals.
Pest Management
Public feed stations increase the amount of pest species due to excess food being available. Excess food encourages an increasing number of animals including mice, cockroaches and Canada geese.

Safety
Canada geese have become accustomed to being fed and in some cases have become aggressive with guests. The Canada geese have also been coming in larger numbers which creates a public health issue with excess feces on the pathways and around food areas.

The Zoo remains focused on three mandates, conservation, research, and education. In keeping with these mandates, we strive to teach our children to conserve and protect our natural wonders and wildlife. It’s important that we respect our wildlife and set an example by not encouraging feeding of wildlife at the Zoo.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

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