



Wild Wonders Animal Show visits Yucca Valley's Hi-Desert Nature Museum



Carly Padilla, a senior animal keeper with Wild Wonders Inc., pulls out the first animal visitor. Flick the fennec fox is native to the deserts of northern Africa.

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By Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star |

YUCCA VALLEY — Kids got face-to-face with an alligator, an armadillo and other wild animals at the Animal Kingdom Family Fun Day Saturday at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum.

Wild Wonders Inc. provides kids with a traveling exotic animal show featuring six animal stars from four continents. Senior animal keeper Carly Padilla and her assistant, Brina Delaune, educated the kids about keeping wild animals wild and protecting animal habitats. “We wanted to bring exotic animals the children had never seen before,” explained Padilla.

A full house of Basin families were introduced to a nocturnal north African fennec fox named Flick whom a few children were allowed to pet and an Australian wallaby named Maori, who though very shy, still obligingly hopped across the stage a few times.



The show also included an American alligator named Dolce, and children learned the appropriate way to say goodbye to an alligator. Everyone repeated after Padilla, "See you later, alligator. In a while, crocodile."

Padilla brought out two Central and South American animals, Forest the kinkajou and Rolly Polly the hairy screaming armadillo. Finally, a 40-pound red-tailed boa constrictor named Pinky was brought on stage.

Forest allowed his tail to be pet, Rolly Polly performed his scream to the amusement of everyone and Pinky was stretched out between four volunteer children and two handlers.

Inside the museum, kids made paper snakes and paper-plate jellyfish and enjoyed the museum's resident animals.