



**BIRMINGHAM ZOO, INC.**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
Please contact the Special Events Coordinator at (205) 909-4522  
if you have any questions regarding your contract.

**Q: How can I book a facility?**

**A:** After discussing availability with our Special Events Coordinator, the Zoo requires a deposit of one half of the facility rental to guarantee your reservation.

**Q: What is included in the facility rental price?**

**A:** Most of the facilities at the Birmingham Zoo include: the venue, any existing tables and chairs, set up and clean up.

**Q: Will I receive free admission to the Zoo when I book a facility?**

**A:** If you would like to enter the Zoo for your event, you will be granted a discounted price for admission tickets. After hour events do not require admission.

**Q: Can I bring in food for my event?**

**A:** All food and beverages must be provided by the Birmingham Zoo's exclusive on-site caterer, Taste. Catering needs can be discussed when booking your event.

**Q: Do I have to use certain vendors when having an event at the Zoo?**

**A:** The Birmingham Zoo does require that you use their exclusive caterer Taste but you are welcome to use any other outside vendors for rentals, lighting, flowers, cake, etc.

**Q: What decorations will the Zoo allow?**

**A:** The Zoo will allow most decorations with the exception of balloons, confetti and glitter.

**Q: Can I serve alcohol at my event?**

**A:** The Birmingham Zoo allows alcohol on the property; however, all alcoholic beverages must be provided and served by the Zoo to adhere to Alabama State Law. A bartender and security guard is required for a maximum of four hours with any alcohol service. All bar services must end 30 minutes prior to the event end time specified on the contract. The Birmingham Zoo will be responsible for the hiring of bartenders.

**Q: Do I need to hire security for my event?**

**A:** A security guard is required for a maximum of four hours with any alcohol service for a charge of \$200. Events with more than 100 guests will require two guards; however, the Zoo reserves the right to require additional security guards based on the venue or type of event. The Birmingham Zoo will be responsible for the hiring of security guards.

**Q: Can I take engagement/bridal pictures inside the Zoo?**

**A:** The Birmingham Zoo would love for you to take your engagement/bridal pictures at our wonderful facility; however, we require that all sessions be scheduled with our Event Coordinator at least two weeks in advance. Engagement photos are free of charge when you book a venue.

**Q: Do I have to hire a professional wedding coordinator if I have a wedding at the Zoo?**

**A:** While encouraged, the Birmingham Zoo does not require that you have a professional wedding coordinator. Please note that the Zoo's Special Events Coordinator will only assist with the facility rental at the Zoo and will not assist with hiring vendors or other planning.

**Q: Can I request certain animals for animal extras?**

**A:** Yes, you are welcome to request a certain animal; however, there are no guarantees that the animal of your choice will be available. Animals are chosen by Zoo staff the day of your event. If there are animals you would not like to have at your event; the Zoo will honor those requests. All animal requests must be made at least 3 weeks in advance.

**Q: What animals are used for animal extras?**

**A:** Animals used for animal extras are not animals that are on exhibit in the Zoo. Some of the animals who might make an appearance at your event include a screech owl, a barn owl, a fennec fox, a hedgehog, a chinchilla, a ferret, a vulture, a turtle, a snake or parrot.

**Q: What makes the Birmingham Zoo different from other venues in Birmingham?**

**A:** By choosing the Birmingham Zoo as your venue, you help spread the Zoo's mission of "Inspiring Passion for the Natural World through emphasizing Conservation, Education, Scientific Study and Recreation in all aspects of the Birmingham Zoo's exhibits, programs, facilities and activities."