

Animal Planet Expo Comes to Boston

The free event, held Aug. 4-5 at the Topsfield Fairgrounds, will feature live animal shows and pet-care displays.

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The Animal Planet television network and the makers of Fresh Step cat litter invite Boston area residents to attend Animal Planet Expo Aug. 4-5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Topsfield Fairgrounds in Topsfield, Mass. The free event will feature activities for the entire family, from live animal presentations to pet adoptions.

A new component of the expo this year is the Reach Out, Act and Respond display, which encourages people to help make the world a better place for animals. Event visitors can make a promise to do something positive for animals, from taking the family pet for a daily walk to supporting a favorite wildlife foundation.

Another popular feature of the expo is the Discovery Kids' Endurance Experience. This hands-on exhibit allows kids to compete in activities similar to those on the Discovery Kids Channel show "Endurance: High Sierras." Children can participate in a timed "hanging" challenge and a large climbing wall.

Potential pet owners can visit the Pet Den, sponsored by the makers of Fresh Step cat litter. Working with local animal shelter East Bay SPCA, Fresh Step will provide pet adoption opportunities and provide information on adopting cats and dogs. As part of the expo, the makers of Fresh Step and the ASPCA will donate \$5,000 to the Massachusetts SPCA Animal Care and Adoption Centers to support the group's animal adoption efforts.

Other expo activities and events include: Animal House, where animal experts introduce visitors to exotic species from around the world Bug House, where attendees can discover the world of bugs and butterflies Heroes of Animal Planet, where visitors can create their own personalized pet tags Kid's Zone, where children can have their faces painted, play on an obstacle course and play other fun games

For more information on Animal Planet Expo, visit Animal Planet's website and click on "Animal Planet Events."