

Loveland Living Planet Aquarium welcomes new Prickly Pals



Draper, UT (Embargoed until 10:30 a.m. MST August 22, 2018) – Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is introducing two new family members; Prehensile-tailed porcupines! A male named Darwin and a female named Ilsa are in their new home in an aviary in the Journey to South America hall. They came to the Aquarium from a zoo in Michigan where they were born. Ilsa is about 2 ½ and Darwin is about 1 ½ years old.

They like to eat fruit, vegetables, flowers, shoots, and leaves. Their prehensile tail helps them balance and climb trees. Its primarily made of muscle and can support the entire weight of the porcupine. Prehensile-tailed porcupines are found in South American rainforests. Contrary to popular belief, they cannot shoot their quills. Their quills can detach once they land in the skin of a predator.

The porcupines are part of a Species Survival Plan (SSP) program, which is a program to help ensure genetic diversity among animals in zoos and aquariums nationwide.

*Media is invited to get video of our new friends and an interview on **Wednesday, August 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.***

WHO: Two prehensile-tailed porcupines make their public debut

WHEN: 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 22

WHERE: Journey to South America hall, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium 12033 S. Lone Peak Parkway, Draper