

**Media Relations:**

Alexis Shelly

Office: 409-683-4256

Cell: 409-771-3891

[pr@moodygardens.org](mailto:pr@moodygardens.org)

Jerri Hamachek

Office: 409-683-4249

Cell: 409-789-2607

[jhamachek@moodygardens.org](mailto:jhamachek@moodygardens.org)**MOODY GARDENS RECEIVES ACCREDITATION FROM ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS***AZA recognition is proof of highest standards and practice of care in animal management*

**GALVESTON, Texas** – Moody Gardens was recognized with accreditation by the American Zoos and Aquarium Association (AZA) for its standards and care for animals within its Aquarium Pyramid and Rainforest Pyramid. Fewer than 10 percent of the approximately 2,400 animal exhibitors licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture are AZA accredited.

Every five years, Moody Gardens must undergo rigorous investigation to ensure it meets ever-rising industry standards in animal management and care, including living environments, social groupings, health and nutrition. The AZA Accreditation Commission also evaluates an institution's veterinary program, involvement in conservation and research, education programs, safety procedures, security, physical facilities, guest services and the quality of staff.

"We are committed to giving our animals the best care possible as well as educating and entertaining the public," said John Zendt, president and CEO of Moody Gardens. "Our staff has worked diligently over the years to meet and maintain the standards set forth by the AZA."

For more information about Moody Gardens call 409-744-4673 or visit [www.moodygardens.org](http://www.moodygardens.org).

*Moody Gardens® is a public, non-profit, educational destination utilizing nature in the advancement of rehabilitation, conservation, recreation, and research.*

###