



## Ohio Zoos

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

### Introduction

Zoos, also known as zoological parks or gardens, have their roots in ancient history when royal sovereigns and aristocrats established menageries to keep both common and exotic animals in captivity. These were often associated with wealth and power and at first only accessible to members of the royal family and court. Public zoos became more common in the 18th century, and the first zoo in the United States was established 1859 in Philadelphia. While circuses and traveling menageries brought exotic animals to Ohio earlier, the state's first intentional zoo opened in Cincinnati on September 18, 1875, making it is one of the oldest zoos in the United States. Over the next several decades, zoological parks would be established in other major Ohio cities, varying in size and animals on exhibit.

### Important Dates

- 1873: The Zoological Society of Cincinnati is founded.
- September 18, 1875: The Cincinnati Zoological Garden opens to the public.
- 1880s: The Cincinnati Zoo begins its captive breeding program.
- 1882: The Cleveland Zoological Park opens in Wade Park following Jephtha H. Wade's donation of land and 14 American deer.
- 1900: The Toledo Zoological Gardens is started after a woodchuck is donated to the City of Toledo.
- 1900: George and Ann Perkins donate the land now known as Perkins Woods Park in Akron.
- May 28-October 7, 1905: Columbus' first, short-lived zoo operates in the Clintonville neighborhood.
- 1907: The city of Cleveland begins to move the zoo to its present location in Brookside Park.
- 1918: Two female brown bears are donated to the Perkins Woods Park.

### Suggested Search Strategies

- Try searching the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search"), in proximity or as phrases: zoo, Ohio, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Akron, Perkins Park, Cincinnati Zoological Garden, Brookside Park, animals.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio. Happenings at the zoos often made national news. If searching all states, be sure to use "Ohio" or zoo's city name as a search term.

### Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["The Cincinnati Zoo"](#) *Daily Public Ledger* (Maysville, KY), May 17, 1894, Image 1, col. 5.
- ["Conditions of Donating the Park"](#) *Akron Daily Democrat* (Akron, OH), January 6, 1900, Image 1, col. 7.
- ["Ohio's Weekly Olio"](#) *Hocking Sentinel* (Logan, OH), January 4, 1906, Image 7, col. 3.
- ["Cincinnati's Zoo is of Great Value"](#) *Los Angeles Herald* (Los Angeles, CA), December 5, 1909, Image 45, col. 1.
- ["Lady Lion's Christmas Present is Fed from a Bottle"](#) *Day Book* (Chicago, IL), December 14, 1911, Image 22.
- ["Today's Oddest Story"](#) *Day Book* (Chicago, IL), June 29, 1915, Image 24.
- ["Meet Tom and Lucy..."](#) (picture) *New-York Tribune* (New York, NY), March 7, 1920, Image 68, col. 1.