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**A CAST OF EXOTIC CHARACTERS CAN BE FOUND
AT THE DESERT SPRINGS JW MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA**

“The Wildlife Adventure”

(PALM DESERT, CA) – The Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa is home to an abundant wildlife population. Some unexpected guests have made a home for themselves there and staff, management, and visitors alike have welcomed them with open arms. Instead of sunglasses and tanning lotion, these guests come adorned with feathers and beaks and require the extra measure of attention and care that only a resort of this caliber can provide.

"The wildlife residing here lend a natural beauty to the resort as well as providing countless amusing stories for our guests," said Ken Schwartz, General Manager of Desert Springs Resort & Spa. "Naturally, as with any guest, these creatures are well fed and continue to prosper in a nurturing environment."

All animals at Desert Springs Resort & Spa receive personal and individualized attention from the resort's full-time Animal Care Specialist, Linda Whittington, whose sole responsibility is to ensure the good health and well-being of every creature. As a result of the personal and loving care that they receive, most of the exotic birds are extroverts -- greeting visitors with welcoming coos and caws.

Desert Springs Resort & Spa has an extensive avian collection, many of which are only one or two generations away from their jungle ancestors. Scattered throughout the interior of the resort are ten people-friendly exotics --Gus, Dundee, Elliott, Cricket, Joey, Popeye, Lola, Zippo, Marlie and Triton -- tucked away on their private perches and originating from as far away as the South Pacific, South America, the Canary Islands and Africa. These feathered friends enjoy a diet of pellets that are specially formulated just for them. This diet is complemented daily with fresh fruits and vegetables, along with appropriate vitamin and mineral supplements.

One resident, Marlie, a naughty and rambunctious Moluccan cockatoo, is predisposed to leaving his perch to explore the grounds of the resort. Much to Marlie's surprise, he stumbled into the lake during one of his explorations and was caught in the nearby waterfall. A quick thinking Desert Springs staff member dove in after Marlie, saving his life, and not only received an appreciate caw from the poor bedraggled bird, but also the resort's in-house Hummingbird Award for his efforts!

Gracing the 23 acres of lakes and waterways surrounding Desert Springs Resort & Spa is a range of water fowl. Undoubtedly the most beautiful are the thirty-two Chilean Flamingos, whose distinctive pink coloring is derived from their consumption of algae, shrimp, mollusks, and insect larvae. These Flamingos are fed a canthaxian diet to keep them healthy and radiant. Nine black swans and four white swans are given free range of the property, but prefer to stay close to the water and to the five new baby swans that hatched in February of '00. Amid the flamingos and swans is the ever-increasing population of ducks, which includes six species ranging from ringed neck teals to black billed whistlers. Swimming contentedly below the surface of the water is a community of Koi, Comet, Large Mouth Bass and Channel Cat fish.

Word of Desert Spring's animal-friendly reputation has apparently spread throughout the migrating bird population. Each year Canadian Geese, Coots, Egrets, and Green Heron use the resort's grounds as a resting stop along their annual migration. And naturally, the resort is only too happy to accommodate these weary world travelers (one snow goose has taken residence)!

With so many critters on the property, resident pet-detective Pete Mills handles any potential misunderstanding that might arise between the winged residents and resort guests. Mills was recently sent on a wild goose chase after a guest informed him that a goose had her camera. He quickly found the culprit, who had the camera dangling around his neck, while attempting to swim away as fast as he could. Talk about a Kodak® moment!

Desert Springs Resort & Spa is home to the largest saltwater aquarium in the Coachella Valley. All the fish are tropical, warm water varieties who thrive on a diet of shrimp, krill or lettuce. Some of the more exotic denizens of the deep include a dog faced puffer, squirrel fish, lunare wrasse, unicorn tang, zebra eel, and a nurse shark.

With more than 450 acres of lush grounds and lakes, exceptional service, and a host of amenities, it's no wonder that guests of all species flock to Desert Springs, JW Marriott Resort & Spa!

1 Resort...100 Adventures. Located on over 450 acres of lush grounds and lakes, this Four Star, Four Diamond award winner is one of the largest resort complexes in the Southwestern United States. Featuring 884 guest rooms and suites, the resort also boasts five award-winning restaurants, a 30,000-square-foot European Health Spa, fitness center and gym, two championship golf courses, 20 tennis courts, nine swimming and whirlpools, and 210,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor flexible meeting ,exhibit and banquet space. For more information or reservations, please call the resort at (760) 341-2211 or visit www.desertspringsresort.com. Your adventure awaits!

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