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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Wild Adventures Animals Receive Early Christmas Presents**

*Elephant enjoys three foot long, eight pound candy cane*

**Valdosta, GA** – This year, Christmas comes early for several members of [Wild Adventures Theme Park's](#) (WA) animal family. Today, Santa visited the park's lions and Asian elephant bringing them presents to open and enjoy. Guests were on hand to watch the gift-giving during the park's Wild Adventures Christmas event.

Wild Adventures' elephant Shirley, the second oldest elephant in the world, received a giant present this Christmas in the form of a candy cane. Shirley, an 8,000 pound almost 69 year old elephant received an eight pound, three foot tall candy cane. The giant candy cane was specially ordered from [Lofty Pursuits](#) in Tallahassee, FL.

"What do you give an elephant for Christmas? A giant candy cane, of course," commented WA General Manager Molly Deese. "We have formed such strong bonds with all of our animals, Shirley in particular, and we wanted to give her a special sweet treat this Christmas. It couldn't be a regular size candy cane, we knew it had to be big."

The park's lions, Nyla and Sarabi, also received presents today. Wild Adventures team members placed wrapped gifts into the lion exhibit for the 16-year-old cats to unwrap and eat. The boxes contained turkey, an appropriate meal for the holiday season.

Wild Adventures Christmas features family friendly holiday activities in addition to the park's rides, exotic animals and live shows. The event is included with park admission and runs every day, except December 23, 24 and 25, through January 6, 2013. For more information, visit [www.wildadventures.com](http://www.wildadventures.com) or call 229-219-7080.

*Wild Adventures Theme Park is a 170-acre theme park, water park, and animal park all in one place for less located in Valdosta, Georgia. The park features one of the largest ride collections in the South, hundreds of exotic animals, Splash Island Water Park, the region's largest water park, shows, festivals and all-star concerts. The park is owned and operated by Herschend Family Entertainment (HFE), a company specializing in family entertainment. For more than half a century, HFE has owned, operated or partnered in 26 properties across ten states, including Branson, Missouri's Silver Dollar City; operating partner with Dolly Parton in Tennessee's Dollywood and Dollywood's Splash Country; operating partner in Atlanta's Stone Mountain Park and owners of Ride the Ducks amphibious tours in six cities.*

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