**A few facts about Giraffes..**

**Q: Why do Giraffes Hum?**

A:  It remains unclear why they hum. But due to the harmonic structure and changes in frequency, researchers point out these sounds at least have the potential to convey information — and thus could be a form of communication. Wild giraffes have complex social structures, as recent studies have shown, and they seem to live in fission-fusion societies — a trait also seen in elephants, dolphins, chimpanzees and other social mammals that vocalize to communicate. Because most of the captive giraffes in this study were separated from the rest of their herds at night, the authors say humming may be an attempt to stay in touch.

**Q: Do you have an association with SCBI (Smithsonian Conservation Biological Institute) in Front Royal, VA - part of Smithsonian Zoo?**

A: The Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute has been awarded a five-year accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The accreditation certifies that the Zoo has met or exceeded the AZA's standards for animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and safety. The Greenville Zoo is also AZA accredited and in part, we do work together.

**Q: Describe the range of Giraffes in Africa in addition to Kenya.**

A: Giraffes live in nonterritorial groups of up to 20. Home ranges are as small as 85 square km (33 square miles) in wetter areas but up to 1,500 square km (580 square miles) in dry regions. The animals are gregarious, a behavior that apparently allows for increased vigilance against predators.

**Q: Are there knee issues?**

A: Giraffes have thick-walled arteries near their knees that might act as flow restrictors. This could lower the blood pressure in the lower legs, much as a kink in a garden hose causes water pressure to drop beyond the kink.

**Q: While they stick out their long tongue, do they chew with teeth or does the stomach grind the food?**

A: Giraffes are ruminants and have a stomach with four compartments that digests the leaves they eat. When giraffes aren't eating, they're chewing their cud. After giraffes swallow the leaves the first time, a ball of leaves travels all the way back up the throat into the mouth for more grinding.

**Q: Why do captive giraffe lay down more than wild giraffe?**

A: You may notice giraffes laying down quite a bit in captivity, and many are concerned about that. They don’t do it nearly as often in the wild because it is extremely time-consuming for them to get to their feet. They would have no chance to do so before a predator could spring on them. However, in captivity, they don’t have the instinct to stay away from predators because those risks don’t exist. (This may be why they also don’t react to when the lions roar.) They take the time to fold their legs under their body carefully, but they also keep their head in an upright position.