



Where Science and Nature Are Fun



NEWS RELEASE --

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**More than 50 animals taken from The Children's Museum
for safety after power outage**

Staff, local veterinarian among those providing temporary shelter

West Hartford, Conn., November 3, 2011—The Children's Museum was open on Saturday October 29 prior to the snowstorm, but UTC Wildlife Sanctuary director Cindy King was working on what would come next—finding a safe haven for the cold blooded reptiles and amphibians that live in the Sanctuary and could not survive sub-freezing temperatures with no power for the warming lights in their enclosures.

More than 50 animals were moved in total including varieties of snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs and toads. Some went home with King and other staffers, some to a nearby family who frequents the museum and others to Pet Care Specialists in Blue Back Square, which did not lose power.

"We started making calls right away to see who had power and could foster some of the animals until the Museum was back up and running," according to King. "Fortunately we have terrific staff and friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary who were willing to open their homes and turn up the heat," she continued.

Museum President and CEO Robert Griesmer praised the staff who stepped up to provide a warm temporary home for the animals. "I am so impressed with our Sanctuary staff—they started taking animals home with them on Saturday and came back daily to continue removing some animals and ensuring that generators could power warming lights for others," he said. "We have a tremendously dedicated staff here and the animals' safety clearly came first," Griesmer continued.

With an unknown timetable for restoration of power, Griesmer decided to postpone for one weekend the visit of three baby fennec fox pups and the foxhound "foster mother" who nursed them. The dog and

foxes will be at the Museum the weekends of November 12, 19th and Thanksgiving Weekend the 25th-27th. “We know people will be disappointed not to see these adorable animals, but we’ll have them the following three weekends,” Griesmer said.

Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, which is part of The Children’s Museum, also moved several animals to short-term safety.

The Children’s Museum offers over 100 live animals, hands-on science exhibits, out-of-this-world digital planetarium shows, and programs for younger children and families. With nearly 200,000 visitors annually, it is one of Connecticut’s top museum attractions. The Children’s Museum and Children’s Museum Preschool are located at 950 Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford and at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton. More information is available at www.TheChildrensMuseumCT.org.

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