



## Composting Protocol 2018

The Oklahoma City Zoo uses composting as a tool for the efficient management of natural wastes produced through our normal operations. Compost is created by combining organic wastes, which are essentially non-woody herbaceous plant materials and manures, to create a nutrient rich soil amendment called compost. To aid in the acceleration of the breakdown of these organic materials we ship the bulk waste to Minick Materials to be professionally cured. This process creates the nutrient rich soil amendment, Zoo Poo! Zoo Poo compost improves the soil texture and provides the essential nutrients needed for quality plant growth. The horticulture team manages the compost pile by pushing the dropped waste up into the pile and fills the compost trailer on a weekly basis. Please take note of the materials below that are approved to add to the compost pile and please be cautious of where materials are dropped so that we can keep the area orderly and safe for operation. Please contact the horticulture team with any questions.

### **The following materials are APPROVED to add to the compost pile:**

- Non-woody herbaceous plant materials such as grass clippings, weeds, and leaves
- Animal manure (elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, hoofed animals, swine, red panda)
- Animal bedding (elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, hoofed animals, swine, red panda)
- Shredded paper (Must be covered over with compost material to prevent paper bits from flying away)

### **Exceptions:**

- Waste manure and bedding from an animal that is currently under treatment with antibiotic medication cannot be disposed in the compost pile. This must be disposed of through the regular trash removal method. Manure and bedding composting can resume five days after the animal has completed its last dose of medication
- Any material may be withheld from the compost at the request of the horticultural curator or veterinarian

### **The following materials are NOT APPROVED to add to the compost pile:**

- Animal manure from (carnivore, primate, reptile, avian, fish, invertebrates, amphibians, and quarantined animals of any species)
- Animal bedding from (carnivore, primate, reptile, avian, fish, invertebrates, amphibians, quarantined animals of any species)
- Woody plant materials and limbs larger than 1" in diameter (Woody plants, such as bamboo and arundo cane, do not break down readily)
- Wastewater/sewage
- Animal carcasses and hazardous waste