Insert name of Event Coordinator at Zoo Date

Zoo Name

Zoo Address

Dear Mr/Ms. Insert Name:

On behalf of the International 22q11.2 Foundation, I would like to introduce you to a worldwide movement called "**22q At the Zoo Worldwide Awareness Day®**" scheduled for Insert date of event.

22q is a very common yet poorly recognized genetic syndrome, which may be as common as Down syndrome, yet most parents, teachers and even many medical professionals have never heard of it.

22q is caused by missing or duplicated genetic material on the 22nd chromosome.  There are hundreds of ways that children with this syndrome are affected, though the most common ways include developmental delays, learning differences, speech abnormalities, and often times congenital heart disease.  Due to the variability in symptoms, 22q is often misdiagnosed.  Early diagnosis and interventions make a big difference in outcomes for these special children.  This is why spreading awareness about the syndrome has become such an important part of what we do as a foundation.

The International 22q11.2 Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) organization, strives to spread awareness on a global level.  One of our most successful events is the annual 22q at the Zoo Worldwide Awareness Day. Our first event was in May 2011.  At that time, zoos in over 65 cities, in 9 countries, on 3 different continents participated.  One of our more recent zoo events included 115 cities, in 21 countries, on 6 continents, kicking off at 11:00 AM in Sydney, Australia and traveled around the globe thereafter, closing at 3:00 PM in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, California.

“22q at the Zoo Worldwide Awareness Day” is an opportunity for families to convene at one location in an area near them. (Sometimes meeting each other for the first time!)  By supplying materials to those zoo patrons who stop by an information table, we have effectively raised the level of awareness among the general public, educators and medical professionals.  This event is one of many events sponsored by our foundation.  However, it has proven to be one of the most successful!

As [the parent of a child / professional working with children] impacted by 22q, I am very interested in planning an event and am hopeful that you will help to support our cause.  Your participation will help us to make a difference in the lives of all children with 22q and their families.

For more information about 22q and the work of the Foundation, please visit us on the web at [www.22q.org](http://www.22q.org/) or email us at [info@22q.org](mailto:info@22q.org). I can be contacted at Insert your phone # and email.

Sincerely,

Insert your name and signature

*On behalf of:*

Marc Weinberg

Parent & Chairman of the Board

International 22q11.2 Foundation