



Enhancing Animal Welfare: The Critical Role of a Polar King Cold Storage Unit at the Western North Carolina Nature Center

Nestled in the picturesque city of Asheville, North Carolina, lies the Western North Carolina Nature Center - a sprawling 42-acre zoo that serves as a natural haven for over 60 species of wildlife native to the southern Appalachian region. Since its establishment in 1977, the Nature Center has remained a vital part of the local community, offering visitors an enriching experience in nature conservation and wildlife education.

One of the Nature Center's most significant contributions is its commitment to endangered species conservation programs, particularly the red wolf conservation program. With only 40 red wolves remaining in the wild and 200 in captivity, the program's success is vital to ensure the species' survival. The Nature Center is proud to be one of only 64 breeding sites in the United States that are working to promote the survival of the red wolf species.

In a bid to elevate its animal care services, the Western North Carolina Nature Center set out to find a more efficient cold food storage solution to replace several outdated refrigeration and freezer systems. After extensive research and deliberation, the management team decided to invest in a top-of-the-line Polar King walk-in unit to store food for their furry residents, including the precious endangered red wolves and red pandas.

The Polar King exterior walk-in unit at the Western North Carolina Nature Center is strategically designed with a half freezer and half refrigeration system, providing a more sustainable and long-term storage solution. Now, the Nature Center can order a year's worth of frozen food for their animals instead of the usual six months' worth, leading to significant cost savings on shipping. By replacing multiple smaller units with one large centralized unit, the Nature Center can now maximize space efficiency and streamline its food storage processes. The Polar King walk-in unit has not only enhanced the Nature Center's food storage capabilities but also its overall animal care practices.

Nature Center Director Chris Gentile expresses his satisfaction with Polar King, praising not only the quality of their equipment but also the company's exceptional customer service and support, particularly highlighting the efforts of Polar King regional sales representative Dan Parsenow. Gentile recalls one example of when Polar King promptly addressed their concerns, saying, "When I had a question about condensation, I called Dan, and he provided a response within a couple of hours." Gentile notes that he has known Parsenow for several years, having met him at local zoo conferences before switching to Polar King. "Honestly, I don't know of any zoos that use anything else," he says.

Gentile explains that the Nature Center changed the placement and size of the unit several times before finally settling on the current one, and notes that Polar King's customer service was accommodating throughout the process. "Their customer service is simply amazing," he says. "We must have changed our layout six or seven times during the process, and Dan was incredibly helpful every time." Gentile also lauded the unit's quality, noting its seamless design that prevents food spoilage, even in the event of a long power outage.

Gentile takes solace in knowing that a significant portion of the Nature Center's yearly animal food supply is securely stored in the dependable Polar King unit. This sense of security is particularly reassuring during times of uncertainty. The unit's capability to prevent defrosting for up to two weeks gives the Nature Center the ability to conserve valuable resources in the event of an emergency.

The Nature Center's investment in the custom Polar King walk-in cold storage unit has proven to be invaluable. The unit's state-of-the-art design and emergency preparedness features provide peace of mind, assuring the safety and security of the animals under the center's care. Additionally, with Polar King's exceptional customer service, the Nature Center can rely on prompt and dependable support whenever required.



To learn more about
Western North Carolina
Nature Center, visit:
wildwnc.org



ABOUT POLAR KING INTERNATIONAL

The introduction of the Polar King outdoor walk-in freezer into the food service industry was the result of three generations of walk-in refrigeration technology and experience. Polar King's fiberglass, one-piece walk-in cooler is the natural evolution of the walk-in cold storage industry from the conventional metal panel constructed unit. In early 1982, Polar King began operations by constructing and shipping walk-ins from a modest 12,000 sq. ft. facility in New Haven, Indiana. As demand grew for outdoor fiberglass commercial walk-in coolers and commercial walk-in freezers, production was moved to a 204,000 sq. ft. facility located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. For over 40 years, Polar King has provided thousands of walk-ins to single-unit operators, chain restaurants, schools, health care facilities, government agencies, and many other industries requiring dependable outdoor walk-in refrigeration.

For more information, visit polarking.com or contact Polar King at (866) 349-7190.

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