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Reindeer among holiday delights at Academy of Sciences



Photos by Lea Suzuki / The Chronicle

Up on the rooftop ...

... reindeer pause, out jumps good old Santa Claus. Or at least Jens Vindum, senior collections manager in herpetology, who gives a good old Santa wave from a rain-forest window at the California Academy of Sciences while Yukon grazes on the living roof Tuesday. Two reindeer will be on hand in the east garden for six weeks as part of holiday programs with a scientific twist running through Jan. 2. Highlights include an igloo presentation dome with a short show about the North Pole, games of Polar Jeopardy, indoor snow flurries, and music, dance and theater performances. Below: Diana Frieling of California Reindeer Rentals coaxes Yukon, who normally flies to the rooftops, onto the elevator along with Wind Song, held by colleague Marie Reeves, right.

