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ASIA – TRAIL OF THE TIGER OPENS SPRING 2011 AT VIRGINIA ZOO

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo opens a dynamic new exhibit bringing together wildlife from across Asia April 2, 2011.

Asia – Trail of the Tiger adds nearly 30 new animal residents to the Zoo, including Malayan tigers, Asian small-clawed otters, orangutans, siamangs, white-cheeked gibbons, Malayan tapirs, binturongs, exotic birds and more.

“This spring marks an incredible milestone in the Virginia Zoo’s 110 year history,” said Zoo executive director Greg Bockheim. “Trail of the Tiger enhances our ability to provide meaningful and effective animal conservation education while giving our visitors the opportunity to experience magical animals from across Asia.”

The 5.5 acre expansion increases educational opportunities for Hampton Roads residents and tourists, and enhances the Virginia Zoo’s reputation as a world-class zoological institution.

Trail of the Tiger features a series of 12 thatch-roofed pagodas – the highest at nine stories tall – and unique viewing environments. A raised boardwalk over an “Asian forest” allows observation of the scene below. A one-of-a-kind viewing cave offers a dramatic look into the tiger and orangutan exhibits. There’s even a special area where you can watch tigers and otters swimming in their habitats from an underwater perspective.

“The effect is to provide visitors with a tiger’s-eye view of the kinds of animals an Asian tiger might encounter in the wild,” Bockheim said.

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As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 400 animals on 53 beautifully landscaped acres. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to education and conservation, and offered a fun-filled day for visitors of any age. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors (age 62 and over), and \$9.00 for children ages 2-11. Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.