

NEWS RELEASE



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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

NORFOLK, Va. – Would a giraffe named Shorty still look as tall?

We aren't sure, but the Virginia Zoo needs help naming our baby giraffe.

The Zoo's baby giraffe, born June 6, 2013, to mother Imara and father Billy, weighed in at 150 pounds and measured 6 feet 4 inches tall at birth. The calf is a male and is Imara's third baby.

"Masai giraffe are the largest subspecies of giraffe and the tallest land mammal on Earth," said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo's executive director. "We hope the naming contest will get people interested in this remarkable animal, its native habitat and what we can do to help conserve wild species at home and around the world."

To suggest a name, visit www.virginiazoo.org and click on the "Name the Baby Giraffe" link by Sunday, July 7 2013. The top five names will be voted on by Zoo staff. The individual submitting the winning name will win a \$200 Zoo gift shop shopping spree -- if more than one individual submitted the winning name, the winner will be selected at random.

The baby giraffe received an initial examination, has been under daily observation and appears healthy, said the Zoo's veterinarian, Dr. Amanda Guthrie.

Mom, dad and baby can be visited in the Zoo's Africa – Okavango Delta exhibit.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME? 2 OF 2



The Virginia Zoo's baby giraffe exploring his outdoor habitat June 19, 2013 (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).

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As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) 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 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 62 and over) and \$9 for children ages 2-11. Children under 2 receive free admission. Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.