

NEWS RELEASE



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KIDDING AROUND AT THE ZOO

NORFOLK, Va. – Twenty goats were introduced to their new habitat in the Virginia Zoo's Zoo Farm exhibit today.

"They're fun to watch and very active," said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo's executive director. "Soon visitors will be able to walk into the habitat and interact with the goats, linking humans and animals, and inspiring people to learn more about domestic and wild animals."

Nigerian dwarf goats are a miniature dairy goat from West Africa. Gentle, friendly and popular with hobbyists, their small stature means they require less space and food than larger species. Adults range from 17 to 24 inches high at top of the front shoulder. They come in a variety of colors, including white, black, red, cream and combinations of those colors.

Considered rare by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, Nigerian goats are approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a livestock dairy goat, making them eligible for youth 4-H and Future Farmers of America projects. They give a surprising quantity of milk for their size, ranging from 1 to 8 pounds of milk per day. Their milk has a sweet flavor and is excellent for making cheese.

The goats came to the zoo from Country Charm Farm, of Halifax, Va. More information on the farm can be found at www.countrycharmfarm.org.

The goat yard is the first part of the renovated Zoo Farm to reopen to the public. Renovations to the Zoo Farm are expected to continue through the summer of 2015. People interested in supporting the renovation and other Zoo projects can visit <http://virginiazoo.org/get-involved/support-the-zoo/>.

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KIDDING AROUND, 2 OF 2



New kid on the block: Blair surveys her new habitat at the Virginia Zoo, after she 19 other Nigerian dwarf goats were introduced to their habitat in the Zoo Farm exhibit Thursday, June 5, 2014 (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 admitted free! Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.