

NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Winfield S. Danielson III
Marketing and Public Relations Manager
Office: (757) 441-2374 ext. 223
Cell: (757) 777-7899
Email: winfield.danielson@norfolk.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 5, 2013

NAME THE BABY SIAMANG FINAL VOTE

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo’s baby siamang naming event continues with a final vote by the public.

The top four names are Baaboo, Lola, Malaya and Siamangtha. The public can now vote for their favorite at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P3WHVR6> until Feb 15.

“We’re holding this contest to celebrate the first baby born in our Asia – Trail of the Tiger exhibit and help raise awareness about the challenges siamangs face in the wild,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo’s executive director. “Siamangs need our help to protect the environment in which they live.” He added that people should support Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil member organizations, which use only sustainable palm oil to protect critical habitat.

First-time mother Hitam delivered the baby on Aug. 20, but Zoo staff needed to confirm the baby’s sex before the naming event. It’s a girl, by the way. Members of the public then suggested names on the Virginia Zoo’s Facebook Fan Page until Jan. 15, after which Zoo staff voted on the suggestions during an all-staff meeting Thursday, Jan. 31. The individual who submitted the final winning name will win lunch with the siamang zookeepers and a \$200 Zoo gift shop shopping spree -- if there were multiple submissions of the same name, the winner will be chosen at random from among the submitters.

Siamangs are native to the rainforests of Southeast Asia and are the largest species of gibbon. Like their larger orangutan cousins, their survival in the wild is under serious threat from habitat loss due to plantation expansion – particularly palm oil plantations – forest fires, illegal logging and other real estate development.

- more -

NAME THAT SIAMANG FINAL, 2 OF 2



The Virginia Zoo's baby siamang, her mother, Hitam (left) and father, Bali, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).

###

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.