

NEWS RELEASE



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AND THE WINNER IS ... LOLA!

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo’s baby siamang is named Lola!

Of the top four names, Lola was the favorite, capturing 46 percent of the vote. Malaya was second, followed by Baaboo and finally Siamangtha.

First-time mother Hitam delivered the baby on Aug. 20, but Zoo staff needed to confirm the baby’s sex before naming her. 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 Jan. 31. The final four names were voted on by the public until Feb. 15.

Six people originally suggested the name Lola. Jonathan Wenzel was chosen at random from among the submitters and has won the \$200 Zoo gift shop shopping spree.

“This contest has been fun for everyone,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo’s executive director. “Everywhere I go, people ask me which name won. The most important thing, however, is that people learn about siamangs, and help protect wildlife and their habitats.”

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.

Palm oil is found in candy, baked goods, cosmetics, pet foods and cleaning products. Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil member organizations use only sustainable palm oil in order to protect critical habitat.

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LOLA! 2 OF 2



Lola, the Virginia Zoo's baby siamang, perched atop climbing branches inside the siamang playroom at the Virginia Zoo's Asia – Trail of the Tiger exhibit Tuesday, Feb. 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 admitted free. Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.