

Zoo Review

SPRING 2020 • THE VIRGINIA ZOO • 3500 GRANBY ST., NORFOLK, VA 23504 • VIRGINIAZOO.ORG

NEW BABY ALERT!
MEET "LUTHER" THE TAPIR
PAGES 6 & 7

**THE 2020 CONSERVATION
OUTLOOK PAGES 4 & 5**

**SENSORY INCLUSION
COMES TO THE
VIRGINIA ZOO**
PAGE 17



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TICKETS for Zoo To Do: Roaring 20s are now on sale! General admission includes entry, scrumptious bites, spiffy animal encounters & imitators, access to Asia - Trail of the Tiger, the World of Reptiles and ZooFarm, swanky amusements and more! Be part of the Secret Drink Society and get a super secret savings!

Buy tickets now: vazootodo.com

3500 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23504

ZOO HOURS:

Open Daily 10 am - 5 pm

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving,
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

PHONE: 757.441.2374 • FAX: 757.441.5408

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Do you have any questions or ideas for the next issue of the Virginia Zoo Review? Contact us.

We love your feedback.

 Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**GREG WITH ZEKE
THE ECLECTUS
PARROT, THE ZOO'S
NEWEST ANIMAL
AMBASSADOR.**

Dear Zoo Friends,

Engaging the community to inspire a passion to take action to save our environment and the world's wildlife is our mission, a robust challenge for all of us, so we have created opportunities for all Zoo visitors to be part of the wildlife saving solution. Last month we installed "Quarters for Conservation" a new, exciting and engaging game station on grounds where you can have fun while saving animals! Deposit your quarters, for the Zoo animal of your choosing, to support lifesaving actions for animals in the wild.

The impending loss of wildlife species demands urgent and coordinated action. You can help in raising wildlife conservation dollars through the new Zoo games, the conservation section on our website (www.virginiazoo.org/support-the-zoo), donating on the various Animal Appreciation Days and by purchasing a Zoo membership demonstrate the powerful impact of cooperating to share the vision to value and protect all wildlife and the environment. Please take part in the Virginia Zoos' animal protection programs and efforts to save wildlife.

New experiences at the Virginia Zoo stretch from getting back to basics to futurist technology. You, your friends and family can now get back to nature, both local and exotic, right here in Norfolk. Bring your camping gear for an over-night in the Zoo's Nature Play area. A one-of-a-kind experience! (**see page 11**) And when you are at the Zoo, be sure to experience the new Augmented Reality tour (www.virginiazoo.org/virtualtour). After you download the Zappar app, you can visit 10 locations in the Zoo where you can see your animal favorites, through photos, video and audio. You can watch the rearing of tiger cubs, red panda playtime and many more all the while learning unique facts and how important wildlife is to our planet.

We couldn't do it without you!

Executive Director, Virginia Zoo

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

**KOOKABURRA**

A male and female arrived from the Lehigh Valley Zoo in late 2019. The pair can be found in a shared exhibit in the ZooFarm with the Kenya-crested guinea fowl.

**THREE-BANDED**

ARMADILLO Malassada, also known as Molly, was born behind-the-scenes on November 15, 2019 in the Program Animal Building to mom Izel and dad Vigo.

**VIRGINIA OPOSSUMS**

Siblings, Marcie and Linus, are rescued and estimated to be a year old. The pair participate in voluntary training sessions where they receive fruit and yogurt (their fav!) as rewards.

**STARRED AGAMAS**

The two new nine-year-old lizards, one male and one female, share an exhibit with the pancake tortoise in the hills of the Africa-Okavango Delta.

**ECLECTUS PARROT**

Zeke is the Zoo's newest program animal ambassador. He arrived in late January and will begin voluntary training with Keepers after completing quarantine.

**CAPE PORCUPINE**

Once living in the ZooFarm, four-year-old Flapjack can now be seen on exhibit in the Africa-Okavango Delta in the former Fennec Fox exhibit, which was rehabbed last year.

**MALAYAN TAPIR**

Luther, the male calf born to Haddie and Rosco on January 20 is behind-the-scenes with mom while they bond and are protected from the winter temps. Read more on **page 6**.

**SIX-BANDED**

ARMADILLO After retiring as an Animal Ambassador, Junebug now shares an exhibit in the World of Reptiles with a fellow species from South America, the titi monkeys.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Back for a second year, our Family Volunteer Day returns on Saturday, May 9 from 9 to 11am! This family-friendly event, part of our Party for the Planet celebration, encourages taking action to improve habitats for our local wildlife, including bees, butterflies, bats and oysters. This year we'll plant a new pollinator garden, build "bee hotels", and continue our partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation who will be on-site to engage families in on-going oyster restoration projects. The two-hour event will include admission to the Zoo following the morning's activities, and special take-homes to help families create their own backyard habitats. Last year, spots filled up in just one week, so please register in advance at: virginiazoo.org/events or call Kate Reichert, the Volunteer Coordinator at 757.441.2374 ext 225.



2020 PARTNERS

The Virginia Zoo supports conservation activities locally and world-wide. Take a look at our 2020 Conservation Partners below and



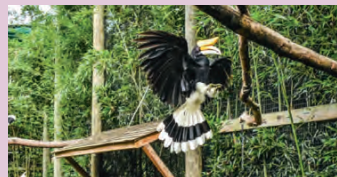
Cheetah and lions in Africa and tigers in Malaysia

- Create awareness in local communities to value wildlife
 - Support anti-poaching patrols and land management
- Actions for Cheetahs, Cheetah Conservation Fund, AZA Tiger SSP Tiger Conservation Campaign, Pride Lion Conservation Alliance*



6,000 frog species worldwide

- Combat the primary cause of amphibian extinctions: pollution, loss of habitat, climate change, invasive species, road mortality, and infectious diseases spread by human activity.
- Frog Watch, a citizen science initiative mapping frog populations in the US*



Giant hornbill species of Africa and Asia

- Provide significant funds to help strengthen the numbers of these fragile populations
 - Supply scientists with chick-rearing equipment and support for nest site adoptions that help protect giant rainforest tree nest sites.
- Mabula Ground Hornbill Project*



Red Pandas of the Himalayan Mountains

- Help preserve the habitats of red pandas through community-based research and education, thus benefiting the livelihoods of the locals
- Red Panda Network*

2020 Animal Outlook

New initiatives launch on grounds and online to further support the Zoo's mission of saving wildlife.

STORY BY ASHLEY GROVE MARS

Each year the Virginia Zoo raises money to donate to animal-saving efforts across the world. Its most recent initiative is a larger than life game, Quarters for Conservation, that will collect quarters through interactive tests of your motor skills, while ultimately educating visitors about the Zoo's conservation initiatives.

"What better way to strengthen our mission to save animals from extinction than with a little fun and games?" said Greg Bockheim, Executive Director of the Virginia Zoo. "We have joined forces with several creatives in the area to make this project a reality, and now we're ready for our visitors to help us make an even bigger difference for the animals and environment around us," Bockheim added.

Last year the Zoo's Conservation Fund supported animal-saving efforts around the world, which included conservation actions such as tiger anti-poaching patrols, reintroductions to the wild of rescued and rehabilitated orangutans, hornbill nest site protection, field research, and support for education

and conservation projects within local communities and economies in Uganda. For instance, last year's red panda naming contest raised \$7,500, which was then donated to the Red Panda Network to help reforest and restore the animal's habitat in Nepal, by planting trees for food and shelter. Proceeds raised from Quarters for Conservation will be donated yearly to eight of the Zoo's conservation efforts which include big cats, frogs, hornbills, primates, red pandas, rhinos, turtles and tortoises and Virginia waterways. Zoo visitors can choose which conservation effort to support, simply by making change for wildlife.

The game was made possible by a collaboration with the City of Norfolk and Hampton Roads Transit who donated two bus shelters. The shelters were then rehabbed, reframed and enclosed with Lexan glass by Walker Laberge, and then outfitted by Eco-Dog with eight custom games that light up, make sounds and provide an engaging way to save animals.

"Our goal for this project was to design

and create a fun, educational space for children of all ages to learn about the need for wildlife conservation," said Nicole Harp, co-founder of Eco-Dog who created and built the games. "We spent countless hours developing, testing, innovating and playing until we had a product that appealed to all ages. We hope our hard and thoughtful work inspires and engages future generations of animal stewards," Harp added.

As part of the larger conservation actions, "Act for Wildlife," the Zoo's text-to-give campaign has also recently launched. Zoo visitors are prompted to give through various on-grounds signs, or donations be made from the comfort of your own couch. **Text GIRAFFE to 345-62** to make a difference for the future of animals. The Zoo also collects donations at its Animal Appreciation and EdZoocation Days and gives the option for guests to round up their purchases on grounds.

Learn more about the Zoo's conservation efforts at virginiazoo.org/make-change-for-wildlife.

learn more at virginiazoo.org/make-change-for-wildlife.



Great apes in Borneo

- Local community projects like planting seedlings for habitats
- Rescue, rehabilitation and reintroduction to the wild of orphaned or injured orangutans
- Support of researchers working directly in the field

AZA Ape TAG Conservation Initiative, Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation



Rhinos of Africa

- Provide support for land protection
- Translocation of rhinos to more suitable habitats
- Support work being done to end the trade in rhino horns

International Rhino Foundation



Turtles and Tortoises

- Support science-based centers for rare turtle breeding and recovery programs
- Help build and give horticulture education and donations to expand global outreach and impact.

Turtle Survival Alliance



Virginia Waterways

- Help local rivers, inlets and bays thrive as healthy ecosystems for countless species, including our local fish, crabs, seahorses, otters, plants and other aquatic friends.

Elizabeth River Project and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Our Love Won't Tapir

New baby on the scene fills the hearts of Keepers and Zoo Fans with love, joy and excitement!

**STORY BY LISA THOMPSON, TAYLOR MARTIN & JILL TARRANT
PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN AND NINA RUSSO**

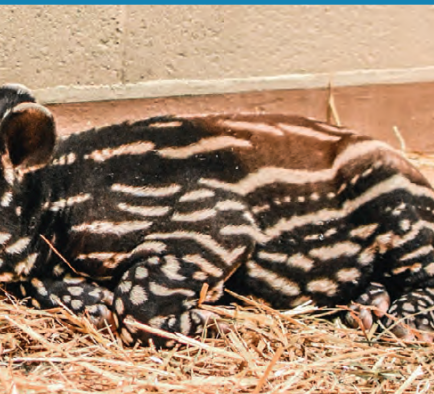
Malayan tapirs, which appear to be a cross between an elephant and pig, are a unique species closely related to rhinos and horses that can be found in moist grasslands and tropical rainforests in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. The Virginia Zoo's two tapirs, Haddie and Rosco, were brought together in 2017 as part of a breeding recommendation from the Malayan tapir Species Survival Plan through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

In 2019, Haddie began displaying signs of pregnancy and Animal Care Staff conducted an ultrasound to confirm a tapir calf was on the way. A tapir's gestation period is typically around 13 months, so Haddie's due date was estimated to be in December 2019 or January 2020.

On the evening of Monday, January 20 – Martin Luther

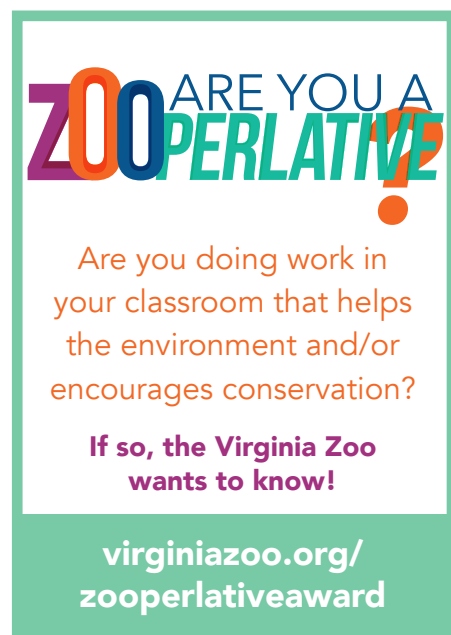
King Jr. Day – a male Malayan tapir calf was born, making Haddie and Rosco first-time parents! Looking more like a brown striped-and-spotted watermelon instead of like his adult parents, the calf is also the first of his species to be born in Virginia Zoo history. In their native habitat, the calf's coloration would help them blend into their surroundings to avoid becoming prey, but their pattern changes to the signature black and gray-ish white coats as they mature into adults.

The tapir calf was named Luther by his Keepers to honor the holiday on which he was born. The baby will remain behind-the-scenes with mom until the weather warms and he becomes comfortable swimming, an important quality for tapirs to possess. Dad Rosco can be seen on exhibit, weather depending.



NOTES:

- **December 23, 2019:** Animal care staff start doing overnight observations of Haddie in preparation for her going into labor, as the birth window was predicted to be within a one-month span.
- **January 20, 2020:** During an observation by staff, Haddie was seen showing signs of labor and the calf was born shortly after at 8:16 pm. The calf was seen standing by midnight. Staff continued to observe overnight to ensure nursing occurred.
- **January 21:** Early am hours after the birth - the calf had not yet successfully nursed, so veterinary and animal care staff intervened to try and encourage nursing. Like humans, tapir calves must nurse within a specific time span to receive colostrum from their mothers, which helps keep them healthy. Due to a lack of successful nursing, the decision was made to briefly separate mom and calf to give the calf colostrum, then the calf was immediately reunited with Haddie.
- **January 21:** Later am hours - the calf was observed nursing on his own by 7:30 am and continued nursing throughout the day. The calf also received his first full exam from the veterinarian, and was also weighed and determined to be a male.
- **January 22-26:** The calf continued to nurse and bond well with mom!
- **January 27:** The calf started investigating mom's food bowl and showed interest in the hay and alfalfa that Haddie eats.
- **January 28:** The calf ate some mushed up banana from Asia Zoo Keepers for the first time.
- **January 29:** The calf voluntarily walked onto a scale for Keepers to weigh him, and even laid down on it while eating mushed banana from a Keeper! To weigh the calf, Haddie is asked to move to a different den before Keepers enter into the den with the calf. Separations between mom and calf are kept to under 15 minutes, to minimize time apart and to encourage strong nursing and bonding.
- **January 30:** Keepers hear the calf vocalizing more with Haddie.
- **February 1:** The calf was observed being more active and vocal, running around the dens in what looked like the "zoomies."
- **February 7:** Keepers introduced a small, shallow pool of warm water for the calf to get used to. Tapirs are great swimmers!
- **February 10:** The calf has doubled his birth weight! Keepers will continue to monitor mom and calf as he reaches developmental milestones.



Dotty's Roadtrip to Recovery

A collaboration with the University of Georgia helps a Zoo tortoise get back on her feet.

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN & COLLEEN CLABBERS
PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

An important aspect of being an animal care professional is having the ability to know whether an animal's behavior is normal or out of the ordinary. When animal care staff noticed Dotty, a 14-year-old Aldabra tortoise, was showing signs of weakness in her hind limbs, they immediately scheduled an exam with the Zoo's veterinarian, Dr. Colleen Clabbers.

Dr. Clabbers performed CT scans to assess the tortoise's entire body and found that Dotty had Follicular Stasis. This is a reproductive disorder that can occur in reptiles or birds during which the ovarian follicles stop maturing, sit in the body and begin to break down. These types of disorders are common in female tortoises, but scientists are uncertain of the exact cause. Without treatment, this can lead to infection and serious illness in the animal. To give Dotty the best possible care, Dr. Clabbers enlisted the help of Dr. Stephen Divers and his team at the University of Georgia.

In mid-December, Dotty and Dr. Clabbers traveled to UGA for treatment. Before beginning

the procedure, Dotty was sedated and put on a ventilator to assist with her breathing under anesthesia. The team at UGA conducted an ultrasound and confirmed removal of the follicles via surgery was the best option for Dotty, although she would not be able to reproduce in the future.

Fortunately, minimally invasive surgery was possible through an incision into the skin just in front of the hind limbs, which allowed easy access into the body. From there, a small surgical camera was used to explore and examine the reproductive tract. Once the follicles were located, graspers were used to manipulate the follicles out of the body and then they were surgically removed. Both sides were sutured closed upon finishing.

Dotty recovered behind-the-scenes for several weeks to give ample time for the incisions to heal. Her gait has noticeably improved since surgery and her activity has returned to normal. Dr. Colleen has planned a future exam to recheck Dotty's bloodwork and incisions but for now she is back on exhibit with the rest of her creep, or group of tortoises.

Animal Name: Dotty

Sex: Female

Species: Aldabra Tortoise

Age: 14 yrs

Weight: 132 lb

Reason for Visit: Weakness in the hindlimbs.



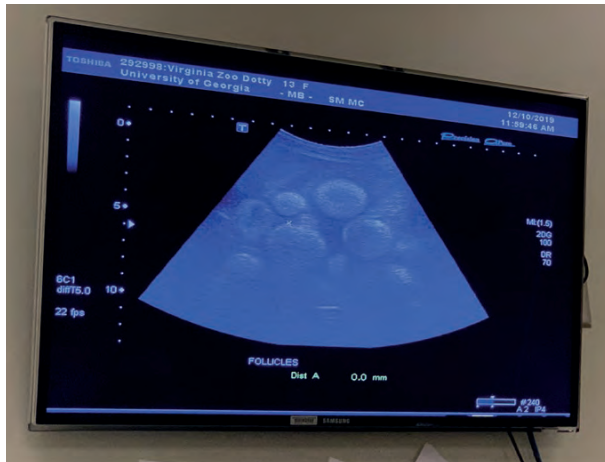
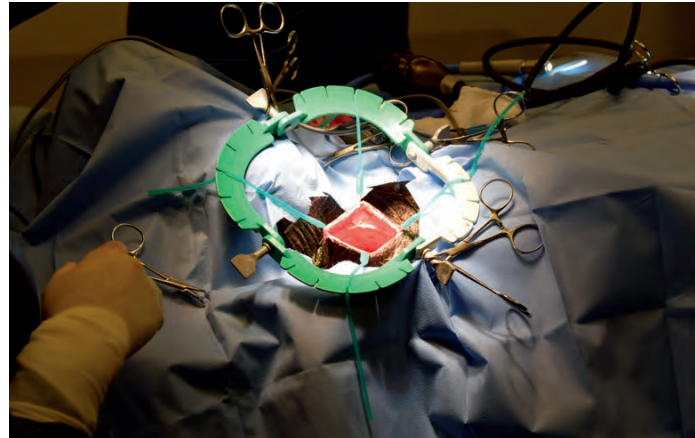
Breakfast with the Animals

APRIL 4, 2020 • 8 TO 10 AM

Exciting, morning event with breakfast, animal ambassadors, animal enrichment & more!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Visit virginiazoo.org/events or stop by the Zoo's Membership Office.



Top and bottom left: The Zoo's and UGA's medical team preps Dotty for her surgery.

Top Right: After the surgery, the team waits with Dotty during her recovery.

Above: An eight centimeter incision was made into the skin in front of the hind leg which allows the doctors to see into the body.

Left: An ultrasound was performed to observe Dotty's eggs and confirmed that surgery was needed.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

APRIL 13-17, 2020

9 AM TO 4 PM

FULL WEEK: \$300/MEMBERS
AND \$350/NON-MEMBERS



SUMMER CAMP

WEEKLY SESSIONS BEGIN
JUNE 22

KINDERGARTEN: HALF DAY
CAMP, \$180/MEMBERS AND
\$210/NON-MEMBERS

GRADES 1-8: FULL DAY
CAMP, \$300/MEMBERS AND
\$350/NON-MEMBERS

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BY THE NUMBERS

The Virginia Zoo loves its members and our members love us right back! Did you know a two-adult household membership pays for itself in just two visits? With member swaps, monthly perks, unlimited Zoo visits and a host of other benefits, a membership to the Zoo is really something to ROAR about. Learn a little more about our members!

11,102
household memberships

THREE
annual member giveaways

20 extra hours of time to explore the Zoo: 16 member mornings plus two 2-hour member nights

12 discounts year round for special events at the Zoo, from ZooBoo to ZooGrooves



652
Senior memberships, which are for those 62 and older

TWO
opportunities to bring a friend to the Zoo for free in March and November

3,770
Military household memberships

\$10 membership discount offered to military, veterans and first-responders

MORE THAN \$400

Total value of the member perks offered 12 months of the year.

50%

discount on admission to other AZA institutions in the reciprocal program



10% discount on merchandise at the Gift Shop, and food at the Africa Restaurant and Beastro

VIEW MEMBER PERKS, SWAP INFO AND DETAILS ABOUT ALL OF OUR MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AT VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!

\$2.50

**ASSORTED ZOO LANYARDS
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No cash value. Limit one coupon per customer. Valid at the Zoo Gift Shop only. No other discounts apply.

USE CODE: **LANYARD2020**

EXPIRATION DATE: 6/19/2020

SOME LIKE IT HOT!

BOGO

**BUY ONE GET ONE
HOT COFFEE (ANY SIZE)**

No cash value. Limit one coupon per customer. Valid at the Africa Restaurant only. No other discounts apply.

USE CODE: **COFFEE2020**

EXPIRATION DATE: 6/19/2020



Snooze at the Zoo

With new ways to enjoy the overnight, you'll never want to leave the Zoo!

STORY BY MICHELLE LEWIS

"It was an amazing experience. Well worth it!"

"The leaders were fantastic, we loved seeing the animals and having the Zoo to ourselves... seeing the things you can't see when the Zoo is closed."

These are common remarks from guests who Snoozed at the Virginia Zoo. But don't take their word for it, come see for yourself!

Wait - what's a Snooze? Snoozes are fun and educational experiences offered by the Zoo's Education Department. Unlike other programs, a Snooze takes place after hours and allows participants the unique experience of sleeping at the Zoo! These programs are geared for groups of children ages 6 and up, with a minimum of 15 participants (adults and children). The Zoo's talented educators created an exciting night of activities that appeal to a multitude of groups: scouts, schools, youth groups, families and others! Many have enjoyed Zoo Snoozes throughout the years, and each experience is always a little different!

Snoozes can be booked Friday and

Saturdays most of the year. Plus, the Zoo is thrilled to spice up our offerings with some new packages. Need dinner included? Check out the Bug Bites package, which is our original Snooze. Wanna skip dinner and head straight for the activities? Crockabye is the package for you! Each of these packages comes with your choice of one of five themes: Operation Conservation, Sense-ations, Wild Virginia, Predator Prowl and Nature Detectives.

Operation Conservation is perfect for the group looking to be more proactive in helping our animals at the Zoo, through small actions at home. Curious about how animals use their senses? Join us for a roaring good time at **Sense-ations** and experience the Zoo in four dimensions. Show some hometown pride by learning about native animals and what different habitats can look like in **Wild Virginia**.

Predator Prowl is an invigorating Snooze guaranteed to be action packed while learning about predator/prey relations and food webs! **Nature Detective** allows future

PITCH YOUR TENT!

WHO Ages 6+; 15 person min
COST PER PERSON

Bug Bites \$50; **Crockabye** \$40;
Nightcrawler Campout \$55

HOW TO BOOK

virginiazoo.org/zoo-snoozes

wildlife biologists to have fun learning what wildlife biologists do, such as tracking animals.

Feeling extra adventurous? Pack up your camping gear and join us for even s'more fun - the **Nightcrawler Camp Out**! Participants will sleep out under the stars at our Run Wild: Nature Discovery Zone and participate in a variety of fun activities exploring nocturnal wildlife. And of course, no camp out is complete without a campfire and s'mores. Looking to satisfy requirements for Scout badges? Our Nightcrawler Camp Out can help fulfill certain badge requirements!

Roti Island snake-necked turtle

Chelodina mccordi

1

The critically endangered species' biggest threat is the illegal pet trade. The species is considered to be one of the most endangered turtles in the world and is believed to be extinct in the wild.

2

They are originally native to freshwater swamps and lakes in a 27-square-mile area in eastern Indonesia on Rote Island, which earned the species' name.

3

Unlike other turtles that can pull their necks straight back into their shells, this species has to fold their necks in sideways to retreat. The length and appearance of their neck helped earn their species name.

4

They are omnivores, eating amphibians, fish, carrion, insects, mollusks, marine worms and algae. At the Zoo, they are fed a diet of feeder fish, nightcrawlers, superworms and crickets.

5

The Zoo's snake-necked turtles can be found in the World of Reptiles Aquatic Gallery, in a shared exhibit with Sailfin dragons.

6

There are currently 154 individuals in 20 AZA zoos and two non-AZA institutions. While the Virginia Zoo works with the SSP, the Bronx Zoo is working to set up a bio-secure holding to house those that will eventually be reintroduced to the wild.

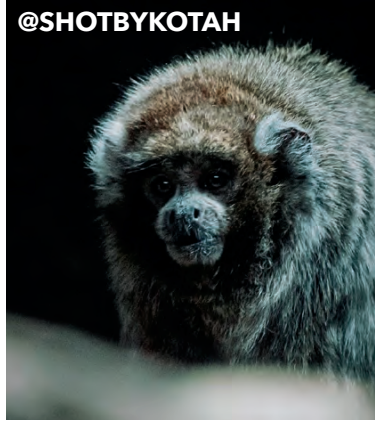


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◆ 5TH ANNUAL ZOO TO DO ◆

MAY 30, 2020 **ROARING 20'S** 7 TO 10 PM

SPIFFY ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS & IMITATORS ◆ RITZY SILENT AUCTION
SCRUMPTIOUS BITES ◆ SWANKY AMUSEMENTS & MORE!

\$85 SECRET DRINK SOCIETY ◆ \$65 BEE'S KNEES CLUB

VAZOOTODO.COM

Working with the SSP

Species Survival Plans are intertwined with everything at the Virginia Zoo. Here's how staff members get involved and what it means.

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN

01 SPECIES SURVIVAL PLAN®

Species Survival Plans® (SSP) oversee and manage populations of select vulnerable, threatened or endangered species within member institutions accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Each SSP coordinates the activities of participating member institutions through species conservation, research, husbandry, management and educational initiatives.

02 SUSTAINABLE

The SSP program ensures each species' population is sustainable, healthy, genetically diverse and demographically varied. This is achieved by pairing individuals currently under human care in zoos, sometimes from thousands of miles away, together and monitoring breeding.



PARIS AND ZIGGY,
TITI MONKEY
COUSINS WHO LIVE
AT THE ZOO

03 PERFECT PAIRINGS

While the SSP often pairs individuals of the same species for potential breeding, the SSP can also recommend animals to be paired as non-breeding social companions. Paris and Ziggy, the Zoo's two Bolivian gray titi monkeys are a social companion pair recommended by the SSP, and are actually cousins!

04 DO THE MATH

There are currently over 500 SSP programs and the Virginia Zoo participates in more than 80, a number that continues to grow as the Zoo acquires new species. Some of the Zoo's more well-known participants are the Masai giraffes, but the Panamanian Golden Frogs are a newer and very prolific addition.

05 COORDINATION IS KEY

The SSP program is under the leadership of the SSP coordinator and occasionally a vice coordinator. These coordinators work directly with a representative at individual institutions, as well as committees, advisory groups, the AZA and associated government agencies. The SSP coordinators also work extensively with the Studbook Coordinator, who documents the pedigree and entire demographic history of each animal within a managed population.



DENNIS MCNAMARA,
LEAD REPTILE KEEPER, IS
THE STUDBOOK KEEPER
AND SSP COORDINATOR
FOR THE RIO FUERTE
BEADED LIZARDS

THE VIRGINIA ZOO HAS A PAIR OF BEADED LIZARDS ON EXHIBIT IN THE WORLD OF REPTILES



06 MAN AT WORK

Two Virginia Zoo Keepers have recently taken on new roles with SSP programs. Lead Reptile Keeper Dennis McNamara is the Studbook Keeper and SSP Coordinator for Rio Fuerte Beaded Lizards. Dennis started at the Zoo in 2000 after a former Keeper suggested he apply. He worked his way to Lead Herpetology Keeper and has more recently taken on his new leadership roles, as well as becoming an active committee member of the AZA's Lizard Advisory Group.

07 WOMAN AT WORK

Lead Bird Keeper Hailey Moller is the SSP Vice Coordinator for green-naped pheasant pigeons. Originally from Africa, she came to the Virginia Zoo in 2018 and has experience working in the animal field as a Zoo Keeper and wildlife rehabilitator for over 7 years.

08 DECISIONS DECISIONS

Both Dennis and Hailey serve as the contact and AZA expert for their respective species. Their primary responsibility is to complete and distribute a breeding and transfer plan for each species under the SSP, which means they assist in deciding which animals are paired together and also help plan a timeline for pairings.

A GREEN-NAPED PHEASANT PIGEON ON EXHIBIT IN THE ASIA AVIARIES



HAILEY MOLLER, LEAD BIRD KEEPER AT THE VIRGINIA ZOO IS SEEN HERE TRAINING EMUS IN THE AUSTRALIA WALKABOUT EXHIBIT



09 WHO & WHAT YOU KNOW

An important aspect of the job includes attending meetings. Not only is this an excellent opportunity to network with zoological professionals from around the country and world, but meetings provide updates, shareable info and current reports on the SSP. Each zoo's representative can then use their connections and knowledge to identify new potential pairings.

HAILEY MOLLER IS THE SSP VICE COORDINATOR FOR GREEN-NAPED PHEASANT PIGEONS.



10 ON THE HORIZON

Being a part of these groups allows Dennis and Hailey to keep on the pulse of the species. DNA testing has aided in discovering each individual animal's lineage so coordinators can achieve their goals of pairing new animals and creating offspring for more zoos.

Your Event Venue Over the Years

STORY BY ASHLEY GROVE MARS

From employee picnics to birthday parties, weddings to retirement celebrations, the Events Department at the Virginia Zoo has shared in family's most treasured moments - and they love doing it!

"I love bringing each person's vision to life making their celebration truly theirs", said Kerri Donnelly, Events Manager at the Zoo. "We had a company retreat that I worked with to create a Zoo scavenger hunt for team building, they even had team costumes and prizes."

With 12 different venues within the Zoo, a range of festivities - and attendees - can be accommodated.

ON THE SMALL SIDE Designated classrooms host birthday parties, which are most popular for children 1 to 5 years old, last year we even celebrated triplets! " said Christina Webb, Birthday Party Coordinator. "The parties can entertain up to 45 guests, and in 2019 alone we hosted more than 300 birthday parties."

The Garden Tent also makes a welcoming setting for a smaller gathering such as a family reunion or cocktail party. This area can also provide a more intimate and upscale feeling as it is secluded from the rest of the Zoo.

FOR THE LARGER CROWD If you're looking for a spot to hold your 2,000-person company picnic - that's another area of the Zoo's expertise. Yearly, the team plans and helps organize approximately 20 corporate events that have seen up to 3,000 guests for a single event. The Zoo checks all the boxes: family-friendly, engaging activities (animals and a train - where else can you find that?!), full-service catering options, ample parking and easily accessible to all of the 757.

EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN There was a young professionals group that hosted a networking function in the halls of the World of Reptiles, a retirement party among the tigers and otters in the Asia trail and a employee picnic that offered Zoo swag for the winners of a dance contest.

And don't forget about the "big day"! The Zoo has hosted hundreds of weddings at various locations - cocktail hour with the siamangs - check; first-look with the giraffes - check; animal ambassadors greeting guests - of course!

At the Zoo, no idea is too quirky, but all the memories are outstanding! And don't forget, a full range of catering options, including breakfast buffets, hors d'oeuvres and DIY stations, are available. Plus, gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options can be easily added upon request.

The 2020 calendar is already booking fast, so gather your herd and head to the Zoo for your next event!



**COMPANY PICNIC
AT THE EVENT
FIELD & PAVILION**



**NETWORKING IN
THE WORLD OF
REPTILES**



**COCKTAIL HOUR
IN PLAZA GARDEN**

BOOK YOUR EVENT!

Want to explore having your next event at the Virginia Zoo? Visit virginiazoo.org/plan-an-event-at-the-zoo for more details or call 757.441.2374 ext. 250 to request your date.



NEW AT THE ZOO

Ways for All to Enjoy the Zoo

The Virginia Zoo has partnered with non-profit KultureCity to become a Certified Sensory Inclusive facility.

STORY BY LORI LAMPERT

This new initiative will promote an accommodating and positive experience for all guests who visit the Zoo. KultureCity, who works with many zoos and aquariums around the country, is a global organization recognized for using their resources to revolutionize and effect change in the community for those with sensory needs.

Sensory sensitivities are often experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD and other similar conditions. One of the major barriers to enjoying a place like the Zoo is sensitivity to over stimulation and noise, which can be common in this type of environment. We want everyone to have the best time when they're at the Zoo and with this new certification, we are now better prepared to assist guests with sensory sensitivities in having the most comfortable and fun experience possible.

During the certification process, the Virginia Zoo staff and volunteers were trained on how to recognize guests with sensory needs and

how to handle a sensory overload situation. Sensory backpacks, equipped with noise-cancelling headphones, fidget tools and verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads are now available for all guests who may be overwhelmed by the environment. The Zoo has also identified "Quiet Areas" throughout the grounds that typically have less activity that can give guests and families a quieter, calm space to regroup after becoming overstimulated.

KultureCity also has a free app, where you can look up venues in your area to see what sensory inclusive venues are around and what features are available in each location. Also on the app is the Social Story which provides a preview of what to expect while enjoying a visit to the Zoo.

To learn more about this program, visit our website, www.virginiazoo.org/sensoryinclusion. Sensory backpacks and weighted lap pads are available in the Membership Office.



WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

Sensory bags are available for checkout at no cost for those visiting a venue. Bags include: noise reducing headphones, wacky track fidget, Monkey tube fidget, Marble fidget, visual cue card and KultureCity VIP lanyard.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VIRGINIA ZOO!

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST, VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/DONATE

CURRENT LEADERSHIP SOCIETY Leadership Society members support the Zoo's daily commitment to animal care, enrichment programming, wildlife conservation, education and research initiatives across our community and beyond.

Anonymous	Larry & Robbin Brett	Peter & Nancy Huber	Richard & Shaune Meredith	Pamela Shields
Andrew Baker & Marlene Praiser	Lynn Cobb & Warren Richard	Joann C. Klotz	Michael & Amy Morrison	Conrad Shumadine
Nancy Barte	Christina Goode	Richard & Jacqueline Limerick	John & Lee Ann Padgett	Jim & Elizabeth Shumadine
Jane Batten	David & Susan Goode	Gregory & Mary Beth Marshall	Brian & Elizabeth Pennell	Robert & Susan Smallwood
Dr. Truman & Jacquelyn Baxter	Martha Goode	Jason Martens	Gary & Glenda Philbin	Bernard Strohmeier
Radm. & Mrs. Charles Beers	Andrew & Victoria Gorczyk	Jim & Joanne McClellan	Juanita Raisor	Margo Taylor
Thomas & Carolyn Betz Jr.	Conrad & Margaret Hall	Alan McLeod	Sue Roady	Scott & Debbi Waitzer
Dick & Anna Boykin	CPO & Mrs. William E. Higgins, Ret.	Bee McLeod* & Goody Tyler	John & Elizabeth Shannon	Barclay & Robin Winn, Jr.

NEW ZOOPARENTS

Every animal at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption, starting at \$25. Proceeds benefit various Zoo programs, including the Zoo's Conservation Fund. Visit virginiazoo.org/zooptions for more information.

ZOOPARENT	ANIMAL	ZOOPARENT	ANIMAL
Billi Jo Asbury	Sloth	Lisa Mulligan	Sloth
Calvin Begay	Otter	Emily Shayne O'Brien	Tapir
Melissa Benedict	Sloth	Caela O'Connell	Tiger
Mike Brown	Rhino	Darlene Patrick	Giraffe
Amy Dunn-Brown	Sloth	Any Peterson	Sloth
Cody & Casey Bucks	Giraffe	Lucas Philput	Sloth
Tanner Buterbaugh	Red Panda	Julia Philput	Rhino Viper
Brooklyn Butler	Giraffe	Jennifer Piegzik	Cape Porcupine
Leon Carrasco	Sloth	Jordin Rios	Sloth
Molly Carter	Cape Porcupine	Anakin Robb	Ostrich
Faith Cassevah	Cape Porcupine	Brantley Rust	Red Panda
Rayanne Charland	Otter	Bryan Santo	Red Panda
Finn Chrabot	Rhino	Austin Santo	Otter
Evelyn & Owen Chrabot	Giraffe	Carson Santo	Sloth
Mrs. Armstrong's Class	Orangutan	Luke Schneker	Rhino Viper
Matthew Colohan	Sloth	Gabi Schneker	Sloth
Skylar M Cooper	Tiger	Evie Seiler	Tapir
Oscar Cota	Cape Porcupine	Lucas Smallwood	Cape Porcupine
Grace Cunningham	Tiger	Carter Stanley	Sloth
Emma Dobschuetz	Tiger	Audrey Stiffler	Australia
Elsa Dobschuetz	Crocodile	Amanda Stiffler	Cape Porcupine
Atlee Edwards	Red Panda	Kelly Sullivan	Rhino
Jules Ellington	Sloth	Johnathan Wargo	Lion
Christine Garcia	Sloth	Matthew Wargo	Giraffe
William Gresham	Rhino	Anika Weber	Red Panda
Alexandra Horan	Sloth	Mason Weed	Sloth
Pat and Fred Keilty	Tiger	Julie Weyandt	Sloth
Avery Kesner	Red Panda	Dylan Whitt	Rhino
John Linton	Cheetah	Grace Whitt	Cheetah
Lynnette Linton	Orangutan	Ronald Whitt	Tiger
Jimmy & Ruth Marie Lyons	Cheetah	Travis Willse	Tawny Frogmouth
Ronan MacAdam	Tiger	Maximilian Wittenberg	Peacock
Elilai MacAdam	Giraffe	Olivia, Xander & Corbin Wolfson	Orangutan
Innes MacAdam	Siamese Crocodile	Katlyn Woods	Orangutan
Dylan MacDonald	Cheetah	Paige Woods	Meerkats
Alycia Mathews	Sloth	Serenity Latrice Woolman	Australia
Kevin Meyer	Sloth	Mark Worrall	Rhino
Andrew Meyer	Tiger	Debbie Wright	Orangutan
Melissa Meyer	Red Panda	Addie Yohnke	Zebra
Derek Miller	Moon Bear	Charlie Yohnke	Poison Dart Frog
Crystal Mims	Australia	Ellie Yohnke	Peacock
Mia Morales	Peacock		

LOOKING FOR ROARING GOOD EXPOSURE?

BE SEEN AT ZOO TO DO!

NETWORK & SOCIALIZE
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FULL STEAM AHEAD TRAIN CAMPAIGN BRICKS

Kristen Abney	Bryan Dyer	Allison Lavigne
Marvin & Rita Crisp	Margaret & Robert Gomez	

DONATIONS NOV. 1, 2019 - JAN. 31, 2020

\$100-\$499		\$1000+
Rob Beauchamp	Jason Martens	American Endowment Foundation
Ashley Bowman	Kathryn Gray Melhuish	Anonymous
Julius & Jeanne Miller	Julius & Jeanne Miller	Shirley Baldwin, LLC
Martin & Patricia Clark	Karen Mueller	Lynn Cobb & Warren Richard
Marvin & Rita Crisp	George and Lesley Old	Dollar Tree Management, Inc.
Lee & Kate Cross	Bill Pearson	Bee McLeod* & Goody Tyler
Bess & Peter* Decker	Putnam Investments	Richard & Shaune Meredith
George Doumar	Dana & Jeff Rosen	Norfolk Southern Foundation
Bryan Dyer	Bob & Mary Jo Steinhilber	Gary & Glenda Philbin
Christopher Edge	Candace Whitehurst	Juanita Raisor
William Eley	Edward Wolcott, Jr.	Schwab Charitable
Kenneth Finlay	Emery & Kelly Wyatt	Pamela Shields
Isma Granger	\$500-\$999	Susan & Rob Smallwood
Leslie Gregg	Clarke & Beth Fox	Bernie Strohmeier
Brett Hesse	William T. Greer	Sysco Corporation
Nancy Hughes	Richard & Karen Lombart	In-Kind Donations
Joseph Leaf	Kathleen Morris	Dr. Frank Kirchner
Harry E. and Martha Lee McCoy	Pete & Meghan Strauss	O'Connor Brewing Company, LLC.
Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation		Wegmans Food Markets

*deceased

CORPORATE PARTNERS



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Zoo Staff

Frontline Staff Phillip, Niya and Thomas

STORY BY REBECCA GUEST

At registers throughout the Virginia Zoo, our frontline staff members are going above and beyond to tell visitors about the Zoo's mission to help raise funds for programs that serve people, animals, and the environment. Visitors are asked to round-up their change or donate a dollar at the Zoo's entrance, membership office, gift shop, train station, and restaurant. We have always had donation boxes at stations throughout the Zoo, but we introduced specific asks this past summer when we started collecting money for the Zoo's train, the Norfolk Southern Express. Frontline staff members collected over \$5,000 for the train campaign by requesting spare change. Staff members are now engaging guests with the Zoo's Conservation Fund to help wildlife in wild places locally, nationally, and internationally by inspiring a passion for nature and taking conservation action at home and around the world.

Guests have been more than happy to help with donation requests. Train Engineer Katy Pennington shared, "With the train fund, we received a lot of support to help save the Zoo's train. It costs \$2 to ride the train. Many riders handed me a \$20 bill for a few tokens and then donated the rest to the train fund." Zoo members have

also played a big role with supporting our fundraising initiatives. According to Membership Specialist Niya Rodgers, "We offer membership discounts for military, first responders, and senior citizens. Guests are saving \$10.00 off their purchase. When we ask for donations for the Zoo's Conservation Fund, some of these members donate their savings. If they can't donate the full savings, they donate something. Seeing us give back inspires them to give back." We appreciate seeing the difference from discounts come back to support our fundraising campaigns.

When it comes to engaging guests with donations, Assistant Food Service Manager Annette Goodman remarked, "I just smile!" The next time you visit the Virginia Zoo, our frontline staff will be ready to greet you with a smile and share how you can participate and support our conservation fund, Act for Wildlife, no amount is too small. We are grateful for your continued generosity towards our fundraising efforts to support organizations around the world that work to protect the wild counterparts of the beautiful animals you visit here in Norfolk. We look forward to seeing you on your next visit to the Virginia Zoo!

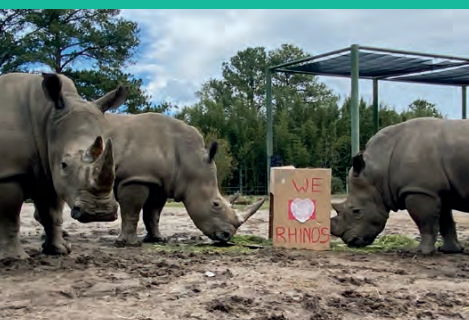
ACT FOR WILDLIFE! The Virginia Zoo conservation fund supports wildlife in wild places by inspiring a passion for nature and taking conservation action at home and around the world.

Learn more and donate at virginiazoo.org/support-the-zoo or text TIGER to 435-06



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TO SEE MORE
INFO ABOUT OUR
GREAT LINEUP
OF EVENTS!

Spring & Summer 2020 Upcoming Events

Nature Day - Spring Equinox*
March 19 • 10 am - 12 pm

April Member Swap**
Hermitage Museum and Gardens
April 1 - 30

Breakfast with the Animals
April 4 • 8 - 10 am
\$15 adult members, \$10 child members
\$25 adult non-members, \$15 child non-members; \$5 under 5

Spring Break Safari Camp (1st-5th grades)
April 13 - 17 • 9 am - 4 pm
\$300 members, \$350 non-members

Party for the Planet*
April 18 • 10 am - 2 pm

Nature Day - Earth Day*
April 22 • 10 am - 12 pm

Adult Camp - Roots & Scutes
April 25 • 9:30 am - 3 pm
\$80 members, \$100 non-members

Animal Appreciation: Save the Rhino Day*
May 1 • 10 am - 12 pm

Mother's Day Brunch
May 10 • 8 - 10:30 am & 12 - 2 pm
\$30 adult members (21+), \$15 child members (5-20); \$40 adult non-members (21+), \$25 child non-members (5-20); \$5 under 5

Zoo To Do: Roaring 20s
May 30 • 6 - 10 pm • Ages 21+
\$65 or \$85

June Member Swap**
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
June 1-30

Animal Appreciation - World Croc Day*
June 10 • 10 am - 12 pm

Adults Only Zoo Night (21+)
June 11 • 5:30 - 8:30 pm
\$5 members, \$15 non-members

EdZOOcation - World Giraffe Day*
June 20 • 10 am - 2 pm

Father's Day BBQ
June 21 • 12 - 2 pm
\$30 adult members (21+), \$15 child members (5-20)
\$40 adult non-members (21+), \$25 child non-members (5-20)
\$5 under 5

Animal Wellness Campus Tours
March 27 • 2 - 2:45 pm
April 17 • 2 - 2:45 pm
May 24 • 2 - 2:45 pm
June 15 • 2 - 2:45 pm
\$30 members, \$50 non-members

*FREE with regular admission
**FREE for Zoo members

