

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

# Zoo Review

VIRGINIAZOO.ORG



## MEET LETTI!

Learn about our baby rhino and actions the Virginia Zoo takes towards conservation.

**PAGE 4**

## EDVENTURE IS OUT THERE

Discover the Zoo's new Edventure & Exploration Campaign.

**PAGES 8 & 9**

## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Shop local in our Gift Shop with these new collaborations.

**PAGE 14**



Letti, the Southern white rhino

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Chelle Fernandez	Emily Smicker
Sydney Fordice	



### HAVE YOU VISITED TURTLE OASIS?

Turtle Oasis is now open! As the temperatures start to warm up the turtles are becoming more active. Come see a variety of North American freshwater turtle species including spotted, wood, blanding and alligator snapping turtles.

3500 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23504

#### ZOO HOURS:

Open Daily 9:30 am - 4 pm

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

PHONE: 757.441.2374 • FAX: 757.441.5408

[VIRGINIAZOO.ORG](http://VIRGINIAZOO.ORG)

Do you have any questions or ideas for the next issue of the Virginia Zoo Review? We'd love to hear from you. Email [info@virginiazoo.org](mailto:info@virginiazoo.org).

 Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



Hello Zoo members and fans,

I write with immense gratitude as we move forward in creating new Zoo experiences as part of our EdVenture & Exploration capital campaign, which many of you have helped support. You may have heard about some of our upcoming projects to inspire passion for wildlife and the environment by delivering immersive, engaging experiences with animals, and we invite you to turn to **pages 8 & 9** to learn more about this capital campaign and the Zoo-wide transformation it will bring. See the developing plans for an animal ambassador campus - our new base camp for educators, volunteers and the array of animals that are representatives for their species in the wild. This campus will also feature all new ways to encounter and observe wildlife, including immersive opportunities to be "transported" to wild places. Additionally, we have been awarded a USDA grant to install a public-facing, large-scale, in-vessel composting unit where you will be able to share in the dynamic process that makes Zoo gardens grow. Get ready to watch the dust fly very soon.

Read further to discover more about the animals which are part of our shared planet and how their conservation is core to our mission. Thanks to you, we find not only our animal residents to be thriving, but also our plans for expansion. If you want to be a part of it, please reach out to [christabelle.fernandez@norfolk.gov](mailto:christabelle.fernandez@norfolk.gov) for more details and information on how to sponsor programs.

See you at the Zoo!

Executive Director, Virginia Zoo

**NEW AT THE ZOO**

**A**

The Zoo has partnered with new local businesses to bring you exclusive products now available in our Gift Shop. Learn more on page 18.

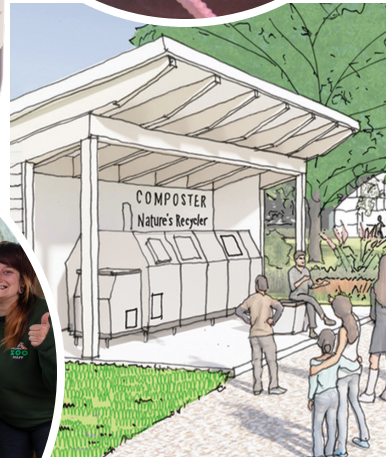


**E**

The **World of Reptiles** has new lined seahorses. Be sure to stop by soon and meet our new friends!

**B**

**Coming this summer:** a baby orangutan! Our female orangutan, **Dara**, is pregnant and expecting her baby in June. Stay tuned for the cuteness!



**F**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has selected the Virginia Zoo to receive funds to launch a state-of-the-art composting project benefiting the Zoo and Norfolk community. Learn more on page 9.

**C**

**Sinar** and **Sariah** are ready for their close-ups! Meet the tapirs or stop in and visit our animal ambassadors with our returning behind-the-scenes tours. Visit our website to book yours today!



**G**

Looking for an environmentally-friendly way to dispose of your old technology? The Zoo, in partnership with **Eco-Cell**, collects old phones and electronic devices to be recycled. Look for the donation bin outside our Gift Shop. No entry necessary.

**D**

A new resident is moving into the **ZooFarm**. Visit this summer to find out who!



**H**

Our siamang family welcomed a new addition on March 15. Female **Malana** gave birth to the fourth-ever siamang baby at the Virginia Zoo. Mom and baby can currently be seen in their day room or on their island (weather depending) on the **Asia: Trail of the Tiger**.

## CONSERVATION



Meet  
**Letti**



### More about the newest rhino calf, Letti, and how she got her name.

Story by Sydney Fordice

When the Virginia Zoo's second-ever Southern white rhinoceros calf was born in November 2023, our Africa: Okavango Delta trail keepers saw an opportunity to highlight conservation work happening in the calf's native territory. They named her after Sergeant Nkateko Letti Mzimba, a ranger with **The Black Mambas**, the first all-female, anti-poaching organization in South Africa. Sgt. Mzimba was recently named 2023's Best Field Ranger in Africa for her passionate efforts to protect rhinos and other wildlife species, as well as her work to educate surrounding communities on the importance of wildlife conservation.

Craig Spencer, biodiversity manager for the Black Mambas' parent organization, Transfrontier Africa, said the Mambas' overall goal is to ensure all megafauna complete their entire natural lifecycle without becoming victim to poachers, and they work day and night to protect the rhinos and other wildlife living in Kruger National Park from human threats.

Letti's keepers hope the meaning behind her name will bring awareness to the Black Mambas and other organizations doing on-the-ground work to protect wildlife in Africa, while inspiring young women to chase their passions and stand up for what they believe in. If you'd like to support the Mambas, they say one of the biggest ways you can alleviate roadblocks to their work is through donations, but spreading awareness about their efforts through mediums like social media is also a significant way to make a difference.

**“HOW CAN PEOPLE IN THE U.S. HELP THE BLACK MAMBAS IN AFRICA? SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ZOO. IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE ZOOS, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR POPULATIONS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TO GET ENGAGED WITH WILD ANIMALS AND GENERATE A SECTOR THAT LOVES, NURTURES AND CARES A LOT ABOUT THESE ANIMALS.”**

**- CRAIG SPENCER**

Follow along with their work at:



@blackmambasapu



@theblackmambas

Wondering how you can partner with the Virginia Zoo to support other conservation efforts around the world? Every time you purchase an admission ticket, membership or souvenir at the Zoo, your dollar is making a difference! Read on to learn more about some of the organizations we support through our Act for Wildlife conservation fund:

For over 10 years, the Virginia Zoo has proudly supported many wildlife conservation organizations such as the Tiger Conservation Campaign out of the Minnesota Zoo, the International Rhino Foundation, the Hornbill Research Foundation and the Turtle Survival Alliance. Other organizations the Virginia Zoo supports include Action for Cheetahs in Kenya, the Red Panda Network, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. Recently, the Zoo has begun supporting several additional organizations:

**Pride Lion Conservation Alliance**

The Pride Lion Conservation Alliance, also known as the Pride Alliance, launched out of the Houston Zoo in 2015 with a goal of establishing a new, collaborative approach to lion conservation. Members are using their collective experience as leaders, influencers, strategists and on-the-ground field conservationists with a solutions-focused approach to halt the decline of lion populations.

According to the Pride Alliance, the wild African lion population has decreased nearly 90% in recent decades, and their range has shrunk dramatically. Today, nearly half of their range is in unprotected, residential areas. The Pride Alliance engages thousands of people each year to address the biggest threats to lions and improve the lives of local people. Their programs include human-lion conflict prevention, snaring and poisoning mitigation, applied research and monitoring of lion populations, veterinary care support and more.



Ansel, the African lion

**Vulture Conservation Foundation**

The Vulture Conservation Foundation strives to recover Europe’s four vulture species populations by initiating, facilitating and supporting conservation actions and research by collaborating with governments, businesses, local communities, wildlife-focused NGOs and people. Vultures face threats to their survival including illegal wildlife poisoning, habitat loss, reduced food availability and collisions with infrastructure. The Vulture Conservation Foundation’s work seeks to help Europe’s vulture populations become self-sustaining, healthy and able to occupy most of their natural ranges while being valued by all.



Eve, the cinereous vulture

**GUESS WHO!** Can you correctly name the Zoo’s rhinos? Match the rhinos’ names with their photos:

Mosi, Sibindi, Letti, Bora, Zina

ANSWERS: Bora, Mosi, Letti, Sibindi, Zina

# Membership at the Zoo

## 9 perks to being a Zoo Member



Scan the QR code to learn more about membership perks!



### MEMBERSHIP SWAPS

Our most popular member perk! Multiple times per year, we partner with local institutions to get our members free or discounted tickets to visit somewhere new. This year, our swap partners include the Norfolk Tides, the YMCA, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Waters Edge Winery and more! Check out the full description of each swap on our website.

### MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

Summers are for members-only events! Visit the Zoo an hour early during hot summer days with **Member Mornings**. New this year: purchase a cup of coffee from a local coffee truck before you stroll the Zoo! Members also get a chance to experience the Zoo after-hours with our 3 **Member Nights** this summer. This event now features a bounce house and DJ in our Event Field. For dates of these member-exclusive events, check the "Events" tab on our website!



### BRING A FRIEND TICKETS

We know that the Zoo is more fun with friends, so we offer free "Bring-a-friend" tickets at different times throughout the year! Be on the lookout in member emails to see when you can show your friends your favorite part of the Zoo. Members must accompany their guests on the day of the visit.

### PLAY YOUR PART IN CONSERVATION

Did you know that \$6 from each membership goes directly toward wildlife conservation? **Act for Wildlife** is the Virginia Zoo's conservation fund, which supports local and global conservation efforts for threatened species. Our animals connect us to a shared Earth that needs protecting; show your dedication to protecting wildlife by becoming a Virginia Zoo member!



## DISCOUNTS, DISCOUNTS, DISCOUNTS!

Special events tickets, gift shop items, education programs – oh my! The discounts for Zoo members are endless. Save 10% in the Gift Shop, African Village Restaurant and Beastro during each visit, and get early, discounted access to camps and events!



## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

Be the first to hear about exciting Zoo updates and get exclusive information as a Zoo member! Members receive monthly e-newsletters and access to a members-only Facebook group.



## ENTRY TO OTHER ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

Did you know your membership gives you 50% off admission to over 150 zoos and aquariums across the country? This includes local institutions like the Virginia Aquarium and Virginia Living Museum! Before your next vacation, view the full list on our website under the “Membership” button to see where the discount applies.



## SPECIAL EVENT PERKS

Members receive a discount to ALL of the Zoo’s special events throughout the year – from 21+ events like **Adult Night** and **Kiss & Tail** to family-friendly events like **ZooBoo** and **Bike Night!** Members also get first dibs on tickets before they go on-sale to the public, giving you a leg up for events that tend to sell out. *Inside Tip:* our popular **Zoovies** event is FREE to members and this season we will be showing Barbie and Migration.



## EARN SWAG

Get free Zoo swag throughout the year, like our Zoo calendar and member Christmas ornament! New this year: a 4-magnet series for members to collect throughout the year, starting with a magnet to celebrate World Tapir Day!



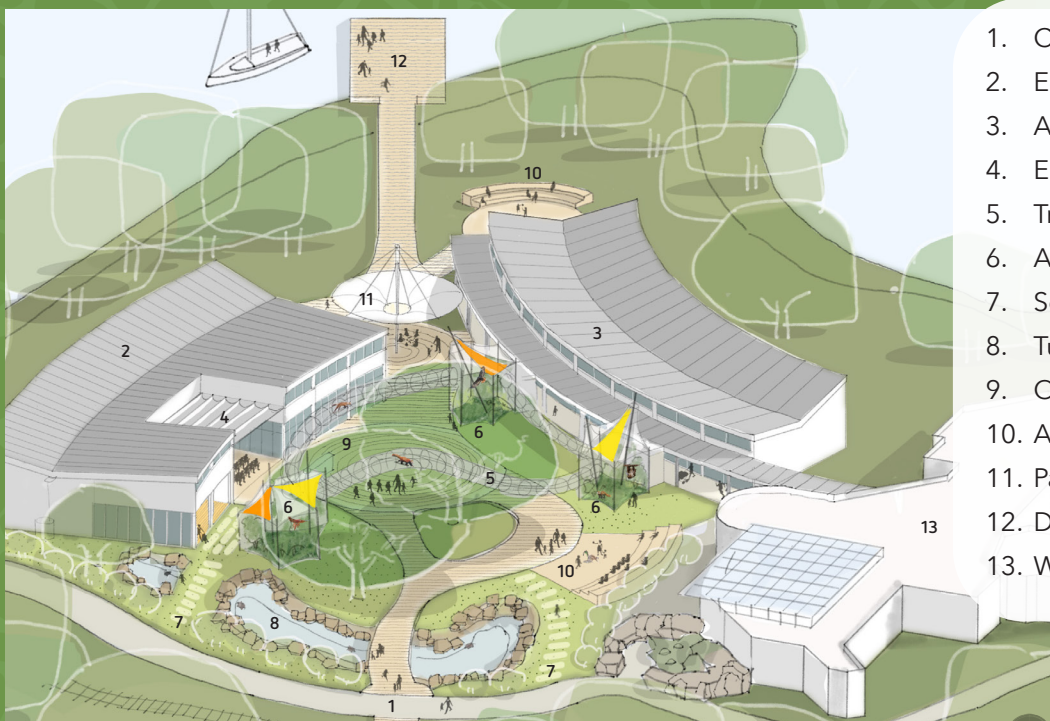
# The Animal EdVenture Campus

Our vision is to create an “Edventurous” world where everyone values wildlife education and the environment. With YOUR help, we can make significant strides towards realizing this vision in our community. This campaign, to support exciting, bold mission-centric initiatives, reflects our community’s collective voice and will enhance the Virginia Zoo’s educational impact, deepening our connection to some of Hampton Roads’ leading education and conservation organizations.

## Education Basecamp & Animal Ambassador Headquarters

The EdVenture Campus is designed to cultivate inquiry-based, hands-on exploration of wild things and wild places. Formal and informal learning opportunities will connect people to nature in the most effective way by sharing conservation education. Guests of all ages will marvel in immersive experiences that bridge the natural and the technical world.

This campus will allow **unprecedented access to the Zoo’s most captivating creatures**, while showcasing the amazing skills of our Zookeepers, and **servicing as home base for our professional educator staff, volunteers, and the animals in their care.**



1. Campus Entrance from Fountain Plaza
2. EdVenture Pavilion
3. Animal Exploration Pavilion
4. Environment Classroom
5. Tree-top Trails
6. Animal Habitats
7. Soft Entrance
8. Turtle Oasis
9. Oak Tree Plaza
10. Amphitheater
11. Pavilion
12. Dock
13. World Of Reptiles & Friends



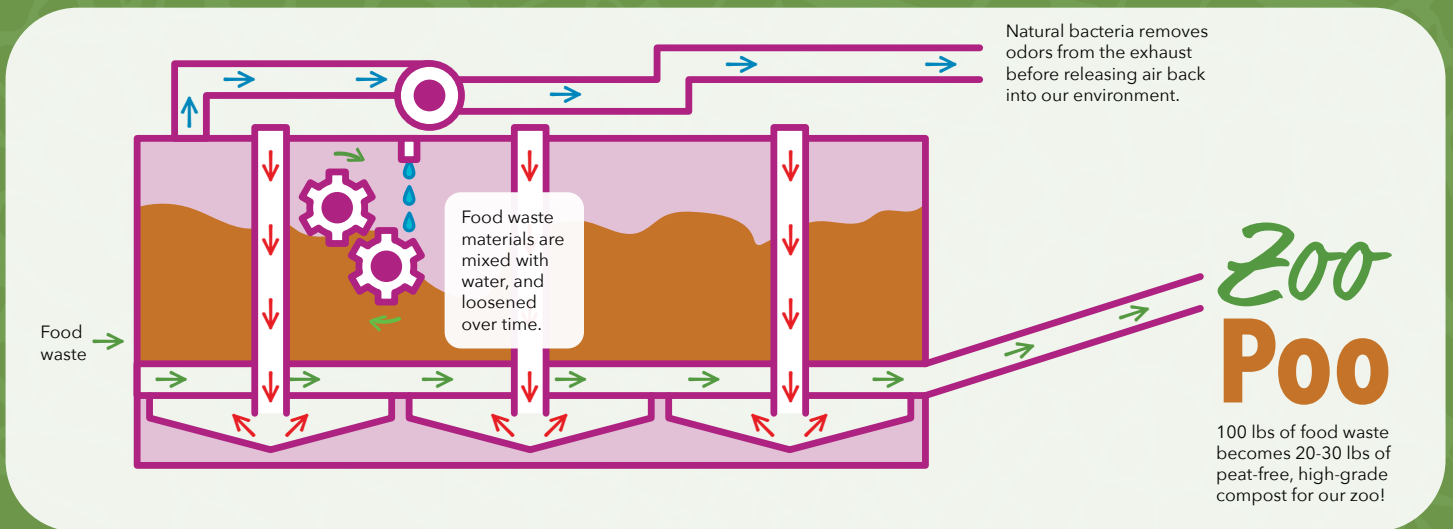
# Greening World

The Greening World initiative is designed to drastically eliminate food and organic waste by converting it to useful compost while actively engaging visitors in the importance of environmental and sustainable choices. With funding secured from the U.S. Department of Agriculture this state-of-the-art composting project will soon begin benefiting the Zoo and Norfolk community.



## In-Vessel Composting

As a part of the Greening World initiative, an in-vessel composter will be brought on Zoo grounds to process food waste and organic matter into usable compost for the Zoo and our community.



*Interested in contributing?*  
**Make your donation today!**

Scan the QR code to give a gift supporting the future of the Virginia Zoo through the EdVenture & Exploration Campaign.



**Ansel, the African lion**



**VIRGINIA**  
**ZOO**

**in Norfolk**

[www.virginiazoo.org](http://www.virginiazoo.org)





In a pride, female lions raise the cubs and are the primary hunters.

Lions cannot purr like smaller cat species and instead show excitement through growls, grunts, and moans.

Noisy neighbors! A lion's roar can be heard from over 5 miles away.

# Upcoming Events



## Adult Night

Take a break and unleash your inner wild child with Adult Night at the Zoo! This 21+ event offers an adults-only evening with trails and exhibits open late. Join us July 13 for **Adult Night: Splash Pad Edition** and again on October 25 for **Adult Night: ZooBoo Edition**.



## Roar & Pour

Get ready to pour a glass at this ROARING event! This family-friendly event features unlimited beer samplings from the finest breweries that Coastal Virginia has to offer, presented by **Coastal Virginia Brewery Alliance**. Taking place on August 31, this event is sure to be a good time!



## Zoovies

Hi Barbie! This summer, it's time to take family movie night to new heights by coming to Zoovies! This year will feature the **Barbie Movie** on September 27 and **Migration** on October 4. Forget the theater, there's nothing like experiencing the big screen under the stars at the Zoo!



## ZooBoo

Join us for spook-tacular family fun this fall at the Zoo's largest celebration of the season - ZooBoo! With costume contests, animal pumpkin enrichment, candy stations and more, this event is guaranteed to be a treat for the whole family!

*Times, tickets and additional information about events can be found under the "Events" tab on the Virginia Zoo website.*

## Release your party animal!

*With the Virginia Zoo*

Host your child's next birthday party at the Zoo!

Birthday parties include 90 minutes of party time in private space, a special gift from the Virginia Zoo to the birthday child, exclusive encounters with two animal ambassadors, and much more. Scan the QR code to book your party today!



@CHANDLERNUNNALLY



@EMILYLOVESMUSIC13



FAN PHOTOS

@\_NOMARAMA\_



@THE\_ROAM\_YO\_GIRL



@BRANNANVICTORIA



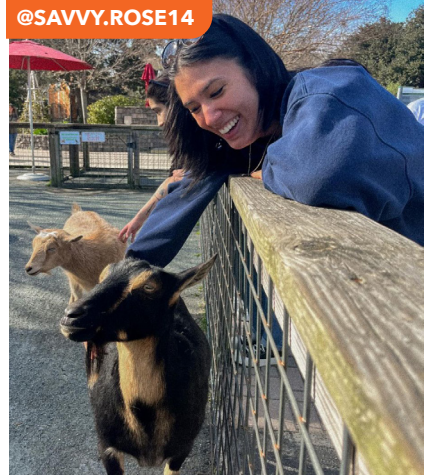
@SPENCER.PRAHL



@JESUSNAVIDAD\_



@SAVVY.ROSE14



@PISCESGRLY



Photo by Susan Lee



Calling all photographers!

Submit your photos

Join the Virginia Zoo's annual calendar contest!

Submit your favorite photos of our animals for a chance to be featured in our 2025 calendar. The winner will receive a free membership to the Zoo and have their photo featured on the cover. Scan the QR code to enter your photos today!



# PREHENSILE-TAILED PORCUPINE

Introducing Dimitri, the prehensile-tailed porcupine, with the most boopable nose in the Zoo. Named for their impressive tail that accounts for 9% of their body weight, this little guy uses his muscular appendage to grab branches and explore the rainforests of South America. As a nocturnal rodent, he spends his nights foraging for food in different trees and using his long whiskers to feel around in the darkness. At the Virginia Zoo, Dimitri is an Animal Ambassador living in our Program Animal Building behind the scenes. His purpose at the Zoo is to educate the public on his counterparts in the wild. Get the chance to meet Dimitri at one of our ZooLive! Stage shows or with our Animal Ambassador Behind-the-Scenes tours.

The prehensile-tailed porcupine's quills are short, barbed, and easily detachable, allowing them to embed their quills into predators. They can also raise their quills to appear bigger, revealing their yellow-toned body that serves as a sign of danger to any predators. This incredible defense and their ability to climb trees has allowed them to adapt as a rodent species with one of the longest life spans of up to 15 years.

These porcupines were made for climbing trees with their long curved nails and tail that help them grip the trees and balance.

Snacking is Dimitri's specialty! At the Zoo, his diet consists of vegetables, rodent chow, fruit and browse, but the canned primate biscuit is one of his favorites. Another favorite is nuts! Dimitri is offered large nuts several times a week and munching on these helps to maintain his constantly growing teeth. His keepers use his diet as reinforcement during training sessions. Dimitri is trained in several behaviors such as "kennel", "target", and "perch" which help with his presentations at Zoo programs. He is currently learning "shake" which is a natural behavior for Dimitri.

# WORD SEARCH

T E C O S Y S T E M K B W O E N Q P  
S P E C I E S N J K M G T G S B F R  
V P B G C O N S E R V A T I O N P E  
R Y J F M A M M A L C E W N A Q O H  
Z O B Z S G N O C T U R N A L X R E  
O C S R G V Z O O K E E P E R W C N  
O U N W I L D L I F E W S V B G U S  
L A M B A S S A D O R A H Y B Q P I  
I G L B W H A B I T A T Q N J Z I L  
V M S Y A Q R O D E N T Z D H F N E  
E X O V G R D X N X Q S N O J X E A  
Q U I L L A Y A H E R B I V O R E L

## WORD BANK

Find the bolded words and learn what they mean. Words are hidden vertically, horizontally and diagonally.

**AMBASSADOR** - Animal ambassadors represent their animal counterparts in the wild.

**CONSERVATION** - The careful maintenance and upkeep of a natural resource to prevent it from disappearing.

**ECOSYSTEM** - A group of living organisms that live in and interact with each other in a specific environment.

**HABITAT** - The natural home or environment of an animal.

**HERBIVORE** - An animal that feeds on plants.

**MAMMAL** - Any warm blooded animal typically characterized by the possession of hair or fur.

**NOCTURNAL** - An animal that is most active at night.

**PORCUPINE** - Large rodents with coats of sharp spines that protect them.

**PREHENSILE** - An animal's limb or tail that is capable of grasping.

**QUILL** - The hollow, sharp spines of a porcupine or hedgehog.

**RODENT** - Mammals characterized by continuously growing incisors on their upper and lower jaws.

**SPECIES** - A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes.

**WILDLIFE** - The native animals of a region.

**ZOOKEEPER** - An individual that cares for animals in a zoo.

**ZOOLIVE** - The stage for animal ambassador shows in the Zoo's Animal Wellness Campus.



# WHAT IS ENRICHMENT?



## Enrichment. What is it?

With over 700 individual animals at the Virginia Zoo, our care goes beyond just physical health. Enrichment is a way to mentally and physically stimulate our animals in a way that mimics their natural behaviors. This means animal enrichment can come in many different forms.



## What does it mean to be enriching to the animals?

Enriching our animals' lives means providing them with the opportunities to make natural choices as they would in the wild. Enrichment is designed with the goal of increasing the animal's behavioral choices and drawing out species-appropriate behaviors.



## How do you decide on enrichment?

All enrichment here at the Zoo goes through a rigorous planning and approval process. Keeper and vet staff review proposed enrichment to ensure that it is safe and purposeful then observe and document the results. Documentation and evaluation are done to determine the effectiveness of the enrichment.





### Where do you get enrichment?

As enrichment means different things to different animals, there are a variety of objects that can be deemed enrichment for our animals. This means that our enrichment is acquired from different sources. Some of our enrichment is purchased from companies that specifically make zoo animal enrichment, while other times we buy dog toys, such as KONG and crinkle toys, that can be used for our animals. Another option for enrichment is building our own using materials such as cardboard, construction paper, and streamers. All enrichment the Zoo creates is carefully designed to be safe and create valuable experiences for our animals. This form of enrichment is created by staff and volunteers alike for different purposes throughout the year.



### The Five Categories

Enrichment falls into 5 main categories: social, cognitive, physical, sensory, and food. On a basic level, these are objects, scents, habitat features, food, or anything else that can provide physical and/or mental stimulation for the animal. One example of physical enrichment is the climbing structures included in certain habitats like red panda, moon bear, orangutan, siamang, and gibbon. These structures are each built with the individual species in mind to promote natural climbing/exploring behaviors. Puzzle feeders are used with many animals to provide both nutritional and cognitive enrichment. Additionally, different stimuli like sounds and scents are used as a type of sensory enrichment.



### Volunteer Involvement

The Virginia Zoo is incredibly grateful to have wonderful volunteer involvement when it comes to enrichment making. Our volunteers have gone above and beyond to make enrichment for our animals that not only provides them with mental stimulation but also looks amazing! A special thank you to *Gerriann Beck, Ron Betancourt, Diana Burson, Katy Calsward, Ryan Costa, Kim Hall, Shannon Hardwick, Bruce Jacobs, Carol Laws, Lori Lawson, Tina Moses, Robyn Neal, Denise Parker, Tempo Peake, Dolores Pitts, Sandi Prestridge, and Joshua Schramm* for their fantastic work at making our recent enrichment for the animals. We appreciate everything you do and thank you for your hard work!



## Join the Zoo Crew!

*At the Virginia Zoo*

If you love animals and conservation, we may have a volunteer opportunity for you! Our Zoo Crew volunteers help in many areas at the Virginia Zoo. Scan the QR code to learn more about volunteering at the Zoo!



# New Locals at the Zoo

The Virginia Zoo is welcoming many new local businesses into our Gift Shop. These exciting partnerships offer collaboration opportunities to create exclusive products that you can't find anywhere else!

*"We believe that supporting local businesses and organizations allows us to stay connected with the community around us while giving other businesses a chance to reach a broader audience. We find it extremely important to continue to support the community that supports us and plan to do so as much as we can."*

-Marcus Jordan, Director of Zoo Amenities



AVAILABLE IN THE ZOO GIFT SHOP & RESTAURANT

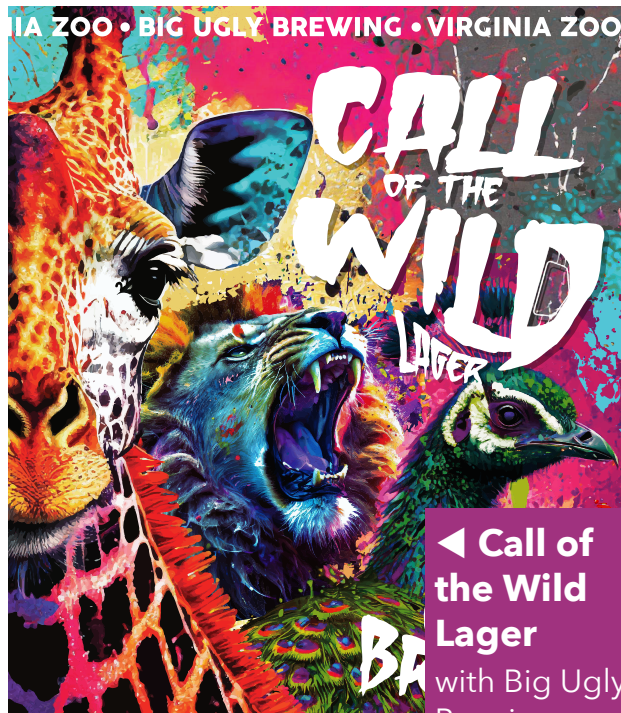
## ▲ Serpentine Sangria

In partnership with **Waters Edge Winery**, the Virginia Zoo has now welcomed two new sangrias! Enjoy the rich flavors of succulent blackberries blended with fine red wine in Blackberry Sangria or the invigorating taste of freshly picked apples in Exotic Apple Sangria. A portion of the proceeds from every bottle sold supports the Zoo's conservation efforts.

## ▼ Safari Sunset Candle with Norfolk Candle

Presented by **Norfolk Candle**, Safari Sunset is a lovely blend of pineapple, honeydew, and mango that gives a wild scent profile!

AVAILABLE IN THE ZOO GIFT SHOP



## ◀ Call of the Wild Lager with Big Ugly Brewing

This new lager brought to you in partnership with **Big Ugly Brewing** will have you unleashing your wild side!

COMING IN JUNE

Join today, [virginiazoo.org/leadership](http://virginiazoo.org/leadership)

**LEADERSHIP SOCIETY (AS OF APRIL 2024)** 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.

Kay Abiouness  
 Caroline & Chad Ballard  
 Vern & Nancy Barham  
 Truman & Jacquelyn Baxter  
 Reese Beeler  
 Angela Benard  
 Mrs. Carolyn Betz  
 Richard & Anna Boykin  
 Edward & Linda Bradley  
 Alan & Deborah Budlong  
 Lawlor-Caron Family  
 Nicole Carry & Kim Keene  
 Ms. Lynn Cobb & Mr. Warren Richard  
 Maria & David Cundiff  
 George Doumar

Karen Dzapinka CPA, CGMA  
 Kelly & Tim Faulkner  
 Christabelle Fernandez  
 Christina Goode  
 Martha Goode  
 Susan & David Goode  
 Andrew & Victoria Gorczyk  
 Dick & Jane Gresham  
 Peter & Laura Griffin  
 Ameet Habib  
 Henry & Eleanor Harris  
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 Dr. Josh & Erica Howell  
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Gregory & Mary Beth Marshall  
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 Dr. Scott & Annie Miller  
 Maria & Michael O'Hearn  
 Brian Pennell  
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 Burt & Sandi Prestridge  
 Mrs. Juanita Raisor  
 Ms. Susan M. Roady  
 Ms. Pamela Shields  
 Conrad Shumadine  
 Jim & Elizabeth Shumadine  
 Susan & Robert Smallwood  
 Holly Smith

Kedron Springer  
 The St. Remy Family  
 Bernard & Sharon Strohmeier  
 Dr. Kurt F. Strosahl  
 Mrs. Margo Taylor  
 Janet Thompson  
 Goody Tyler III  
 Bob & Angie VanDyke  
 Scott & Debbi Waitzer  
 Elise Walthall  
 Christina & Lee Westnedge  
 Mrs. Judith Williams  
 Dr. Ann Marie Woyma & LCDR Timothy Woyma

**NEW ZOOPARENTS**

Every animal at the Virginia Zoo is available for symbolic adoption, starting at \$25. Proceeds benefit various Zoo programs, including the Act For Wildlife Fund. Visit our website for more information.

**ALDABRA TORTOISE**

Grant Coull  
 Avery Gray

**BISON**

Charlie Yohnke

**BOG TURTLE**

Angelina Wicker

**BURMESE PYTHON**

Artie Irizarry

**CAPE PORCUPINE**

Ellie Yohnke

**CASSOWARY**

Horton Family

**CHAMELEON**

Garrick Coull

**CHEETAH**

Harper Midgett  
 Brooklyn Webster  
 Harper Reigh Twiford

**EYELASH VIPER**

Bradley Nichols

**GIRAFFE**

John & Cathy L'Heureux  
 Harper Midgett  
 Audrey Midgett  
 Raven Skye Twiford  
 Ashley Crouthamel  
 Shannon V. Patterson

**GOAT**

Jennifer Richardson

**LEAF FROG**

Amy Rae Wood

**LETTI THE BABY RHINO**

Sarah Hamm  
 Andrew Hamm  
 Auri Clay  
 Emma Avery  
 Mary White  
 Robin Gilmore  
 Valerie Geil  
 John Balderston  
 Cattina Shinn  
 Chloe Boltz  
 Altheo Chavez  
 Clark Whitehill  
 Eileen Pezzulich  
 Maxon Carlisle  
 Oliver Nathaniel Green  
 Tobias Alexander Green  
 Taylor Sapp  
 Maria Nissen  
 McClane Arthur Bray

**LION**

Joshua Harris  
 Sunny McNulty  
 Elise Nichole Lowry  
 Cathy Hoy

**MEERKAT**

Poppy Purton  
 Michael Kellison  
 Madison Meier

**OPOSSUM**

Frank Scheib

**ORANGUTAN**

Eve McPhail  
 Liam Suddther

Michael Largen  
 Mary Bryne

**OTTER**

Adam Conley  
 Kylee Wicker  
 Joshua Bowden  
 Madison Barras  
 Robert "Cary" Allsbrook

**PEACOCK**

Hayden Ella Viola Farley

**RED KNEE TARANTULA**

Zoey Jada Francis

**RED PANDA**

Amelia Massiah  
 Weston McNulty  
 Alistair Klingensmith  
 Arley Klingensmith  
 Erin Fosnocht Largen  
 Ethan Farrell  
 Nolan Ryan MacNeil  
 Kaden Hackney  
 Melanie Hackney

**RHINO**

Mitchell Frizzell  
 Koa Randall Shannon  
 Catherine Webster  
 Chelsea Pitonyak Ellison

**ROCK HYRAX**

Taylor Colimore

**SLOTH**

Ariela Delacruz  
 Maxon Carlisle  
 Dawn Micki Smith  
 Desranni Carkisle

Braxton McCoy Pickett  
 Jaxon Verser  
 Addie Yohnke  
 Kenneth Wicker  
 Sutton Franke  
 Pam Rhode  
 Samantha Serna

**SPOTTED TURTLE**

Janiaya Prince  
 Nathan Adam Wisz  
 Brooke Zuniga  
 Demi Stuck  
 Caila Janay  
 Jayden Hobbs  
 Alyssa Michelle Hovanec  
 Jennifer Piegzik

**TAPIR**

Ben Burch  
 Daniel Culpepper

**THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO**

McClane Arthur Bray

**TIGER**

Leo Jackson  
 Tracey Lasak  
 Jay Goldschmidt  
 The Frost Family

**WATUSI CATTLE**

Courtney Leigh Britt  
 Worrall

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