

# Zoo Review

VIRGINIAZOO.ORG

## ALL ABOUT ANIMAL AMBASSADORS

Learn about some of the animals that live behind-the-scenes and what they do at the Zoo!

**PAGES 4 & 5**

## THE VALUE OF ZOO MEMBERSHIP

Are you taking advantage of all the valuable benefits of your Zoo membership? Find out!

**PAGES 6 & 7**

## ZIPPING THROUGH THE ZOO

Read about the Zoo's new interpretive pathway.

**PAGE 14**



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### CAN YOU GUESS THIS ANIMAL?

This photo is a close up of the skin of a Jamaican boa. These boas have greenish-yellow skin in the front of their body and shift to pitch-black in the back half. When under the correct lighting their skin can give off an iridescent sheen, as seen in this photo.

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

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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.

THE CITY OF  
**NORFOLK**

## FROM THE BOARD



BOARD PRESIDENT NICOLE CARRY, VISITING OUR FRIENDS IN THE ZOO FARM

Dear Virginia Zoo Members,

Spring is in full bloom at the Virginia Zoo, and with it comes a season of exciting new beginnings! As we step into this vibrant time of year, we're reminded of the incredible support from members like you - our Zoo family, who make everything we do possible.

This quarter, we're thrilled to share some remarkable updates. Our conservation efforts continue to expand, with new initiatives supporting endangered species both here and across the globe. We've also welcomed some adorable new residents; my personal favorite is **Theodore**, our new Western Heritage mini cow. Be sure to visit soon and meet the latest additions to our Zoo family!

Perhaps most exciting of all-- construction is officially underway on our brand-new **Macon and Joan Brock EdVenture & Exploration Campus!** This state-of-the-art facility will be a hub for curiosity, discovery, and hands-on learning bringing children and families even closer to the natural world. From interactive exhibits to immersive classrooms, this campus will be a game-changer in how we engage and inspire future conservationists.

And of course, we can't forget to mention our upcoming events! Whether you're joining us for our annual **ZooGrooves** concert series, experiencing a **Member Morning**, or celebrating conservation at one of our three **Member Nights** of the season, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Your membership helps us protect and care for animals, educate future generations, and advocate for conservation worldwide. We look forward to seeing you at the Zoo soon and showing you the progress on our exciting new EdVenture & Exploration Campus!

With gratitude,  
Nicole Carry  
President, Board of Directors  
Virginia Zoological Society

## NEW AT THE ZOO

**A**

**Tamera** the Toco toucan joined the Zoo in December 2024. She lives behind-the-scenes and is in training to become an Animal Ambassador, like our other toucan named **Tia**.



**D**

Meet our sweet female Northern tree shrew, **Gherkin!** She's been a delight to have around the ZooFarm. You can visit her in our Yellow Barn with **Nitro** the male Northern tree shrew.



**E**

**Eleana, Myrcella,** and **Moonsinger** the Huacaya alpacas joined the Zoo family in January. Visit them at the Red Barn in our ZooFarm this spring.



**B**

The Zoo welcomed two Western Heritage mini cows, **Savannah** and **Tess**, to the ZooFarm in November. Savannah can be distinguished by her white fur with black spots while Tess has black fur with white spots.



**F**

A new cow moo-ved in to ZooFarm in February! Savannah the Western Heritage mini cow gave birth to her calf named **Theodore**. We can't wait to watch him grow this year!



**G**

**Elbe** and **Jilin** the Asian small-clawed otters arrived at the Zoo at the end of 2024 as a recommended breeding pair, according to their Species Survival Plan® program. Our otters share a habitat space with our white-cheeked gibbons, **Henley** and **Dexter**.

**C**

Two parentie monitors are officially the "new kids on the block" in our World of Reptiles. This pair, **Daphne** and **Jasper**, have separate habitats in the Conservatory.



# What is an Animal Ambassador?

Story by Animal Ambassador Specialist, Callie Spruill

All animals at the Zoo serve as ambassadors for their wild counterparts, but the group of animals we refer to as “Animal Ambassadors” have an extra special job here at the Virginia Zoo. Our Animal Ambassador collection consists of around 70 individuals across over 50 different species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates! These animals are specially trained to travel to schools in the Hampton Roads area, greet guests as they arrive at Zoo events, make occasional appearances around the Zoo for what we call “pop up” encounters, and more!

Animal Ambassador presentations educate the public about our animals in a fun and engaging way, inspire increased empathy for animals and their natural habitats, and motivate guests to take conservation action. These presentations are an essential part of achieving both the Virginia Zoo’s and our accrediting institution Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ (AZA) missions.

We currently house these animals behind-the-scenes; however, with the construction of our new Macon and Joan Brock EdVenture & Exploration Campus, they will soon be visible to guests during their trips to the Zoo.



Machu the chinchilla



Bisquick the pancake tortoise



Jiminy the eastern screech owl

## How can you meet an Animal Ambassador?

In addition to education programs and special events, our Animal Ambassadors can also participate in Group Behind-the-Scenes Tours! On this 30-minute group tour, guests have the chance to meet several of the animals in our Animal Ambassador collection, ranging from small to medium-sized mammals, birds, snakes, lizards, tortoises, and more. This tour presents the opportunity to meet our Animal Ambassadors up close, learn more about them, and meet the Zoo staff who take outstanding care of them. You may also get the opportunity to take part in a hands-on training session with our Animal Ambassadors. These tours can be booked April through August on our website, [virginiazoo.org/behind-the-scenes-tours](http://virginiazoo.org/behind-the-scenes-tours).



Chonk the striped skunk enjoys training with his keepers in a more intimate setting without large crowds of people around. He joined the Zoo at a young age from another AZA zoo, unable to be returned to the wild.



Some animals, such as Big Red, our green-winged macaw, love to spend time with large groups of people at Zoo events. Big Red will show off his dance moves, blow kisses to the crowd, and even “roar” like a lion!

To be a potential Animal Ambassador, the species must be docile and have a calm disposition (*that means no tigers are coming to your school!*). Many of our animals came to the Zoo at a young age from wildlife rehabilitators or other AZA institutions on recommendations from their Species Survival Plan (SSP); we immediately begin working with the animals from the first day they arrive to develop relationships with them. Once keepers get to know the animal, we will start to teach them husbandry behaviors like getting on a scale, going into a kennel, and following a target pole using positive reinforcement based training.



Our animals are given choice and control to participate in programming and each animal has different needs and preferences. For example, our striped skunk, Chonk, prefers to hang out with smaller crowds, while our green-winged macaw, Big Red, loves to dance with large groups of excited guests! The goal of training an Animal Ambassador is to make interacting with the public an enriching experience for both the guest and the animal, as well as to show off their natural behaviors.

## MEMBERSHIP

# The Value of a Zoo Membership in 2025

A Virginia Zoo membership isn't just a great way to save money—it's an investment in year-round family fun, wildlife conservation, and exclusive perks. For a family of four (two adults and two children), **the cost of membership pays for itself in just 2.5 visits**, and for other household types, the savings can add up even faster. But beyond unlimited admission, do you know about the extra benefits your membership includes? From special discounts and early access to Safari Camp and event tickets, your membership comes with more than just daily entry—it's packed with perks that can make every visit even more memorable!



### JANUARY

**\$55+ VALUE**

The new year starts with early access and a new decoration for your refrigerator! This month members receive a discount on summer **Safari Camp** and our **Breakfast with the Animals** event. In addition to that exclusive early access, members receive a new **limited-edition magnet** featuring one of the Zoo's animals.



### FEBRUARY

**\$148+ VALUE**

Celebrate Valentine's Day the Virginia Zoo way with discounted tickets to our annual **Kiss & Tail** walking brunch event, or spread your love of the Zoo by gifting a friend your **FREE Bring-a-Friend ticket!** Members also get early access to tickets for **Tails & Trails: Dog Day at the Zoo**, a once-in-a-lifetime experience for your canine companion.

### MARCH

**\$88+ VALUE**

Every month at the Virginia Zoo is wild, but especially March! For the entire month, Members can participate in March Member Madness with visits to the Zoo to earn entries into a raffle for exciting **prizes**, including 4 Virginia Zoo Express train punch cards, 3 Gift Shop vouchers, 1 four-pack of meal vouchers, and 1 two-pack of Adult Night tickets (ages 21+ only). **Don't miss your chance to win BIG!**



### APRIL

**\$39+ VALUE**

April showers bring awesome Virginia Zoo membership perks! Collect another **limited-edition member magnet** and snag your **ZooGrooves: Pop Punk Edition** tickets early. For the 21+ crowd, get your discounted **Adult Night** tickets before this popular event sells out!



### MAY

**\$60+ VALUE**

All May long, Virginia Zoo members enjoy in-person wine club status at **Waters Edge Winery** when they present their valid Zoo membership! Get complimentary wine tastings every day of May or 50% off dine-in bottles of wine from Monday through Thursday each week! Wine's not your jam – join us for **Bike Night**, **Party for the Planet**, or **ZooGrooves: Pop Punk Edition** instead where members receive discounted or free admission!



### JUNE

**\$104+ VALUE**

Kick off the summer with a splash! Visit the Zoo for **Member Mornings** every Saturday and Sunday from 8:30-9:30am to enjoy cooler weather, easy parking, and watch what it takes for us to open the Zoo each day. You'll also get complimentary admission to the **Hermitage Museum and Gardens** and a discount on **Pride Night** tickets!

### JULY

**\$109+ VALUE**

Celebrate our mascot, Tango the Tiger's, birthday at an **exclusive after-hours Member Night** event just for Virginia Zoo members! This roar-some event highlights how and why the Zoo works so hard to build connections between our members and animals. We also offer an **Adult Night** ticket discount and early access to **ZooGrooves: 90s Country** tickets!



### AUGUST

**\$197+ VALUE**

It's fun to stay at the YMCA using your Virginia Zoo Membership! For the whole month of August, our members can visit any of the 21 **YMCA of South Hampton Roads** locations to enjoy a safe place to exercise with fitness equipment, indoor and outdoor pools, group fitness classes, and childcare while they work out. Members also enjoy early access to **Fall Fest** and **Zoovies** tickets!



### SEPTEMBER

**\$131.90+ VALUE**

Don't leaf any of your September member benefits unused – harvest them all! Visit the **Nauticus** with our membership swap; grab discounted tickets to our **Zoovies**, **Fall Fest**, and **Monarch Mile** events; and get **early access** to tickets for our fang-tastic October events.



### OCTOBER

**\$135+ VALUE**

Enjoy a series of spooktacular events at the Zoo all October long! With discounted **ZooBoo**, **Adult Night**, and **Howl-o-ween: Dog Day at the Zoo** tickets, there is sure to be a treat for members of all ages (and species!). October also marks the start of our **Member Perks Pass** – visit the Zoo as many times as you can until the end of the year to win fabulous prizes!

### NOVEMBER

**\$30 VALUE**

In November, we express our thanks to our Virginia Zoo Members by offering a **FREE bring-a-friend ticket!** So wrangle up your favorite non-member friend and show them why you love the Zoo so much! Plus check your mail box for your **FREE 2026 Zoo Calendar**.



### DECEMBER

**\$15+ VALUE**

Give wild gifts for the holidays by shopping at our Gift Shop! From December 14-20, enjoy a **25% discount** on unique gifts for all your conservation-minded family and friends. Enjoy a free, **limited-edition member ornament** featuring one of your favorite Virginia Zoo residents. We also offer free admission to **Holidays in the Wild: Holiday Market** and our **Noon Years Eve** celebration!

**TOTAL 2025 VALUE\* OF VIRGINIA ZOO MEMBERSHIP**

**\$1,119.90+**

*\*Value is determined based on a family of four.*



# 2024 EdZOOcation by the numbers



### Story by Hayley Fier

It's all about the mission here at the Virginia Zoo - engaging our community in taking action to save the world's wildlife and their ecosystems. To further that mission, our Education Department has undergone a name change and is now the Department of Mission Engagement. This reflects the addition of conservation programs to the department's responsibilities. Here at the Zoo, we approach conservation by striving to uphold our 3 C's: **Care**, **Connection**, and **Community**. Have you ever attended an Educator Chat, Zoo Tales, Wild Walk guided tour, Safari Camp, or other educational program at the Zoo? If so, then you know firsthand how our team connects guests to the world's biodiversity through storytelling about our individual animals, the relationships between humans and wildlife, and our **connection** to nature through shared resources and living space. Our Mission Engagement team is also actively involved in building **community**, both in the Zoo and with other conservation-minded people worldwide. Whether this be through helping teen volunteers build a community with a common interest in wildlife or through teaching guests how they can participate in community science programs, like FrogWatch or Caterpillars Count, our Mission Engagement team brings people together.



215

education staff and volunteers

692

guest engagement programs

377,474

participants in mission engagement

530

animal ambassador encounters



308

education programs and outreach events

12,255

hours engaging guests in our mission

# Exhibit Design

## Learn how the Zoo approaches exhibit design and what goes into housing our animals.

Story by Kirstin Pendleton

What goes into creating a safe, comfortable, and appropriate space for exotic animals? Designing and building exhibits at the Zoo is a lengthy process that involves the collaboration of different experts, such as animal care staff, architects, and builders, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone (*animals included!*) involved and provide a variety of viewpoints.



### THE ANIMAL

Exhibit design always begins with considering the natural habitat and behavior of the animal. This space is going to be their home and the place where they spend their time, so Zoo staff work diligently to ensure their habitat is the best it can be for the animal's needs and lifestyle. The exhibit design process begins by consulting with animal care staff and the veterinary team for their research, expertise, and opinions on what is best for the animal. This will involve understanding what the animal needs such as shade structures, pools, or safe plants to have in the space as well as confirming the regulations that are required for specific exhibits. For example, the Masai giraffe exhibit had to be designed to accommodate the animals' incredible height but the surrounding vegetation had to be safe and edible for the giraffes.

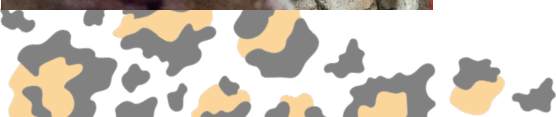
### SAFETY

The safety of our animals and guests is always a top priority, making this a crucial consideration through all steps of the exhibit design process. Elements such as double fencing, moats, and hot wire exist throughout all exhibits to keep guests safe from our animals, but to also keep our animals safe from native wildlife. One example of safety being a main component to exhibit design is the African lion exhibit. This exhibit features a moat to help contain the lions while providing an aesthetic water feature.



### GUEST EXPERIENCE

Another important element of exhibit design is the guest experience. Aside from our keepers, guests will be the individuals that engage the most with our exhibits, so it is a priority to make their interactions enjoyable! Several ways the design focuses on guest experience is through reduced glare on viewing windows, windows into an animal's indoor space, or making spaces visible to people of all heights including children or individuals using wheelchairs. In our renovation of Asia: Trail of the Tiger in 2023, we also changed fencing in an effort to make exhibits easily visible at different heights. Our orangutan and siamang dayrooms are examples of increased guest experience as people are able to see the animals inside even if the weather does not permit outdoor access.



# Poppy, Bornean orangutan

Photo by Cassie Wyles

Orangutans are the only primarily arboreal great apes and are the largest tree-dwelling mammals.

Baby orangutans form strong bonds with their moms and will spend 7-10 years with them before venturing off on their own.

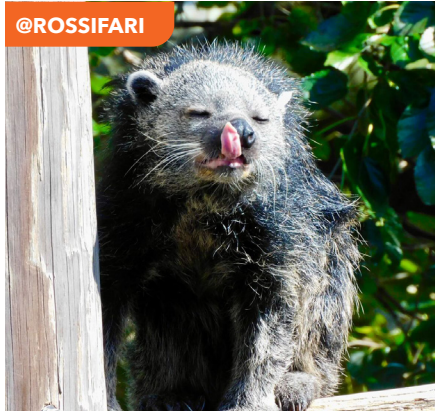
Humans share approximately 97% of our DNA with orangutans.



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

**FAN PHOTOS**

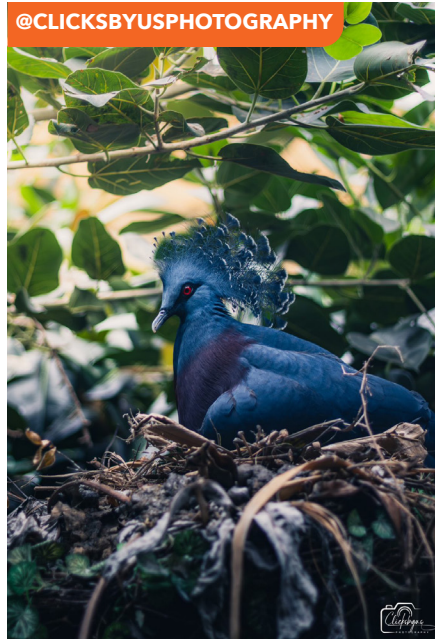
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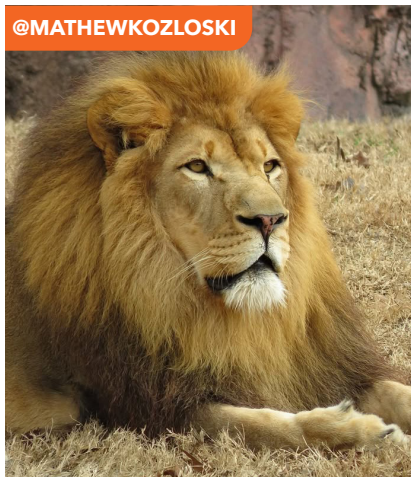
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**Homeschool at the Zoo!**

*with our education programs*

Take your education to the next level with our new Homeschool Programs! Round out your homeschool curriculum with engaging and hands-on activities with programs that fit your learning objectives. Scan the QR code to learn more!



Member Night - free for Zoo members



Teddy Bear Clinic - free with Zoo admission



ZooGrooves - member tickets on sale 7/18



Zoovies - free for Zoo members

**2025 EVENTS**

**Here's what to look forward to in the 2025 event season!**

This season brings a variety of new and returning events that are sure to delight everyone in your herd!

**MEMBER NIGHT - 6/26, 7/24 & 8/14**

A special, free, after-hours event, exclusively for Virginia Zoo Members! This three-night event series will feature activities centered around the Virginia Zoo's 3 C's of Conservation: Care, Connection & Community. Enjoy the opportunity to visit the Zoo after hours, sample local food trucks, ride the Virginia Zoo Express train for free, and much more!

**TEDDY BEAR CLINIC - 8/23**

Beat those back-to-school blues by bringing your little one to the Zoo for a check-up on their favorite stuffed animal! Healthcare doesn't have to be a scare - our educators, volunteers, and community partners are ready to ease kids' anxiety by guiding their exploration of medical exams through play during this free with general admission event.

**ZOOGROOVES: 90S COUNTRY - 8/29**

When the sun goes down on our side of town, the Virginia Zoo hosts ZooGrooves: 90s Country Edition! Saddle up for a wild ride down memory lane at this all-ages, outdoor, concert-style event. We'll have boot scootin' tunes from your favorite country artists, the chance to say "howdy" to your favorite Animal Ambassadors, a vendor market, and much more! Break out your finest cowboy boots, flannels and denim, and corral your friends to join you.

**ZOOVIES - 9/16**

You bring the wizards, we'll bring the beasts! The Virginia Zoo is preparing for a magical evening under the stars watching *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* on September 16th. Don't forget to wear the colors of your house to celebrate!

Interested in more events? Scan the QR code to see the full 2025 event lineup!



# ZIPping through the Zoo!

## The Zooticulture Interpretive Pathway

Story by Michelle Lewis

Here at the Virginia Zoo we have over 53 acres of land that must be managed, not just for the animals in our care, but for the wildlife that call this part of Virginia home as well. Horticulture at the Zoo, or “Zooticulture” as we like to call it, is the intersection of that work. Our horticulture professionals must manage plants and their needs, while also considering how those plants interact with the animals in our care and guests who enjoy the Zoo, as well as increase habitats for native species.

We have created this “Zooticulture” Interpretive Path, also known as the ZIP, to highlight these practices. Look for signs with the ZIP logo to learn how “Zooticulture”:



- ⇒ Enhances stewardship of the natural world;
- ⇒ Promotes scientific advancement;
- ⇒ Considers safety for animals, guests, and local ecosystems;
- ⇒ Supports sustainability; and
- ⇒ Provides supportive design for animal wellbeing.

In addition to the signs, we’ve also created an audio tour. Check out the QR codes on each sign to listen to the tour at each stop and learn more about each garden and its purpose. You’ll stop at 10 different gardens, such as the Pollinator Pathway, Living Wall at the Aldabra tortoise habitat, ZooFarm garden, and the newly created Moon Garden centered around a loblolly pine known as the “moon tree” because it has actually traveled past the moon! Together, we have the power to save wildlife and their habitats by learning how to create healthy environments, being responsible consumers, having effective waste management, and being actively engaged in our community. We can’t wait for you to explore the new ZIP to find out how.

### From the Curator:

Our Curator of Horticulture, Kent, says, “The ZIP [Zooticulture Interpretive Pathway] will help educate our community on the important role that horticulture plays here at the Virginia Zoo. Visitors will see firsthand how our environmental choices directly impact the lives of our animal collection. Hopefully our practices will inspire people to make the same choices in their yards as well!”



# Keeping Birds SAFE

## The Zoo Gift Shop welcomes bird-friendly coffee to help save native bird species from extinction.

Story by Mary Beth Waltmann

Fantastic news from the Virginia Zoo Gift Shop-- we have recently started selling Bird Friendly® coffee! You might ask what Bird Friendly® coffee is... simply put, Bird Friendly® coffee comes from farms that provide good, forest-like habitat for birds and other wildlife. Bird Friendly® coffees are shade-grown, meaning the coffee is planted under a canopy of native trees, rather than land that has been cleared of all other vegetation. Bird Friendly® coffees are also certified organic, meaning they are grown without the use of chemical pesticides that are harmful to the environment.

Choosing Bird Friendly® certified coffee is the best way to ensure your coffee is protecting important habitat for birds and other wildlife. Unlike other certifications that only require a fraction of their product to meet sustainability standards, Bird Friendly® coffee is the only option on the market that guarantees 100% of coffee beans roasted and sold are grown in a way that protects habitats. In addition, buying Bird Friendly® coffee supports farmers who are dedicated to sustainable farming practices.

Bird Friendly® coffee only costs a few cents more per cup than conventional coffees. Coffee experts say Bird Friendly® coffees taste better because the beans ripen slower than coffee grown in the full sun, resulting in a richer, more complex flavor! We made the switch to Bird Friendly® coffee because our facility felt it was important to provide our guests with coffee that protects habitat, instead of destroying it. We’re encouraging our guests to join us in making the switch to Bird Friendly® certified coffee—it’s a simple, yet impactful way to help birds and other wildlife with every cup of coffee brewed. Stop by the Virginia Zoo Gift Shop today to join us in making the switch to Bird Friendly® coffee!



### Make your own bird-friendly coffee creations!

Bird Friendly® Cold Brew

#### Ingredients:

- 55g of coarsely ground Bird Friendly® coffee
- 16oz of cold, filtered water
- Creamer or sweetener of your choosing (optional)

#### Method:

- Add coffee to French press or seal-able container and pour water over. Stir the mixture.
- Seal the mixture and let steep for 12+ hours.
- Strain out coffee and pour liquid into cup.
- Add creamer or sweetener and enjoy!

## CREATURE FEATURE

# Eastern Mountain Bongo

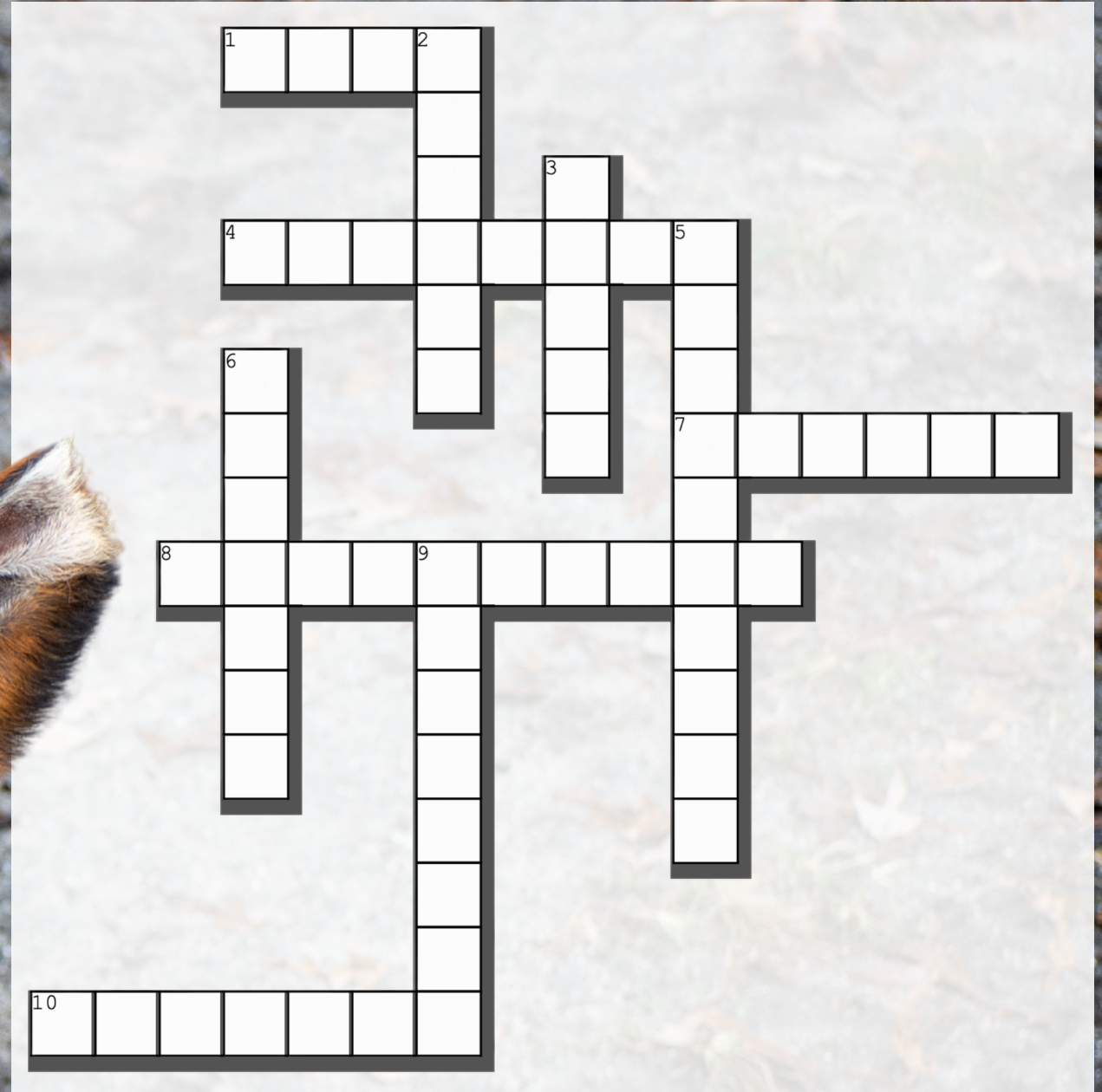
Meet **Charlie**, the eastern mountain **bongo**! Though we might think of bongos as a musical instrument, their name is actually thought to come from the word for “**antelope**” in the Kele language of Gabon. Antelopes are **hoofed** mammals, or **ungulates**, known for their speed and agility when escaping predators, as well as their unusual horn shapes. Bongos are native to **forest** habitats in **Africa**, and they are the largest species of forest antelope, weighing in at 350 to 900 pounds and standing about 4 feet tall at the shoulder!

Bongos have spiral, lyre-shaped horns that may grow up to three feet in length! Their hollow horns are made of bone covered in a **keratin** sheath (the same protein in our hair and nails!). Bongos are also the only spiral-horned antelope species in which males and females have horns!

Bongos have a reddish-brown or rust colored coat with 10-15 vertical stripes down their back, which helps them **camouflage**. However, a bongo's distinctive color can also help them locate others in their herd, as the red pigment in their coat can easily rub off and stain plants.

At the Virginia Zoo, Charlie is an ambassador for her **endangered** species, educating the public on her wild counterparts. She lives along the African Safari Trail and you can meet her on a private Behind-the-Scenes Tour. Book your tour on our website today at [virginiazoo.org/behind-the-scenes-tours](http://virginiazoo.org/behind-the-scenes-tours).

## Crossword



Use to clues below and bolded in the article to complete the crossword puzzle. Answer key on page 19.

### Across

1. The hardened covering on a bongo's toes that helps them walk or run.
4. A fast-running, deer-like animal that has hollow horns.
7. The continent eastern mountain bongos are native to.
8. Coloration that allows an animal to blend in to their surroundings.
10. Name of the Virginia Zoo's bongo.

### Down

2. A bongo's natural home that is characterized by trees.
3. A musical instrument and type of antelope.
5. At risk of disappearing, or becoming extinct.
6. Protein found in our hair and nails, or a bongo's horns.
9. A type of mammal that has hooves, like a bongo.

# It's Electric, Boogie Woogie Woogie

All aboard the Virginia Zoo Express! The new year brings new excitement to the Virginia Zoo Express electric train. In the 2025 season, we are introducing a wide variety of train-centric events and promotions to celebrate our electric train and all the joy it brings to our guests!

All info about these promotions can be found on our website at [virginiazoo.org/events](http://virginiazoo.org/events).



## Special Free Train Ride Days

We wouldn't be where we are without our amazing community, so we're giving back in the form of free train rides! Mothers, Fathers, First Responders, and Veterans can all ride free on their respective days. Mark your calendars and schedule your Zoo trip for these days to make sure your loved ones ride the train for free! For all dates visit [virginiazoo.org/events](http://virginiazoo.org/events).



## One Year Birthday Celebration

It's been almost 1 whole year since the return of our Zoo train with an all-new electric makeover. We will be commemorating this milestone moment on August 26 with a Virginia Zoo Express train birthday celebration! Visit the train station during your visit for exclusive train merch and photos with the Zoo's mascot, Tango the tiger!



## Dress Like a Conductor Day

Have you ever thought about being a train conductor? Well, we have a day that'll get you back on track! Visit the Zoo in your best conductor outfit on **June 7, July 5, or August 2** and receive Buy One, Get One for \$1 train rides! Looking for a more in-depth train experience? Book one of our Train Engineer for a Day tours to get the full Zoo train engineer experience! Visit [virginiazoo.org/train-engineer-for-a-day](http://virginiazoo.org/train-engineer-for-a-day) to learn more.

## Fuel up for a wild day at the Zoo!

As the temperatures start to warm up, now is the perfect time to stop at our African Village Restaurant or Beastro Cafe. With brand new menu items such as dirt pudding cups, buffalo snack wraps, and chicken bacon ranch snack wraps or the new limited edition 2025 souvenir cup, there is sure to be something to satisfy everyone! These warm temperatures also make the perfect environment for a MiniMelts ice cream break, available at the African Village Restaurant, Beastro, MiniMelts kiosk, and Stroller Shack. Additionally, don't forget that Zoo Members always receive 10% off on all food and drinks every day!



THANK YOU!

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

**LEADERSHIP SOCIETY (AS OF FEBRUARY 2025)** 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                      | Maria & David Cundiff     | Henry & Eleanor Harris           | Burt & Sandi Prestridge     | Goody Tyler III                          |
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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 at [virginiazoo.org/zoooptions/](http://virginiazoo.org/zoooptions/) for more information.

- |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>AFRICAN LION</b><br>Josiah Ludwig<br>Larry Best<br>Keagan Mercer<br>Camden Tomlin          | <b>CHEETAH</b><br>Madison Jeanann Coolbaugh<br>Brittany Franklin<br>Jason Marlowe<br>Emily Langlois<br>Julie Blumenthal<br>Emily Hamel-Serenity | Virginia "Ginny" Shea<br>Trish Strauss<br>Grayson Young<br>Zita Elder   | <b>RED RIVER HOG</b><br>Jeannie Krupinski<br>James Rockwell  | Caroline Hook   |
| <b>ALDABRA TORTOISE</b><br>Wes D Diggle<br>Daniel Marlowe                                     | <b>CINEREOUS VULTURE</b><br>Sarah Golson  | <b>MEERKAT</b><br>Matthew Marlowe<br>Guiliana Culley  | <b>RETICULATED PYTHON</b><br>Kadence Lafontaine  | <b>WHITE RHINO</b><br>Alyssa Pesich<br>Philomena Perrone<br>Lilith Thompson<br>Rory Dolin<br>Eli<br>Brayden White<br>Kian Bailey-Keys<br>James Humm |
| <b>ASIAN SMALL-CLAWED OTTER</b><br>Eli Lomogda  | <b>EYELASH VIPER</b><br>Samuil Lyutskanov   | <b>MINIATURE ZEBU COW</b><br>Gary Giffin  | <b>ROCK HYRAX</b><br>Dan Benjamin<br>Olivia McBride<br>Matthew Klock<br>Natakie Muradian<br>Jesse Appling<br>Ellis Zaritsky<br>Irene Carriere<br>Gary Brattelli<br>Maddie Jeffries<br>Pamela Minkler | <b>WHITE-STRIPED SKUNK</b><br>Sarah Golson  |
| <b>ASIATIC BLACK BEAR</b><br>Gideon Krock<br>Jasmine Holland<br>Holly Jackson<br>Joy Davis    | <b>HARTMANN'S MOUNTAIN ZEBRA</b><br>Zachary Suit  | <b>NIGERIAN DWARF GOAT</b><br>Brianna Mazza   | <b>PREVOST'S SQUIRREL</b><br>Sarah Golson  | <b>YELLOW-FOOTED TORTOISE</b><br>Jim Hartnett   |
| <b>BEARDED DRAGON</b><br>Horton-Labela Family Andrew, Lucy Eva                                | <b>LAUGHING KOOKABURRA</b><br>Jolie Clark   | <b>PEACOCK</b><br>Artie Irizarry  | <b>SAURUS CRANE</b><br>Courtney Britt Worrall  |   |
| <b>BINTURONG</b><br>James Van Loenen<br>Sharon Cohen<br>Sarah Mitchell<br>Maxwell             | <b>MACAOW</b><br>Austin Taylor Darden   | <b>RED FOX</b><br>Lior Cohen  | <b>SIAMANG</b><br>Jenna Clark<br>Arleen Sobel  | <b>Crossword Answer Key</b><br>(page 17)  |
| <b>BORNEAN ORANGUTAN</b><br>Peter Lyutskanov<br>Robin Gilmore<br>John Lomogda<br>Trudy Larson | <b>MALAYAN TAPIR</b><br>Benjamin Harris   | <b>RED PANDA</b><br>Vanessa Washington Jacobo<br>Roxanne Humphrey<br>Teon Taylor<br>Harper Waranch<br>Jocelyn Medeiros<br>Cyrus Bobinson<br>Derren Bey<br>Eli<br>Michael B Walker<br>James Van Loenen<br>Kim Dirato<br>Sylvie Lomogda<br>Kaitlyn Stemplen<br>Clint<br>Lyla Ludwig | <b>SIAMESE CROCODILE</b><br>Brittaney the killer Kovacs<br>Austin Presley<br>Xander Davis<br>Kaison Davis<br>Aiden Amponin   | <b>Across</b><br>1. Hoof<br>4. Antelope<br>7. Africa<br>8. Camouflage<br>10. Charlie  |
| <b>BUMBLE BEE</b><br>Sharon McClellan   | <b>MALAYAN TIGER</b><br>Haylie Taylor<br>Jonathan Norkiewicz<br>Eli<br>Michael Mazza<br>Levi Cohen<br>Thomas Kerfoot                            | <b>MASAI GIRAFFE</b><br>The Capparelli's<br>Ashlee Autore<br>Eli<br>Will & Christie Bertholf<br>Aila Crews  | <b>TWO-TOED SLOTH</b><br>Nicole McAlister<br>Carmela Carleo<br>Meghan Nicole Ewing<br>Brittany Stormy<br>Amber Alexander   | <b>Down</b><br>2. Forest<br>3. Bongo<br>5. Endangered<br>6. Keratin<br>9. Ungulate  |
| <b>CAPE PORCUPINE</b><br>James Van Loenen   |   |   |  |   |

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# Birthday Parties at the Zoo

Celebrate your wild child at the Virginia Zoo! This one-of-a-kind party experience is sure to be a **ROAR-some** time for your child and their friends. Parties are held year-round on Saturdays and Sundays at 10am, 10:30am or 1:30pm. We host 2pm parties seasonally, from late spring through early fall.

**Every party includes:**

- ▶ 90 minutes of party time in private space
- ▶ Special gift from the Virginia Zoo to the birthday child
- ▶ Water & lemonade
- ▶ Eco-friendly table covers + paper products
- ▶ Exclusive encounters with **TWO** animal ambassadors
- ▶ Digital invitations
- ▶ All-day admission for up to 35 party attendees (a \$595 value!)



Members save  
on parties! Scan  
the QR code for  
more info!

