

NEWS RELEASE



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MEMBERS SNEAK A PEEK THROUGH THE EYE OF THE TIGER

Norfolk, Va. – March 2-6 members of the Virginia Zoo will be allowed a sneak peek at the Virginia Zoo's new exhibit, which is scheduled to open in April.

Asia – Trail of the Tiger will provide a unique viewing environment designed to showcase the kinds of animals an Asian tiger might encounter in the wild. It will feature wildlife from throughout the Asian continent, including otters, orangutans, gibbons, tapirs, a colorful collection of birds, and of course, tigers. In all, the new exhibit will bring more than 30 exciting individual animals to the Zoo, nearly doubling the number of large animals available for people to visit.

“Zoo members are both financially and emotionally invested in the Zoo, and they are critical to our conservation efforts,” said Greg Bockheim, the Virginia Zoo's executive director. “It's important to give back to them whenever we can, and the Trail of the Tiger sneak peek is one way we can do that.”

Conservation is a core part of the Virginia Zoo's mission. One example of this is the Species Survival Plan, a cooperative program by members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums that includes animal cooperative breeding, research, education and reintroduction efforts. Many of the animals people will be able to visit in the Trail of the Tiger exhibit are SSP participants.

“The sneak peek is an awesome opportunity for our members, but it's only one of many benefits membership has to offer,” said Lori Cummings, membership manager for the Virginia Zoo. Cummings added that it isn't too late to become a member and participate in the Trail of the Tiger sneak peek.

In addition to special member-only events like the sneak peek, Zoo members get free admission all year long – which can pay for a family of four’s membership in roughly two and one-half visits – early admission to the Zoo on busy summer weekends, discounts at the restaurant, gift shop and on family programs, and free admission to most Zoo events, including three new Zoo Grooves summer evening concerts.



Dexter, a male gibbon, is just one of the new animals Virginia Zoo members may get to see during the Trail of the Tiger sneak peek March 2-6 (Virginia Zoo photo by Wyn Hall).

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As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits over 350 animals, beautifully manicured grounds and offers a fun-filled day for all. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to wildlife, conservation and education. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors (age 62 and over), and \$9.00 for children ages 2-11. Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.