



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **VIRGINIA ZOO TO HOLD INAUGURAL 5K FOR ORANGUTANS**

Norfolk, Va. – The Virginia Zoo will hold its inaugural five kilometer run/walk for the orangutans Saturday, March 12, 2011.

The race celebrates the opening of the Virginia Zoo's dynamic new exhibit, Asia – Trail of the Tiger, which features wildlife from throughout the Asian continent, including Malayan tigers, Asian otters, gibbons, tapirs and, of course, orangutans. Trail of the Tiger is scheduled to open in April.

Participation in the race will not only help support animals at the Virginia Zoo, but a portion of the proceeds will help protect orangutans in their natural habitat through the Ape Taxon Advisory Group in partnership with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

“This is a fun way for both serious runners and families to help save a magical animal and get some exercise at the same time,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo's executive director.

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and only an estimated 6,600 remain in the wild. Logging and palm oil plantation development have destroyed much of their habitat. One program supported by the Ape Taxon Advisory Group helps protect Sumatran orangutans by promoting ecotourism and identifying sustainable livelihoods that preserve their habitat.

The five kilometer race course, managed by KaleRunning.com, starts in front of the Zoo's main entrance at 7 a.m. Participants will run or walk through Lafayette Park, the surrounding Riverview neighborhood and back to the Zoo's parking lot to finish. At 8:15 a.m., a children's fun run will also be held inside the Zoo at Flora Point.

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While the five kilometer race will be accurately measured for race enthusiasts, it will be equally fun for families and friends who simply want to enjoy the outdoors and experience the thrill of taking part in a new community tradition.

Registration is \$30.00 before race day. Race day registration is \$35. The children's fun run registration is \$5.00 per child through race day. The run is a rain or shine event, and no refunds, exchanges or transfers are allowed. More information and registration forms are available at <http://www.virginiazoo.org/zoo-happenings/5k-run-walk-2011.asp>. Registration is also available on Active.com at <http://www.active.com/running/norfolk-va/inaugural-run-for-the-orangutans-2011>. Race day registration will be available at the Zoo from 6 a.m. to 6:55 a.m.



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*As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 350 animals on 53 beautifully landscaped acres. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to education and conservation, and offered a fun-filled day for visitors of any age. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors (age 62 and over), and \$9.00 for children ages 2-11. Visit [www.virginiazoo.org](http://www.virginiazoo.org) or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.*