

NEWS RELEASE



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ZOO ANNOUNCES ANIMAL WELLNESS CAMPUS CAMPAIGN

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoological Society announced a new capital campaign today for constructing a new animal hospital and diet kitchen, after successfully completing fundraising for the Trail of the Tiger exhibit.

“Asia - Trail of the Tiger has been an amazing success. We set an attendance record this year and have nearly doubled the number of large animals for visitors to see,” said Greg Bockheim, the executive director of the Virginia Zoo. “To provide optimal care for the larger number of animals, and to maintain accreditation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, however, we need a larger animal hospital and diet kitchen.”

Consistent with the Zoo’s commitments to recreation and education, the new veterinary hospital and animal wellness campus will not only deliver the highest level of animal care, but will also provide an educational experience, providing information on animal medicine; the benefits of good nutrition, outdoor activity and exercise; and how our food is grown – including living fruit orchards and vegetable gardens. Visitors will be able to look through viewing windows into treatment, surgery and laboratory rooms, and the animal diet kitchen.

“We hope the campus will inspire children to become doctors or veterinarians,” said Laura Miller, a member of the Zoo board of directors and chairwoman of the Veterinary Hospital and Animal Wellness Campus Capital Campaign, “but first we need to build it.” The campaign needs to raise \$4 million to finance the project, but roughly \$3 million has already been raised.

“Thanks to the support of donors, members, our board of directors, the City of Norfolk and the people of Hampton Roads, today’s Virginia Zoo is able to provide a magical experience,” said Bockheim. “Continued support for new capital projects, like the animal wellness campus, will make that experience truly world class.”

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ANIMAL WELLNESS CAMPUS, 2 OF 2



Conception illustration of the veterinary hospital and diet kitchen building, part of the Virginia Zoo's Veterinary Hospital and Animal Wellness Campus capital project (illustration by Shriver and Holland Associates).

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As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 400 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 or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.