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Contact: Jim Bartoo 833-1534 x 126
jbartoo@nashvillezoo.org



Tiger Cubs Join Zoo's Spring Collection

Two white tiger cubs are bounding onto exhibit at Nashville Zoo this Friday, March 13. The cubs are the second of three black and white species premiering this month. A herd of zebras joined the Zoo March 6, and a couple giant anteaters will premiere next Friday, March 20.

"This is a great opportunity for Nashville Zoo," said Zoo President Rick Schwartz. "Not only do our guests get the rare chance to see white tiger cubs, but our staff also gains a valuable learning opportunity in caring for them."

Zoo visitors can spot the rambunctious cubs, Benwa and Taboo, for a limited time in the former Eurasian lynx exhibit, located down the trail from the adult tiger exhibit. Once the cubs return to their permanent home in Florida, the two lynx will be back on exhibit.

"Benwa and Taboo are sisters and about four months old," said Schwartz. "Right now, they're only about 30 pounds and 2.5 feet long, but in a few months, they will double in size."

The white coats of the cubs result from a natural color variation caused by an extremely rare double-recessive gene. They are not albino as many people often think, and they are the same species as their more common orange counterparts.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Road and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, call 615-833-1534 or visit www.nashvillezoo.org.

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