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Zoo Welcomes Zebra Herd

A herd of zebras is joining Nashville Zoo this Friday, March 6. The seven zebras are the first of three black and white species premiering at the Zoo this month. A pair of white tiger cubs will premiere March 13, and a couple giant anteaters will premiere March 20.

“All seven zebras are believed to be pregnant,” said Zoo President Rick Schwartz, “so some foals could be joining the herd soon. What’s really exciting is that the public will have multiple chances to actually witness these foals being born on exhibit.”

The new zebras are all Damara zebras, a sub-species of the plains zebra that have lighter, brown-colored stripes in addition to the usual black and white. Different zebra species have different types of stripes, but each zebra has a unique stripe pattern, like human fingerprints. In the wild, a zebra’s stripes actually help protect it. When zebras group together, lions and other predators cannot easily pick out one zebra to attack among the myriad of stripes.

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 the 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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