

For Immediate Release
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Newest Addition to Happy Hollow Park & Zoo Needs a Name

Public asked to submit votes to name lemur pup



Lemur pup at HHPZ, Photo courtesy of Trini Rodriguez

SAN JOSE - A new black-and-white ruffed lemur pup was born at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo (HHPZ) on April 6, and the zoo is holding a vote to name the baby.

The pup is a male, and is the offspring of Vintana and Nify, a breeding pair. “Everyone is excited about this new addition,” says Charlotte Orr, Conservation Manager for Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. “The most important takeaway from this baby story is that we are helping slow the decline of critically endangered black-and-white ruffed lemurs.”

The breeding pair at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo are part of the Species Survival Plan for black-and-white ruffed lemurs overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). HHPZ has been accredited by the AZA for over 20 years, and participates in species survival plan programs to enhance the survival of a variety of critically endangered species in the wild.

Black-and-white ruffed lemurs are one of two species of ruffed lemurs, separated from each other by the Antainambalana River in eastern Madagascar. Black-and-white ruffed lemurs are named for the tufts of hair lining their ears and faces. Due to habitat loss and hunting, ruffed lemurs are facing extinction in the wild.

“The Happy Hollow Park & Zoo animal collection has species that were born on site, at another accredited zoo, or that came to us as rescued exotic pets,” says acting Education Specialist, Mandy McGuire. “These animals are all ambassadors for their wild counterparts, and they help us educate and connect visitors to the incredible biodiversity found across the globe.”

The new lemur pup was born inside the exhibit, and is getting bigger and stronger every day. He is very curious, and visitors are already enjoying glimpses of him outside the nest.

Meanwhile, the zoo is asking the public to help vote on a name. Animal care staff chose three names that reflect the species' native lands. "All of our animals' names have an educational component that allows us to teach people about the history, culture, and countries of origin for these different species," says Senior Keeper, Melissa Young.

The public can help them decide by voting here: <http://bit.ly/votelemur>

Here are the potential names nominated by the zoo team and what they mean in Malagasy, the national language of Madagascar:

1. Loka - "Prize" in Malagasy
2. Zandry - "Junior" in Malagasy
3. Volana - "Moon" in Malagasy

Voting opens Friday, April 27 and will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2018. Happy Hollow Park & Zoo will tally the results and announce a winner on Monday, May 14, on social media and the zoo [website](#).

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Happy Hollow Park & Zoo (HHPZ) has provided outdoor play to the Bay Area since 1961. HHPZ is a division of the City of San José Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Department, and is supported by the Happy Hollow Foundation. The mission of HHPZ is to connect people to nature through play. Happy Hollow features a unique combination of family rides and amusements, a Puppet Castle Theater, nature themed play areas, special events for all seasons, an AZA-accredited zoo, and a robust animal education and wildlife conservation program with classes for all ages year-round. HHPZ also offers annual passes for families and individuals. More information can be found at www.hhpz.org or by calling (408) 794-6400.