



For Immediate Release
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Link to media kit, including BROLL, photos, and facts about black-and-white ruffed lemurs:
<http://bit.ly/hhpzlemurmedia>

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo Reveals Baby Lemur Name



The black-and-white ruffed lemur pup born on April 6 at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has a name. Zookeepers chose three possible names – Loka, Zandry, and Volana – and asked the public to vote for their favorite. ‘Loka,’ meaning “prize” in Malagasy, the National language of Madagascar, was the most popular choice.

“It’s not every day that a critically endangered species is born at our zoo,” says Heather Vrzal, HHPZ Zoo Curator. “We wanted to celebrate by letting the public help us decide his name. This helps us educate our community about endangered species, the conservation work we participate in, and it’s a fun way to include our visitors and members.”

Per HHPZ staff, ‘Loka,’ or “prize” in Malagasy (the National language of Madagascar) was the most popular choice. Loka received 353 votes, 42% of the 837 votes cast in the contest. Volana, or “moon” came in second with 262 votes, and Zandry, meaning “junior,” came in third with 222 votes.

“As a modern Zoo, accredited through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, we aim to teach our visitors about the importance of wildlife conservation,” says Charlotte Orr, HHPZ Conservation Manager. “Loka is helping us slow the decline of this critically endangered species.”





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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.

Loka and his parents, Vintana and Nify, are on exhibit in the lower zoo at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. The breeding pair 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.

For more information about Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, please visit www.hhpz.org

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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 memberships for families and individuals. More information can be found at www.hhpz.org or by calling (408) 794-6400.