



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2012

CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE EASTERN BONGO CALF!

Matilda's firstborn gets a chance to explore his habitat on January 5

WHO: On Thursday, January 5, visitors to Zoo Atlanta may be treated to a glimpse of the first Zoo baby to debut in 2012: the eastern bongo calf born to Matilda on December 2.

WHAT: Matilda and her calf will have access to their exhibit for the first time at 1:00 on Thursday, January 5. Whether or not they go into the exhibit will be left up to the discretion of the first-time mother. If all goes well and mother and calf seem comfortable with being on exhibit, they will have exhibit access on Friday, January 6, Saturday, January 7, and Sunday, January 8 when the temperature is at least 50 degrees. Matilda and the calf may be visible to guests intermittently on these days.

The 1-month-old calf also provides guests with an opportunity to appreciate one of the Zoo's rarest and most spectacular species. The largest of the African antelope species, eastern bongos are believed to number fewer than 500 in the wild, where they face extinction as a result of habitat destruction, poaching and hunting for the bushmeat trade. Matilda and her mate, Tambo, were recommended to breed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Species Survival Plan, which seeks to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically diverse population within North American zoos and has reintroduced captive-born bongos to eastern Africa.

WHEN: Thursday, January 5, 2012
1 p.m.

WHERE: Zoo Atlanta
800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30315

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ABOUT:

About Zoo Atlanta

An accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta inspires value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family fun. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with more than 1,000 animals from around the world. Complex Carnivores, a new series of exhibits featuring bush dogs, fossa and binturong, opened on April 1. Zoo Atlanta is also proud to be one of only four zoos in the U.S. that giant pandas call home: Lun Lun's newest cub, Po, born November 3, 2010, made his public debut in spring 2011. Other highlights include the nation's largest collection of western lowland gorillas, the nation's largest zoological collection of orangutans and a global center of excellence for the care and study of vanishing reptiles and amphibians. The Zoo is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, call 404.624.WILD or visit zoatlanta.org.

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