



*For Immediate Release*

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**COMPLEX CARNIVORES OPENS APRIL 1 AT ZOO ATLANTA**

*New at the Zoo will be bush dogs, fossa, binturong and Bruster's*

**ATLANTA – March 31, 2011** — Just in time for Spring Break, Complex Carnivores, a new series of exhibits at Zoo Atlanta, opens on Friday, April 1. The exhibits will open in tandem with the opening of a new ice cream outlet presented by Bruster's Real Ice Cream, Zoo Atlanta's newest on-site partner.

Complex Carnivores will welcome an exciting assortment of fresh faces, introducing three species new to the Zoo. Davi and Ernesto, 18-month-old bush dogs native to South America, are only the Zoo's second canine species. Their neighbors are Logan, a 6-year-old male fossa native to Madagascar, and Timber, a 12-year-old female binturong, from southeast Asia. Next door to naturalistic homes for Davi, Ernesto, Logan and Timber, a new carnivorous plant bog will showcase predatory plants, including Venus fly traps, pitcher plants and sundews. The bog's carnivorous plants were donated by the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

"We're very excited about introducing these new species to our Members and guests," said Dwight Lawson, PhD, Deputy Director. "These are unusual animals that many people in Atlanta may not have seen before, and they have a lot to teach about what it means to be a carnivore and the important roles this diverse group of animals play in their ecosystems."

Complex Carnivores is the second phase of a larger exhibit complex begun in June 2010 with the opening of Trader's Alley: Wildlife's Fading Footprints, which showcased the debut of Malayan sun bears Xander and Sabah. As part of this second phase, Complex Carnivores also features updated viewing of the Zoo's Sumatran tigers and clouded leopard. New tiger training demonstrations, never before presented on public view at Zoo Atlanta, will provide guests with a close personal view as animal care professionals share the tools of their trade in working with these magnificent cats. Tiger training demos begin in summer 2011.

Just up the path from Complex Carnivores will be a delectable assortment of new treats for human omnivores. Bruster's Real Ice Cream opens its newest ice cream stand at Zoo Atlanta on April 1. Founded in 1989 in Bridgewater, Pa., Bruster's features premium ice cream flavored with fine natural ingredients, including candies, fruit and nuts. Ice creams and homemade waffle cones are made fresh in each Bruster's location.

"We're delighted to have Bruster's Real Ice Cream join Zoo Atlanta as a valuable new partner," said Raymond King, President and CEO. "We already offer great options for lunch and snacks at the Zoo, but Bruster's adds a new twist on value and fun for our guests. Between the new treats, the new animals, and the many other exciting things happening at the Zoo this season, we can't think of a better way to kick off spring."

#### **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, opens 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 [zooatlanta.org](http://zooatlanta.org).

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