



For Immediate Release

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TIGER CUBS GO ON THE PROWL!

Sohni and Sanjiv are enjoying their first adventures on exhibit

ATLANTA – September 2, 2011 – The wait is over! The first Sumatran tiger cubs born at Zoo Atlanta in more than a decade are on the prowl today. Sohn and Sanjiv are exploring their exhibit with their mother Chelsea.

Previously only visible via webcam, the 8-week-old cubs will have the chance to investigate their lush outdoor habitat, which features three different viewing opportunities for visitors in the new Complex Carnivores and adjacent Trader's Alley. Guests may be treated to sightings as the siblings enjoy their first adventures on public view.

"We're so excited about finally being able to introduce Sohn and Sanjiv to our Members and guests, not just because they're adorable new babies, but because they represent a critically endangered species," said Rebecca Snyder, PhD, Curator of Mammals. "Chelsea has been a very attentive mother so far, so she may be initially cautious about taking her cubs into a new area. We expect the cubs' visibility and length of time spent on exhibit to increase in coming days."

Sumatran tigers are the world's second rarest tiger species, with fewer than 400 believed to remain in the wild. Poaching, habitat loss and territory fragmentation caused by deforestation are the primary threats to the critically endangered cats, which are found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Zoo Atlanta is a participant in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP), which seeks to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically diverse population within North American zoos. Conservation projects supported by Zoo Atlanta include work to preserve tiger habitat located in a critical wildlife corridor in Sumatra's Aceh Forest.

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 in April 2011. 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, 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.

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