July 19, 2012

Alpacas and tigers and pandas, oh my!

The Calgary Zoo is excited about some new additions...and while they represent all geographic areas they have one thing in common...the CUTE factor!

For Immediate Release

Eurasia:

And speaking of cats, we now have a name for our female Amur tiger cub! The rights to name this beautiful little cub were purchased at our June Tusks & Tails fund-raising event by Mr. Don Archibald, past zoo board member. Don’s very generous $10,000 donation granted him the opportunity to choose a name for her and, with help from his family, the name Kira was chosen.

Don says, “We felt this was a wonderful way to support our Calgary Zoo as well as having the privilege of being able to name one of the world’s most endangered species. Kira is Russian for ‘mistress or ruler’ and certainly describes an active, assertive young cat!”

Kira’s two brothers, Samkha and Vasili, were named on June 22nd.

On June 11, 2012, we welcomed a red panda cub into the world to parents Malikha and Zeyar. The sex of the cub is still unknown as it is being raised by mother Malikha and has yet to be examined by zoo staff. It is anticipated that the cub will be ready to meet the public sometime in September. Red pandas are an endangered species managed through a Species Survival Plan. Follow this link for panda cub video:
http://www.calgaryzoo.com/video_dnld/red_panda_video.zip

http://www.calgaryzoo.com/image_dnld/red_panda_photos.zip

Note: young pandas are white and develop the rich red colour as they mature.

Also new in the Eurasia section is a tiny **Japanese serow** born May 31, 2012 to parents Meri and Basho. And just what is a serow you ask? It’s a feisty Japanese antelope from the high slopes of Japan. Stop by on your next visit and take a peek!

**South America:**

Mocha and Latte....not the latest specials in Kitamba Café, but **two curly-haired alpacas** that joined us in late May. After completing their quarantine they have now taken up residence in their own yard near the zoo’s Centre for Conservation Research.

**Canadian Wilds:**

**Two orphaned black bear brothers** named Barney and Buster have joined us on a temporary loan from Discovery Wildlife Park. They are good company for black bear, Tiny, a long-time zoo resident in the Canadian Wilds section.

The zoo is open daily from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. [www.calgaryzoo.com](http://www.calgaryzoo.com)

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**MEDIA:**

*Our tiger cubs and mom Katja will be given special enrichment foods today at 2:15 pm and Don Archibald will be available for a photo opportunity at the tiger exhibit.*

*You are also welcome to take photos of our other new additions (serow, bears and alpacas) at that time. Please note that the red panda cub is still in the den with mom.*

*For more information please call:*

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