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**QUEENSLAND KOALA EN ROUTE TO TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO**

***Follow the koala's journey, from his point of view, on Zoo's Facebook and Twitter Pages***

**TAMPA, Fla. (June 23, 2009)** – The golden days of summer are bringing a new Aussie addition – the Queensland koala – to Wallaroo Station, the Zoo's 4.5-acre Australian-themed family area. "Bundaleer," a handsome 10-year-old male Queensland koala, arrives in Tampa tonight (June 23) courtesy of American Airlines.

Bundaleer's journey to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo begins more than 2,000 miles away this morning. He will be transported from San Diego to Tampa by three human companions (zookeepers) on American Airlines – snuggled inside a crate resting on two passenger seats in the main cabin. Bundaleer is an experienced traveler, returning to the Sunshine State for the second time.

Starting with his departure from San Diego, Zoo staff will utilize [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to help Bundaleer document his journey throughout the day. Upon arrival at Tampa International Airport, Bundaleer will be transported directly to his new home in Wallaroo Station where he will have a quiet adjustment period for the following five days. The koala exhibit is located next to the Kangaroo Walkabout, a walk through exhibit with Eastern grey kangaroos and Bennett's wallabies. Like the kangaroos and wallabies, koalas are marsupials – *not bears*, which means they carry their young in a pouch.

At 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 29, the Zoo will celebrate the opening of the new koala habitat with an event in Wallaroo Station. A special guest from *Parents* magazine, the nation's leading parenting magazine that named Tampa's Zoo the best in the U.S., will be on hand to join the celebration. Festivities will include Australian musical entertainment from didgeridoo

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players, arts and crafts, and the opportunity to register to win one of 50 interactive WowWee Alive™ Koala Joeys (animatronic plush animal babies from WowWee's new 2009 product line).

### **About Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo**

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is operated by the Lowry Park Zoological Society, an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization committed to excellence in education, conservation and research. Named the No. 1 zoo in America by *Parents* magazine (2009) and *Child* magazine (2004), Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The Zoo is located at 1101 W. Sligh Avenue in Tampa, one mile west of I-275 (exit 48). The Zoo is open seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is free. Visit [LowryParkZoo.com](http://LowryParkZoo.com) or call (813) 935-8552 for more information. Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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