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MOTHERS MATTER AT TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO

Free Admission for Moms May 9 and 10 in Honor of Mother's Day

TAMPA, Fla. (May 6, 2009) – Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is wild about moms – bring yours for free this weekend. In honor of Mother's Day, moms receive free admission on May 9 and 10 with the purchase of their son's or daughter's full-priced admission ticket (paid ticket can be child or adult admission, as applicable).* Meet some of the great animal moms who live at the Zoo:

- Zsa Zsa is a rare pygmy hippopotamus found in the Zoo's Ituri Forest and mother to Annakiya, meaning "sweet face," born August 26, 2008. They spend their days close to each other, basking in the sun or submerged in their pool. Pygmy hippos are much smaller than their Nile cousins, with adults averaging 350-550 pounds and standing only about 3 feet tall and 4-6 feet in length.
- Ellie is an African elephant found in the Zoo's Safari Africa habitat, who gave birth to the first elephant ever born at the Zoo on October 17, 2005. The male calf, named Tamani by school children of Tampa Bay (derived from the Swahili word meaning "hope"), has grown to nearly 2,500 pounds in his four years. Ellie is the matriarch of the social group which also includes Tamani's "aunts" Matjeka and Mbali who help care for him.
- Kema and Maddie are adult female Angolan colobus monkeys, a species easily identified by its glossy black fur with patches of white on the cheeks, shoulders and tails. When infants are born they are completely white in color. In the summer of 2008, Kema and Maddie, gave birth to two newborns named Polly and Kenzie within a week of one another, and the entire Colobus family helps raise the babies.
- The female orangutans at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo are very experienced when it comes to being mothers. Josie's youngest offspring, Hadiyah, born September 12, 2005, is a vivacious juvenile who enjoys swinging from the hammock and exploring the habitat. Josie assisted Dee Dee, another adult female, when she gave birth to her youngest, RanDee, in August 2008. The two are extremely attentive and, like most orangutans, will raise their young for about 7-9 years.

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*For moms to receive free ticket offer, the paid ticket must be purchased on May 9 or 10 only. Offer not combinable with other discounts. Regular admission prices are: adult - \$19.95, seniors (60+) - \$17.95, children ages 3-11 - \$14.95, and children 2 and under are free.

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 both *Parents* magazine and *Child* magazine, 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. Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Visit LowryParkZoo.com or call (813) 935-8552 for more information. Find us on www.Facebook.com and www.Twitter.com.

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