



CITY OF TUCSON



MEDIA RELEASE:
August 20th, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Vivian VanPeenen
Curator of Education
(520) 791-3204 x 12 - office
(520) 248-3607 - cell

NEW LEMUR EXHIBIT TO OPEN TOMORROW - 9 a.m.

Two black-and-white ruffed lemurs will be introduced to the public for the first time tomorrow morning (Wednesday, August 21) at 9 a.m. - into a newly renovated habitat. “The new lemur habitat is a magnificent addition to Reid Park Zoo” states Jason Jacobs, Zoo Administrator. “Zoo staff is to be commended for renovating a dilapidated exhibit and updating it with new mesh for ease of viewing. The landscaping and enrichment features create a vibrant habitat for lemurs, and allow us to support the AZA’s breeding program for this species.”

Black-and-white ruffed lemurs are native only to the rain forest habitat of Madagascar. Human encroachment and habitat loss due to logging, agriculture, and mining all threaten this critically endangered species. The pair of lemurs came to Tucson from other zoos for the purpose of breeding. The male, Pepe (age 5), came to Reid Park Zoo from Gladys Porter Zoo in Texas. The female, Nuit (age 3), arrived from Saint Louis Zoo. Zoos accredited by the association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) work cooperatively to make careful animal care and breeding decisions for many threatened and endangered species.

Reid Park Zoo is a world class facility that welcomes over half a million visitors per year. Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Zoo provides whole-life care for hundreds of exotic animals, representing a variety of habitats around the world. Reid Park Zoo encourages commitment to the conservation of wildlife while providing educational and fun experiences for visitors of all ages.

Reid Park Zoo is currently open 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lemurs will be on exhibit daily. Guests can call 791-4022 for directions and information, or visit the Zoo’s website at reidparkzoo.org.

-END-