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CONTACT

Elliot Zirulnik, Communications Manager
321-254-9453, ext. 236
ezirulnik@brevardzoo.org



Rare piglet first of its kind born at Brevard Zoo

MELBOURNE, Fla., August 14, 2018 — A north Sulawesi babirusa born at Brevard Zoo on Saturday, August 4 is delighting keepers with his gentle, inquisitive demeanor.

Named Java, the piglet is the offspring of two-year-old mother Piggy and two-year-old father Meru. He is the first child of either parent and the first member of his species ever born at the Zoo.

"Java is barely a week old, but his personality is already shining through," said Michelle Smurl, director of animal programs at the Zoo. "Piggy is doing an incredible job, especially for a first-time mom."

Java will remain behind the scenes for several weeks until he is large and strong enough to enter the public viewing area. Fans are encouraged to follow his progress on the Zoo's social media channels.

North Sulawesi babirusas, found in forests on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, are deemed vulnerable to extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature due to habitat loss and human hunting. Adult males are known for tusks that pierce through the skin and curve toward the back of the head.

Photos and video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ep4h8zlr4v0ogkv/AAAnk2wW7zcdbvh1762cmQcla>

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Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.

Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at www.treetoptrek.com.