

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ZOO RECEIVES SPECIAL DELIVERY IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Orangutan arrives from Columbus Zoo

Fresno, Ca. – Fresno Chaffee Zoo received an early Christmas present last evening with the arrival of Alexandra, a female orangutan from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Alexandra, nicknamed Alex, was flown cross country on a Federal Express jet where she could be monitored throughout the flight by a veterinarian and head keeper from the zoo in Ohio.

As part of Fresno Chaffee Zoo's routine preventative veterinary protocols, the 24-year-old Alexandra will spend a minimum of 30 days in quarantine before being introduced to orangutan females Sara and Siabu (pronounced "Si-boo"), and male Busar (pronounced "Boo-sar".)

"Acclimating Alex to her new home in Fresno will be done at her pace" said Senior Keeper Lyn Myers. "We don't expect her to make her public debut for a few months."

Orangutans are an endangered species and Fresno Chaffee Zoo participates in the Orangutan Species Survival Plan (SSP). Alexandra's move to Fresno was an SSP recommendation.

"Although Alexandra is non-reproductive, the SSP felt she would be a good addition to our family of orangutans" said Zoo Director Lewis Greene. "Sara is an older orangutan at 37 years of age so we anticipate Alex will become a close companion to 18-year-old Siabu."

The orangutans are great apes that share the Zoo's Sunda Forest habitat with lesser apes known as siamangs. An elevated boardwalk brings the visitor face to face with the apes as they swing through their forest consisting of nearly a third of a mile of simulated vines and bamboo timber.

Orangutans are native to Indonesia and Malaysia and are currently found only on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. They are the most arboreal of the great apes spending most of their time in trees and their name is derived from Malay and Indonesian words meaning "person of the forest."

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Fresno Chaffee Zoo is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children 2-11 and seniors 62+. Children under 2 and Fresno Chaffee Zoo members are free. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to provide a fun, unique and up-close experience that strengthens the bond between people and wildlife. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).