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I LIKE TO MOVE IT, MOVE IT: LEMUR ESCAPES ENCLOSURE AT ZOO

January 30, 2016 – *Jacksonville, FL* – Today, at around 3:30 p.m., a male Black-and-White Ruffed lemur, Potter, escaped his exhibit at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG).

Potter was found in a tree at eye-level along the Zoo's main path outside of his exhibit. To avoid frightening the lemur, Zoo staff responded quickly and efficiently moving guests away from the area, closing a section of the walkway.

When keepers approached Potter for recapture, he retreated to the top of the tree. After a few failed attempts to coax him down, keepers used a tranquilizer dart as a safe method in order to recapture him. He was returned to his night house by 6 p.m.

"While lemurs are not a dangerous species, any animal must be handled with care," said Dan Maloney, Deputy Director of Animal Care and Conservation at JZG. "We are relieved that today's incident was resolved without any injury to guests, employees or animals. Zoo staff will conduct a thorough investigation of the lemur enclosure to determine if a low-hanging branch or other unusual circumstance helped cause the situation. Fortunately, we are in the planning process to remodel the lemur and ape areas."

Potter is a little over 10 years old and came to JZG from Zoo Atlanta in November 2014. He is a proud papa of two offspring born in Spring 2015. Black-and-White Ruffed Lemurs are prosimians only found on the island of Madagascar off the east coast of Africa.

About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer

fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit jacksonvillezoo.org.