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KINLEIGH ROSE, ZOO'S TIGER CUB, MEETS JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY FOR THE FIRST TIME

February 16, 2016 – *Jacksonville, FL* – On Saturday, the Jacksonville community got their first glimpse of Kinleigh Rose, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' (JZG) Sumatran tiger cub, as she pounced around her exhibit with mom, Dorcas, for the first time.

She frolicked around the grasses, stalked mom's tail and sprinted around the bamboo thickets all before she began to nurse and lay down for a nap after all the excitement. Over 200 guests came out to see the 18-pound fur ball as she explored her new home.

Her name, Kinleigh Rose, was also announced on Saturday. The name was sponsored by Zoo supporters whose first granddaughter, Kinleigh Rose, was born on the same day as the cub—November 19, 2015.

For the next week, she will be on exhibit from 10-11 a.m. each day, pending weather conditions. That time will gradually extend in the coming weeks, once she becomes more familiar with the exhibit.

Sumatran Tigers are a critically endangered species with less than 400 left in the wild. The successful birth of JZG's cub is vital to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) breeding program and the healthy growth of the cub is important for the entire Sumatran tiger population. With the public now able to see Kinleigh Rose, JZG hopes she will inspire visitors to support tiger conservation efforts, as JZG supports a wildlife patrol unit in Sumatra working to protect tigers and their prey in their natural habitat.

JZG encourages guests to share pictures of Kinleigh Rose on their social media pages.

Photo Credits: DeeAnna Murphy

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.