

Lehigh Valley Zoo WELCOMES ITS First-Ever NEWBORN Eland

Lehigh Valley Health Network is the Official Motherhood Partner of the LV Zoo

By Matt Provence

SCHNECKSVILLE, PA. — Lehigh Valley Zoo in conjunction with Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), is excited to announce the birth of a Common Eland born to mother Moira and father Code on Jan. 6. This calf represents a milestone for LV Zoo, as it marks the first-ever eland born under its care.

The zoo's veterinary team conducted an examination on Jan. 7 and confirmed the newborn is a healthy male, weighing 68.2 pounds. Both Moira and her baby are doing well. The pair enjoyed the opportunity to bond and rest in a sheltered area before being introduced to the rest of the herd on Jan. 13, and the pair will be visible to daytime guests beginning Jan. 15 during zoo winter hours. Female eland are sexually mature at 15 to 36 months and have a gestation period of nine months, giving birth to only one calf at a time.



Code became LV Zoo's first common eland when he arrived as a one-year-old from The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio, in August 2022. Moira and her sister, Alexis, also joined the LV Zoo family from The Wilds as two-year-olds in May 2023. The Wilds is one of the largest conservation centers in the world.

The baby calf also marks a success for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' cooperatively managed Species Survival Plan (SSP), which is designed "to manage a genetically diverse, demographically varied, and biologically sound population" of certain animals. The SSP pairs members of the same species at accredited zoos based on their genetics, so it was this recommendation that brought Moira and Alexis to join with Code at LV Zoo.

The common eland is the second-largest species of antelope after the giant eland, with males growing up to six feet tall at the shoulder and weighing anywhere from 1,200 to 2,000 pounds -- roughly the same weight as our resident giraffes, Tatu and Joshua. Females are slightly smaller, but still impressive animals. These athletic antelope can jump great heights and have sustained running speeds of 20 mph when escaping predators. Native to Africa, Elands are important members of their

ecosystem, playing a crucial role in conservation efforts in their native habitats.

Guests can view the baby calf and visit other LV Zoo residents during winter hours of Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. LV Zoo will also be open on Columbus Day, Monday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at lvzoo.org.

The "zoo-born" eland still needs a name. In partnership with LVHN, LV Zoo will launch a naming contest this weekend. All guests entering the Zoo from Jan. 17 through Jan. 20 will receive a complimentary entry form to make a name suggestion and have a chance to win other prizes. More information about the upcoming weekend and the naming contest will soon appear on the Zoo's Facebook page.



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Residential and Commercial Façade Improvement Programs are designed to help improve the exterior appearance and condition of residential and commercial properties within the four boroughs. The program's goals are to maintain historical and architectural integrity, improve neighborhood appearance, and help property owners make exterior repairs to their homes or businesses while increasing property values for all borough residents.



ABOUT SLATE BELT RISING

Slate Belt Rising is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed to integrate and capitalize on the substantial assets of the individual Slate Belt boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland. While Slate Belt Rising specifically targets these four boroughs, some initiatives promote development and coordination of services throughout the entire region.

More information is available on our website under the Services tab, including program guidelines and applications Visit slatebeltrising.org.

PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action Lehigh Valley is an anti-poverty non-profit offering programs and services in Advocacy, Business Start-Up and Development, Food Access and Nutrition, Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Youth.



Contact Brian Fenstermaker at bfenstermaker@caclv.org or 484-523-0900 with any questions.