



## Lv Zoo Welcomes Newborn Alpaca; Adds New Tammar Wallaby, Eastern Screech Owl

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

By LV Zoo

SCHNECKSVILLE - Lehigh Valley Zoo in conjunction with Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), is excited to announce the birth of a male baby alpaca, also known as a cria, born to mother Illuminati and father Havoc on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Additionally, the LV Zoo welcomed announce two new residents at the zoo: a male tammar wallaby from Buffalo, N.Y., and a female eastern screech owl from Alburtis, Pa.

This birth represents a milestone for the first-ever alpaca born under its care. Cria are both reported to be healthy after their first day in the barnyard shelter stalls bonding. Since then, they have been out every day. LV Zoo's animal care staff had been monitoring Illuminati for signs of pregnancy as she has been breeding since they arrived. Alpaca gestation is around 11-12 months.

Five-year-old Illuminati and seven-year-old Havoc came to the LV Zoo together in October 2022 from a private facility for breeding purposes. Alpacas are native to the central and southern Andes Mountains, and are the smallest of the domesticated camelid species.

LVHN is the Official Motherhood Partner of the Lehigh Valley Zoo.

LV Zoo's new male tammar wallaby, named Tamale, was born at the Buffalo Zoo one and a half years ago. He shares a habitat with LV Zoo's current male tammar wallaby, Dwight, across the path from the kangaroo habitat.

Although LV Zoo features a bachelor mob of wallabies, tammar wallabies are a part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan (SSP). There are currently a total of just over 40 tammar wallabies at 12 AZA institutions combined across the United States.

The yet-to-be-named eastern screech owl arrived at LV Zoo from Cricket Wildlife Center in Alburtis, Pa., which is the only wildlife rescue and rehabber in the Lehigh Valley. Found her injured as a fledgling in May 2023, her age is estimated to be around five months old. She had injured tendons in her leg and foot that inhibited her from being able to hunt, which meant that she could no longer survive in the wild. There are two color morphs for screech owls – red and grey. She is a red morph and is living across from the Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital North American River Otter Exhibit.

The new owl still needs a name. In partnership with LVHN, LV Zoo is hosting a naming poll on Facebook this week -- allowing guests and followers the opportunity to decide the final official name by voting for their favorite finalist.

Guests can visit all three new residents during LV Zoo business hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week. Tickets are available for purchase at [lvzoo.org](http://lvzoo.org).



LV Zoo, as it marks the birth of Illuminati and her first offspring, is spending the time to allow for rest and on exhibit during the closely monitoring and Havoc had been tation typically lasts

year-old Havoc 2022 from a private are native to the from Peru to Argentinian camelid species.

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## LVHN to Offer Free Drive-Thru Flu Shots in November

By LVHN

LEHIGH VALLEY – Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) will administer free influenza vaccinations for the 26th straight year for adults and children age 6 months and older during two drive-thru flu shot clinics in November. Vaccines will be administered at Dorney Park in Allentown on Saturday, Nov. 4, and Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–Hecktown Oaks in Lower Nazareth Township on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

Everyone receiving a flu shot at either drive-thru location is asked to fill out a consent form and register by visiting [LVHN.org/flushot](http://LVHN.org/flushot) and following the instructions, by scanning the QR code on postcards being mailed, or by calling 1-835-215-5438, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The line also will be open on the clinic dates (Nov. 4 and 5) 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

For the past 25 years, LVHN's community influenza vaccination campaign has administered over 206,000 free flu shots and collected almost 164,000 pounds of food for area food banks.

"Being vaccinated against influenza reduces the risk for illness, hospitalization and death from the flu," said Alex Benjamin, MD, LVHN's Chief of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. "Like many respiratory illnesses, influenza can be spread by infected individuals who are not showing symptoms, and if we are not masking as often as we have in recent years, we could see increased transmission. Therefore, we strongly encourage everyone to make it their responsibility to get vaccinated."

According to a CDC report released this month, the flu vaccine helped reduce hospitalizations by 52 percent in the Southern Hemisphere. The report noted that circulating influenza viruses were genetically similar to those targeted by the 2023-24 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine formulation, indicating the vaccine might offer similar protection if these viruses predominate during the coming Northern Hemisphere influenza season.

Dr. Benjamin said routine vaccination should be deferred for people with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, regardless of symptoms, until they have met criteria to discontinue isolation. While having a mild illness is not a reason to avoid vaccination altogether, people who are sick should avoid exposing health care professionals, family and friends to their illness.

LVHN is once again partnering with area food banks and shelters to accept donations of unexpired, nonperishable food items during each of the drive-thru sessions. Food donations are optional and not required to receive a shot. Those who choose to donate food are urged to check the expiration date and only bring items that have not expired and are non-perishable.

In addition, volunteers will be collecting other items to assist those in need in our community. These include things like diapers, personal hygiene products (e.g., toothbrushes), coffee pods and disinfectant wipes.

Maps of the vaccination routes for Dorney Park and LVH–Hecktown Oaks are available at [LVHN.org/flushot](http://LVHN.org/flushot).

According to Terry Burger, RN, LVHN's Administrator for Infection Control and Prevention, a standard dose of flu vaccine will be given to those 6 months to 64 years of age. Burger said those 65 and older will be offered the high-dose vaccine.

"Getting the vaccine remains the best way to protect yourself and those around you from getting the flu," Burger said.

Vaccine supplies are abundant so people should not be concerned about availability.

Those planning to receive a flu shot during LVHN's November drive-thru vaccination clinics should wear loose-fitting clothing so the shot can be administered in the arm or the leg for children under 2 years of age.