

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Asian small-clawed otter pups make their debut with family

**WHAT:** Thanks to attentive care provided by their parents and older siblings, four Asian small-clawed otter pups have passed their swimming tests and outdoor introduction sessions with flying colors. Now that the 3-month-old pups can safely navigate the outdoor exhibit, the entire family of 10—the new pups, their parents and four older brothers—will be on view daily.

The press is invited to meet the new pups April 24 in the Bamboo Forest Reserve, which opened last summer.

The quadruplets, three girls and a boy, were born January 20 to 4-year-old mother Teratai (pronounced tear-a-tie) and 8-year-old father Guntur (pronounced goon-toor). They currently range in weight between 2.4 and 3 pounds. The four older brothers were born last summer, only a month after the parents made their debut in the new exhibit.

Because raising pups is a family affair, including any older siblings, the entire family had been living off view in the otter den since the pups were born. Over the past month, the parents and brothers have been teaching the pups how to swim. The pups are showing increased mobility outdoors and diving a few inches deep in the large pool. While they are swimming, the parents and older siblings always accompany them, keeping a close eye on the pups.

The pups are nearly weaned and eating a solid diet of chopped smelt and capelin. They enjoy wrestling, are mimicking adult behaviors such as rolling in wood shavings and mulch to dry their coats and are trying to help collect nesting materials.

Visit <http://woodlandparkzblog.blogspot.com/2014/03/otter-pups-receive-first-check-up.html> for a look at the pups' first wellness exam in March.

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Meet PR staff at the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55<sup>th</sup> & N. 56<sup>th</sup> Sts. Park in the inner north lot off N. 59<sup>th</sup> St. & Phinney Ave. N. where offices are located.

**INFO:** The Asian small-clawed otter is the smallest otter among the 13 otter species. It ranges throughout southern and southeastern Asia, including areas of India, Indonesian islands, Malaysia, Southeast Asia, Taiwan, southern China and Palawan in the Philippines.

With rapidly declining habitat, range and population, the species moved from near threatened status in 2004 to the more serious vulnerable category in 2008. Poaching and water pollution remain its highest threats. Learn how to help save Asian small-clawed otters and other species by visiting [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) and clicking on the "Conservation" link.

Woodland Park Zoo hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily through April 30. For more information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) or call 206.548.2500 or 548.2599 (TTY).

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