



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS ANNOUNCES WHITE TIGERS TO VISIT ZOO

The exotic cats will be on exhibit for Summer 2009

County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today announced that Monroe County's Seneca Park Zoo will be the temporary home for two White Tigers, throughout this summer. The White Tiger exhibition continues the very successful Visiting Summer Animal program, which provides the public an opportunity to view an animal not normally on display at the Zoo. This summer will be the eleventh year of the program, which brought lions, tigers, bears, baboons, giraffes, warthogs, rhinoceroses and frogs in previous years.

"The Visiting Summer Animal Program at Seneca Park Zoo is something that our community looks forward to, each year," said Brooks. *"The White Tigers are certain to be a popular attraction, throughout the summer, and will further enhance the quality of the visitor experience at our Zoo. As many families continue to revise their summer vacation plans, a 'stay-cation' trip to our Zoo will remain both an exciting and affordable option."*

White Tigers are not a separate subspecies of tigers nor are they albinos. They originate from Bengal Tigers and are the result of both parents having a recessive gene for white coloration. White Tigers are characterized by icy blue eyes, a pink nose, pink paw pads and white fur marked with chocolate brown to charcoal grey colored stripes. In the wild, White Tigers are extremely rare, as their white coats provide poor camouflage, making them easily spotted by potential prey.

Plans are for the White Tigers to be on exhibit at the Zoo from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. The County will contract with an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) certified facility, International Animal Exchange, Inc., for the rental of the tigers, pending authorization by the County Legislature. Costs associated with the rental will be paid from a trust fund established for such purposes not from County taxpayer funds.

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