



-For Immediate Release-

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CONNECTICUT'S BEARDSLEY ZOO HOOTING AND HOWLING TO WELCOME CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WOLF AND BARN OWL

Bridgeport, CT – (January 27, 2025) – Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo (CBZ) is excited to welcome Ranger, a male American Red Wolf, to our animal family. Ranger joins us from the National Zoo as part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP), a vital program dedicated to protecting and preserving critically endangered species like the American Red Wolf.

Ranger is two and half years old and joins Taylor, our resident female red wolf. Although Taylor is no longer part of the breeding population, Ranger's presence ensures she has a companion while continuing her vital role in inspiring guests to care about wildlife conservation.



The addition of these extraordinary animals to CBZ underscores the plight of the American Red Wolf, one of the most endangered canid species in the world. Currently the population of red wolves left in the wild is approximately 290 in managed care and just 17 individuals surviving in the wild.

"Taylor and Ranger give our guests a special chance to connect with the American Red Wolf and learn about urgent efforts to protect this critically endangered species," said Jim Wharton, CEO of Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo. "Ranger's arrival reflects our commitment to wildlife conservation, and we are thrilled to welcome him to his new home. We invite everyone to visit and be inspired by these incredible animals."

In addition to Ranger, the Zoo is also excited to welcome Mortica, a new barn owl, to its animal family. This fascinating bird highlights CBZ's dedication to showcasing the diversity of North American wildlife. Morticia, a nine-year-old female barn owl weighing 0.6 kilograms, is known for her striking, heart-shaped face. Barn owls typically prefer quiet nesting and roosting sites, such as tree cavities or man-made structures like barns or silos.

Guests are encouraged to visit the Zoo to meet Ranger and Mortica to learn about the conservation efforts to protect critically endangered species. By supporting the Zoo, attendees are contributing to vital initiatives that make a difference for wildlife and our environment.

For more about the zoo, our animals and visiting hours click here beardsleyzoo.org.

About Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

Connecticut's only zoo, celebrating 102 years, features 350 animals representing primarily North and South American and Northern Asian species. Guests won't want to miss our Andean bear, maned wolves, Mexican gray wolves, and red wolves. Other highlights include our Spider Monkey Habitat, and a new prairie dog exhibit. As an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and participant in its Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs, the non-profit Zoo is committed to the preservation of endangered animals and wild habitats. Tickets can be purchased on the [Zoo's website](#).