



Media Release
11 November 2010

Celebrating Red Heads

This weekend, Dublin Zoo invites you to come and celebrate Orang utan Awareness Week with the Zoo's very own red haired family, the orang utans.

For one weekend only, the Zoo is offering free entry to all red haired children* to drive awareness surrounding the endangered orang utans in the wild. So as not to exclude others, any child who arrives at the Zoo dressed as an orang utan ** also gets in for free over the weekend.

This fun and quirky initiative by Dublin Zoo is aimed at highlighting the serious challenges and impending extinction possibilities facing orang utans. Orang utans are one of the closest relatives to man, in the wild. Dublin Zoo will be hosting an abundance of events and activities to help visitors learn more about orang utans and have fun while they're at it.

Keepers will be on hand at the orang utan habitat from 11am until 3pm on Saturday and Sunday to answer any questions visitors have about the orang utan group in Dublin Zoo and the species in the wild. There will be enrichment demonstrations, mask-making classes, face-painting, keeper talks and much more on offer.

Activities in the Zoo this Weekend

- Enrichment demonstrations ***
- Orang utan Keeper Talks
- Face-painting
- Childrens Quiz
- Arts & Crafts
- Information Display

Get to Know Dublin Zoo's Orang utan Family

Orang utans are known as 'people of the forest' and the group of four orang utans in Dublin Zoo are one of the most popular species amongst visitors to the Zoo.

Sibu is a 32 year old male Bornean orang utan whose laid back character and amazing good looks have made him a favourite with visitors. He has amassed quite a fan club during his 17 years in Ireland.

Sibu's long-standing partner is 27-year-old **Leonie** and is known to be a little grumpy at times. This may be due to the fact that Sibu is quite the ladies man and spends his time flirting with guests who come to visit, particularly females.

Rhiona is a 14 year old female who is very laid back and takes the day in her stride.

Finally, there is **Mujur** the adventurer and curious one of the group. Mujur is 5 years old. She's playful and active, and loves running around the habitat investigating new things.

Why not get to know more about orang utans in the wild and the orang utans in Dublin Zoo by visiting the zoo this weekend and learning more about this beautiful species and supporting Orang utan Awareness Week.

For further information: www.dublinozoo.ie or find us on Facebook.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editor:

*The Zoo welcomes any type of red haired child under 16 years of age for free to the Zoo this weekend. The decision will be made at the gate.

** Orang utan fancy dress can include anything from an orang utan suit, a red haired wig or red/orange item of clothing such as jumper, trousers or coat. All you need to do is make an effort on the day!

***Enrichment is a practice whereby the zookeepers make parcels of food for the animals. These food parcels are placed in various different places around the animal's habitat. The animals then go and search for the parcels and when they have found them they have to work at unraveling/opening them to get the treats inside. The reason for this is both physical and mental exercise for the animals to keep both their minds and their bodies active.

The keepers will be doing enrichment demonstrations over the weekend and visitors will be able to make up their own parcels for the orang utans.

In 2009 Dublin Zoo sponsored a rainforest regeneration programme co-ordinated by the Bornean Orang utan Survival (BOS) Foundation. BOS is the largest primate rescue centre in the world and is actively involved with protecting orang utans and their habitats. They have developed a programme of recreating rainforest - Samboja Lestari – named after an area of once pristine rainforest but now an ecological wasteland. BOS are recreating rainforest in this area working with local communities and providing a sanctuary for orang utans, sunbears and other endangered Borneo wildlife. Dublin Zoo sponsored 700m sq. in Samboja Lestari to help with this vital reforestation work.

