

# MARYLAND ZOO

## NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### NEW AT THE MARYLAND ZOO

**BALTIMORE, MD** – The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is pleased to announce two new additions to the African Journey area of the Zoo - 14-month-old male sitatunga Jabari and 2.5-year-old warthog Hodor.

Jabari was born at the Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville, Illinois. He was transferred to The Maryland Zoo in August as a recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Sitatunga Species Survival Plan (SSP).

“Jabari is going to be a great addition to our herd,” said Erin Cantwell, mammal collection and conservation manager. “He is young, curious, and quite handsome. The SSP has recommended him for breeding with a number of the females, although he has not quite reached maturity just yet.”

Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*) is a species of antelope native to Central Africa. They live in semi-aquatic swamps, marshes and flood plains. Outside of protected areas, sitatunga are vulnerable to over-hunting and habitat loss, as people drain and develop swamp land. Currently sitatunga are not classified as threatened or endangered. The Maryland Zoo’s sitatunga herd is made up of eight animals and can be found in two exhibit spaces along the boardwalk in the African Journey section of the Zoo.

Hodor is a common warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*). He came to the Zoo this summer from the Detroit Zoo in Detroit, Michigan to be a companion to the female warthog, KeeWee. “Hodor is a bit shy at the moment,” said Cantwell. “He took while to warm up to his new home and new caregivers, but he is now very comfortable with KeeWee. We will be watching him closely as he explores the outdoor warthog yard to ensure he continues to feel at home here at the Zoo.”

While warthogs are not currently endangered, they are threatened in some areas by over hunting and their populations are in decline in many parts of Africa. At the Zoo, the warthogs can be found along the African Journey boardwalk across from the Giraffe Feeding Station.

#### About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo’s varied natural habitat exhibits such as the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the Children’s Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org).

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