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Let the Games Begin!
MARYLAND ZOO ENTERS INTO SUPER BOWL BET WITH SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

BALTIMORE, MD and SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- Don Hutchinson, president and CEO of The Maryland Zoo and Tanya Peterson, executive director and president of the San Francisco Zoological Society spent some time talking about their respective teams before hammering out a fun bet on the outcome of Super Bowl XLVII.

Last evening they exchanged their bets, both hinging on some favorite animals representing the teams in each city. The Maryland Zoo is home to Rise and Conquer, the official raven mascot of The Baltimore Ravens. The birds can be seen at each home game on RavensWalk and on the sidelines during the games. The San Francisco Zoo has on exhibit a young black rhino named "Boone" after the 49ers offensive tackle Alex Boone. So, the bets:

From Don Hutchins, President and CEO of The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore – "Should the 49ers be so lucky to win the Super Bowl this Sunday The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is prepared to name our Raven exhibit the "San Francisco 49ers exhibit," with a special dedication to the San Francisco Zoo. We will of course make the name change with the appropriate 'pomp and circumstance.' The exhibit will carry your name for one month beginning February 11th. "

From Tanya Peterson, Executive Director and President, San Francisco Zoological Society -
"In the highly unlikely event that Baltimore wins on Sunday, we are prepared to name our Black Rhino exhibit – whose inhabitant is named after Alex Boone, the 49ers' offensive tackle (#75) – for a similar time, pomp and circumstance. We'll even have Boone's enrichment look like crow, I mean, raven, because if the 49ers lose, we are all eating crow here!"

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During the course of the week leading up to the Super Bowl, both zoos have been having fun with enrichment treats for the animals. In Baltimore, they received footballs painted in 49ers colors, and in San Francisco, Boone the rhino will devour a Ravens' logo created out of vegetables on Thursday.

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 in areas such as Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the award-winning 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.

About The San Francisco Zoo
The mission of the San Francisco Zoo to connect visitors with wildlife, inspire caring for nature and advance conservation action. Nestled against the Pacific Ocean, the San Francisco Zoo is an urban oasis. It is home to nearly 700 exotic, endangered and rescued animals from all over the world and lovely peaceful gardens full of native and foreign plants.

The majestic African Savanna offers a multi-species landscape with giraffes, zebras, kudu, ostriches and more. At Grizzly Gulch visitors can get nose-to-nose with rescued grizzly sisters Kachina and Kiona. Lemurs leap through Lemur Forest, the largest outdoor lemur habitat in the country. Penguin Island is home to the largest colony of Magellanic penguins outside of the wild. The Zoo's troop of gorillas lives in the lush Gorilla Preserve. Farm animals for feeding and petting can be found in the popular Fisher Family Children's Zoo. The historic 1921 Dentzel Carousel and 1904 miniature Little Puffer steam train are treasured by generations of visitors. The San Francisco Zoo offers a rich history for its guests, including fun rides, educational programs and exciting events for children of all ages and is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For additional information, visit www.sfzoo.org

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