

For Immediate Release

For more information:
Jaime Alvarez, Director of Public Relations
Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park
Phone: (315) 435-8511 x110

Rosamond Gifford Zoo Acquires Male African Lion

Syracuse, N.Y. (November 23, 2015) – The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is pleased to announce the arrival of a male African lion named M’Wasi. He was acquired from the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Bronx Zoo and can now be seen on exhibit in Lion Corridor, located in the Social Building area of the zoo.



Credit: Julie Larsen Maher, Wildlife Conservation Society

“We are excited to introduce M’Wasi, ‘the King of the Bronx,’ to the Syracuse community and to once again have a male lion in our collection,” says Zoo Director Ted Fox. “He is an impressive lion and we were fortunate to acquire him through the recommendation of the Species Survival Plan.”

Animals are regularly transferred between AZA-accredited zoos through the SSP, a shared management effort for threatened or endangered animal populations.

M’Wasi (Swahili for “rebel”) was born in 2002 at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colo. He arrived at the Bronx Zoo in 2005 and sired three

litters during his time there, including Moxie, the first cub born at the Bronx Zoo in 31 years.

13-year-old M’Wasi has left the downstate region to spend his golden years in upstate New York as companion to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo’s 15-year-old lioness, Kierha. The zoo intends to exhibit the pair together, pending the successful completion of lion introductions.

In the wild, except for a small population in the dry Gir Forest of northwest India, lions are found in most countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Although their numbers once stood

at 100-200,000, they are now considered vulnerable with approximately 21,000 remaining in Africa. Most live in protected national parks and reserves.

The main threats to lions are indiscriminate killing to protect livestock, prey base depletion, habitat loss and trophy hunting. Lions are the most social of the big cats and the only cats that live in groups, called prides. Both male and female lions roar and can be heard up to five miles away – their roar is the loudest vocal sound created by any feline.

FUN FACT: Only male lions have manes, the impressive fringe of long hair that surrounds the head and extends down to the chest.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: The zoo will hold a media window for photo/video footage and interviews with Zoo Director Ted Fox from 10:30-11:30 a.m. today. Contact the public relations office to attend: jalvarez@rosamondgiffordzoo.org or (315) 435-8511 x110.

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests “the best day ever,” ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

One Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204 • (315) 435-8511 • (315) 435-8517 fax

www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

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