

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Zoo Announces Winner of Elephant Calf Naming Contest**

Syracuse, N.Y. (June 16, 2015) -The Rosamond Gifford Zoo today announced the winning entry in the Asian elephant naming contest. The calf, a male born on May 12 to Mali and Doc, was introduced to the public on May 26.

After five days of voting and 3,794 votes cast online, Batu ("BAA-two") rose to the top with 47 percent of the total votes. The zoo thanks the community for their support and participation in the contest.



Mali and Batu (photo by Terri Redhead)

The name Batu was submitted by Isabelle Perry, 9, of Oswego, N.Y. The name is of Central Asian origin and means "like his father." It can also mean "loyal." Perry will receive an Asian elephant Adopt an Animal package courtesy of Friends of the Zoo.

The zoo received 1,396 name suggestions from across the U.S. and Canada, and from as far away as Africa, Australia, Costa Rica and Germany.

In an effort to provide a name which reflects the native habitat of Asian elephants, a committee comprised of zoo staff carefully and thoughtfully selected a list of five choices from all entries received. Names

were judged for creativity as well as overall appeal.

The finalists were:

Ajay  
Bae  
Batu  
Jai  
Luk Chai

Batu can be viewed by the public at least twice a day with his mother and aunties at the zoo's premier exhibit, Asian Elephant Preserve. A second elephant calf is expected later this summer.

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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](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

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

