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# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TRIPLET LEOPARD CUBS TO MAKE PUBLIC DEBUT AT GREENVILLE ZOO

*Zoo chosen as one of the facilities to receive three of five rare cubs born in 2010*

**Greenville, S.C.** – The Greenville Zoo today announced that three rare triplet Amur leopard cubs will go on exhibit in the Asia Area beginning Friday, April 1. The female cubs were three of five Amur leopards born in North American zoos in 2010. The zoo's long-time resident Anya, a 12-year-old female Amur leopard, will transfer to another zoo to become a companion to a leopard as well as serve as an ambassador for her species.

The one-year-old female cubs - Jade, Emerald and Clover, all named in recognition of their St. Patrick's Day birthday – were transferred from the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana, on March 30, to bolster the Greenville Zoo's participation in the Amur Leopard Species Survival Plan (SSP). The program is responsible for maintaining a genetically healthy population of Amur leopards in North American zoos.

According to Greenville Zoo Director Jeff Bullock, the Amur leopards are nearing extinction with only about 200 left in zoos and fewer than 40 remaining in the wild. "The Greenville Zoo has taken an active role in Amur Leopard conservation by participating in the SSP and supporting ALTA, the Amur Leopard and Tiger Alliance," said Greenville Zoo Director Jeff Bullock. "Once the cubs have matured, they will be matched with suitable males in the

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hopes of increasing the captive population to a sustainable point.”

The female cubs will make their public debut just in time for the zoo’s annual Animal Enrichment Day scheduled for Saturday, April 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event provides zoo guests with a rare opportunity to see a wide variety of unique environmental enrichment and training activities. The new leopard cubs will receive Boomer Ball enrichment toys purchased by William and Jen York as a welcoming gift. Animal Enrichment Day will also feature activities for zoo guests including a children’s scavenger hunt with prizes. Joy, the zoo’s female African elephant, will host the final enrichment activity at 2:30 p.m. The unique paintings she creates will be sold in the Safari Shop with all proceeds benefiting the zoo’s animal enrichment program.

### **About the Amur Leopard**

The Amur leopards are native to the southern tip of the Russian Far East along the borders with China. The Amur leopards are the rarest of the big cats in the world. Deforestation, the use of animal parts for traditional medicine, and conflict with humans has had a devastating effect on the Amur leopard population. The Amur leopard has been a protected species in Russia since 1956, but there still continues to be a problem with poaching.

### **About the Greenville Zoo**

Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), Greenville Zoo is rated one of the best tourist attractions in South Carolina, attracting over 270,000 people annually. Operated by the City of Greenville, the 14-acre facility features wildlife from around the world including giraffes, monkeys, giant tortoises and elephants. Visitors can also enjoy one of the zoo’s most popular exhibits, the Reptile Building, which is home to a variety of lizards, frogs, turtles and snakes.

The Greenville Zoo is open seven days a week, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The zoo’s hours of operation are from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the gates close at 5 p.m. For more information about the Greenville Zoo, visit [www.greenvillezoo.com](http://www.greenvillezoo.com) or become a fan on Facebook at [facebook.com/greenvillezoo](https://facebook.com/greenvillezoo) or twitter at [twitter.com/greenvillezoo](https://twitter.com/greenvillezoo).