



**For Immediate Release: April 16, 2008**  
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## **African Crested Porcupines New at Nashville Zoo**

Nashville Zoo is proud to announce the addition of two African crested porcupines to its growing animal collection. The new exhibit opens to the public today (April 16) with two juvenile males.

The African crested porcupine is the largest porcupine in sub-Saharan Africa. They are characterized by quills along the head, nape and back that can be raised into a crest. Sturdier quills along their sides and the back halves of their bodies are used for defensive purposes. These porcupines have a poor sense of sight but a sharp sense of smell and hearing. They are also excellent swimmers.

The porcupine exhibit will replace the golden eagle habitat located near Bamboo Trail. Nashville Zoo's male golden eagle recently passed away due to geriatric issues. His exact age is unknown because he was born in the wild, but golden eagles can live 50 years or more in captivity. The remaining female was sent to Indiana's Potawatami Zoo, which has a companion eagle.

African crested porcupine is the first new exhibit for Nashville Zoo in 2008. Last year, four female African wild dogs and a pair of Eurasian lynx made their debut, helping the Zoo to achieve an all-time high attendance record. A Caribbean flamingo exhibit set to open in 2009 is also under construction this year, and the Zoo is seeking funding for a new amphitheater and pavilion. Contact the development office at 833-1534 ext. 128 for more information on these projects.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Road and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of the Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, please call 833-1534, or visit our website at [www.nashvillezoo.org](http://www.nashvillezoo.org).

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