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****News Release****

WORLD'S LARGEST RODENTS ARRIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

Two Capybaras Find New Home at Puente Al Sur

SAN FRANCISCO (August 25, 2010) – The San Francisco Zoological Society welcomes two new female capybaras to the Zoo family. These two rodents are the world's largest and many believe they resemble an enormous guinea pig. The two have settled in nicely and visitors can see Rosemary and Beryl at the Zoo's Puente al Sur.

Capybaras have round, barrel-shaped bodies, a small head, no tail, 20 teeth and can weigh up to 140 pounds. They enjoy the water and can be found in South America amongst the dense forest and near lakes, rivers and swamps.

The names were chosen by two families who won the opportunity during the annual ZooFest event that took place this past April. Paul and Karin Wick and their children, Ava and Alexander, named their capybara Rosemary. The name was chosen by their daughter Ava. Nathaniel and Sara Zilkha and children Oliver and Brock chose the name Beryl for their capybara. They named it after Sara's idol Beryl Markham, a pioneer aviator that was the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean from London to North America.

Kids are free through August, so come by and see these two amazing rodents.

About the San Francisco Zoo

Encompassing 100 acres, the historic San Francisco Zoo is Northern California's largest zoological park. The Zoo is home to exotic and rescued animals from all over the world and is located across from the Pacific Ocean. The African Savanna offers a multi-species landscape with giraffes, zebras, kudu, ostriches and more. Go nose to nose with famed grizzly sisters Kachina and Kiona at Grizzly Gulch; watch lemurs leap through the largest outdoor lemur habitat in the country; visit Penguin Island; marvel at our troop of gorillas; and feed farm animals in the popular Children's Zoo. Take rides on one of the world's only old-fashioned miniature steam trains and the historic Dentzel Carousel. The Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is located at 1 Zoo Road, San Francisco (415) 753-7080. Visit www.sfzoo.org for more information.