



For Immediate Release

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## **It's a Girl! Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo Announces Baby Giant Anteater Naming Contest**

**What:** Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo is celebrating the naming of the female Giant Anteater, born on August 27, 2024. This marks the fourth Giant Anteater birth at the Zoo—a significant milestone in conservation efforts for this threatened species. The public is invited to help name the baby by voting in an online poll.

**Who:** Baby Girl Anteater – Born fully furred and thriving under Pana's care  
Pana (Mother) – Born in 2009, experienced and attentive mother

**Why:** Giant Anteaters are the largest species in the anteater family, growing up to seven feet long and weighing up to 100 pounds. With habitat loss and other environmental threats affecting their population, this birth is a huge win for conservation and the Zoo's mission to protect biodiversity.

**Vote:** The Zoo is asking fans to choose the baby's name! Voting is open now until Thursday, February 13, at 11:59 PM. The following are the name choices:

- Kayapó – Named after the Indigenous people of Brazil
- Ramo – Portuguese for "branch/stick" (she loves to climb!)
- Merida – Inspired by her brave spirit

Only votes submitted through this link form will count.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/GaGixZ8/giantanteater>

**Name Reveal:** The winning name will be announced to the public on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am via Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo social media platforms on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutsBeardsleyZoo/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ctbeardsleyzoo/?hl=en>

**Media Opps:** Call or text 203-257-0031 to make arrangements for camera footage / photos of Pana & baby Giant Anteater. There is limited time and space for this opp.

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