



NEWS RELEASE

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Wallabies Arrive at the Santa Barbara Zoo in Preparation for the Australian Walkabout Exhibit Opening Soon

(October 4, 2021) Santa Barbara, CA - [The Santa Barbara Zoo](https://www.sbzoo.org/) is excited to announce the arrival of the first two Bennett's wallabies who will soon call the new Australian Walkabout exhibit home. In its final stages of construction and scheduled to officially open in early January 2022, the new exhibit is being designed to transport guests "Down Under," where they can walk among the wallabies, kangaroos, emus, and see native birds.

The first two wallabies to arrive are both two-year-old females that came together from Trevor Zoo at Millbrook School, NY. Two male wallabies will also arrive soon and eventually join the females, with a breeding recommendation as part of the Species Survival Plan from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

"We are thrilled to welcome the first wallabies to the Santa Barbara Zoo, and are happy to see that they are adjusting well so far," said Dr. Julie Barnes, the Zoo's Vice President of Animal Care & Health. "We are really looking forward to sharing the new habitat and its unique Australian animals with our guests very soon."

Bennett's wallabies are medium-sized marsupials found along the eastern coast of Australia and on the island of Tasmania. They are members of the macropod family, which also includes kangaroos and wallaroos. Their native habitat ranges from eucalyptus forests to open areas adjacent to forests, and their diet consists of mostly grasses, herbs, and leaves.

Adults can weigh between 30 and 40 pounds and stand about three feet tall, with males being slightly larger than females. One of the most identifiable traits of macropods is their unique form of locomotion, which is hopping, sometimes reaching speeds greater than 9 miles per hour. Though best known for hopping, wallabies can also crawl and swim. They have an acute sense of smell and hearing. Their large ears are capable of moving 180 degrees independently, allowing them to remain alert for potential predators, such as dingoes.

Want to support wallabies? Help welcome the first residents of the Australian Walkabout by becoming a wallaby Foster Feeder today. Visit <https://www.sbzoo.org/support/> to learn more. Wallaby naming sponsorship opportunities are available too! Contact donate@sbzoo.org to learn more.

Construction is nearly complete on the 15,000 square-foot [Australian Walkabout](#), which is anticipated to open to the public in early January 2022. The new exhibit is specifically designed to put guests right in the middle of the action, exploring open pathways, beautiful landscapes, and seeing some of the most iconic and unique wildlife representatives from the continent of Australia, including emus, kangaroos, and wallabies, in addition to birds native to Australia.

About the Santa Barbara Zoo

The Santa Barbara Zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. for members and 9:30 a.m. for general admission until 5 p.m. (seasonal extended hours on select days); general admission is \$19.95 for adults, \$14.95 for children 2-12, and free for children under 2. Parking is \$11. The Santa Barbara Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA zoos are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great visitor experience, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation and is the public's link to helping animals in their native habitats. Visit www.sbzoo.org.

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