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Red River Hogs Counter Phil, Predict Early Spring

LITTLE ROCK (February 2, 2010) – the Little Rock Zoo’s Red River Hogs, Harry and Passion Flower, predicted the quick arrival of spring today during a weather prediction ceremony this morning at the Zoo.

Punxsutawney Phil may “hog” most of the attention on Groundhog Day, but the Red River Hogs were the ones to watch. As hogs that roam the ground, the two “ground hogs” are clearly the most qualified experts to make a weather prediction. The hogs rolled over in the mud and scratched their bellies, indicating an early spring for Arkansans.

Zoo Director Mike Blakely read Harry and Passion Flower’s proclamation aloud after the hogs made the prediction, “Here ye, here ye, what do I see? An early spring is in store for thee. With a roll on the ground, winter won’t hang around, and that sounds good to me.”

Blakely also gave the disclaimer that since the Red River Hogs are originally from Africa that the prediction might only work for the southern hemisphere of the world.

Zoo staff welcomed the prediction and said they are eager to start the spring season and invited everyone to visit the best place for family recreation and conservation education, the Little Rock Zoo.

The Little Rock Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information, visit www.aza.org.