

ZOO

# Bruno Busted

Orangutan picks Texas to beat Alabama, should avoid Vegas.



Bruno picks Texas to beat Alabama to win the national championship.

Photos by Tad Motoyama

On Jan. 6, the Zoo's male orangutan, Bruno, chose the University of Texas to win college football's BCS National Championship. (On Jan. 7, the University of Alabama defeated the Texas Longhorns at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.)

Animal keepers placed two treat-filled papier-mâché figures, decorated as the mascots for the University of Texas and the University of Alabama, in the orangutan habitat. Then the Zoo's 30-year-old orangutan, Bruno, chose his favorite to win the 2010 National Championship by immediately picking up the Texas Longhorn mascot and placing it on the ground. Next he demolished the Alabama elephant, Big Al, before returning to the Texas Longhorn.



Bruno the orangutan.

Native to the Indonesia islands of Borneo and Sumatra, orangutans are the sole surviving great ape species in Asia. Orangutans are endangered. In the last 60 years, it's estimated that there has been more than a 50 percent decline in the orangutan population. This decline is primarily due to loss of their forest habitat from agriculture and fires. The L.A. Zoo is home to six orangutans. Orangutans are considered to be one of the most intelligent zoo animals.

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## Newsbrief

**MONKEY NAMED:**

The Los Angeles Zoo's baby Kikuyu colobus monkey, born Nov. 27, now has a name. After holding a naming contest for the youngster and shifting through many great entries, Zoo staff chose the name Christofur for the furry primate.



A colobus monkey and the new baby. Photo courtesy of Tad Motoyama.

The winning entry came from Eileen Hill of Huntington Beach. She will receive a behind-the-scenes tour of the Zoo.

Found throughout the forests of central Africa, the colobus is one of the most striking primates in the animal kingdom. Adult Kikuyu colobus monkeys have black bodies trimmed with long white mantles.

Infant colobus monkeys are born all white and do not start to get their black trim until about three and one half months of age.

Colobus monkeys live in highly cohesive social groups. Thus, the infant is enjoying attention from its father, mother and another adult female. Check out their interactions with their newly named troop member at the colobus exhibit located just past the Zoo's Mahale Café toward the perimeter road.

In addition to colobus, the Los Angeles Zoo houses a diverse collection of primates. Highlights include mandrills, sifakas, lemurs and tamarins. Within the past decade, vibrant habitats have been completed for gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees and Francois's langurs. Many primates are threatened by habitat loss and hunting. The Los Angeles Zoo supports primate conservation projects throughout Asia, Africa and South America. The Zoo also actively participates in the Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Program (SSP) to manage primate populations in zoos.

For information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the L.A. Zoo Website at [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).