**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local Fire Departments Donate Equipment for Animal Enrichment at Southwick’s Zoo**

Mendon, MA — June 3, 2025 — ﻿Southwick’s Zoo has received a donation of retired fire hoses from the Uxbridge Fire Department and the Blackstone Fire Department to be used for animal enrichment throughout the zoo.

The fire hoses will be repurposed by the zoo’s animal care team to create new enrichment for various species. Applications include swinging structures for primates and hammocks for sloths. These enrichment tools promote natural behaviors and improve the animals’ physical and mental stimulation.

According to zoo staff, fire hoses are ideal for enrichment purposes due to their strength, durability, and safety. The materials allow keepers to create a wide range of engaging elements that withstand regular use by larger animals.

Photos provided with this release show examples of the donated fire hoses and locations where former hoses have been installed.

Southwick’s Zoo expresses its appreciation to the Uxbridge and Blackstone Fire Departments for their support and commitment to animal welfare.

**About Southwick’s Zoo:**  
Southwick’s Zoo, located in Mendon, MA, is home to over 900 animals representing 150+ species from around the world. The zoo is dedicated to education, conservation, and providing exceptional care to its animals and ﻿﻿unforgettable experiences for visitors of all ages.﻿

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