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Zoos to receive computer from Philip Morris U.S.A.

The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), of which the Knoxville Zoo is a member, will get a major boost today from Philip Morris U.S.A., a previous benefactor of the zoo here.

In noon ceremonies to be held at the Environment Restaurant, the company will present a special computer to AAZPA for use in its International Species: Inventory System.

The computer will be assigned to the Leipzig Zoological Garden in East Germany for computer-based tracking and data management of all tigen species on the endangered species list.

"The association has a computer network that links all North American zoos, and we have been anxious to get European zoos involved," explained Knoxville Zoo Director Guy L. Smith III. Smith heads an international committee that monitors the protection and expansion of the rare Asian lion, which, with tigers, comprise the zoo's world-renowned big cat collection.

Guy L. Smith IV, the zoo director's son and vice president of corporate affairs of Philip Morris U.S.A., will present the computer to Dr. Seigfried Seifert, director of the Leipzig zoo, who will be accompanied by his assistant, Peter Muller.

Seifert and Muller are on a U.S. tour that will take them to zoos in Cincinnati, Omaha and Minneapolis as well as Knoxville.

Philip Morris also supports the Bronx Zoo in New York, which provided Toto, the female African elephant who bore the first of its species born in captivity in the Western Hemisphere at the Knoxville Zoo in 1978. Toto is still at the zoo here on a breeding loan from the New York Zoological Society.