

A new animal came to the zoo earlier this week. The animal is an Asian small-clawed otter named Tito.

Before he arrived, the zoo workers spent a lot of time making a new place, or habitat, for the otter to live. They made a moat all the way around an island and put fish in it.

On the island they planted trees and plants. The workers wanted Tito to like his new home.

The Asian small-clawed otter is the smallest of all the otters. The zoo wanted people to be able to see Tito up close. They built a tunnel under the moat. It goes to a viewing area with windows. Visitors can watch Tito swim through the water in the moat and catch fish.

Outside his new home the zoo placed signs to tell visitors all about the new otter:

An Asian small-clawed otter has a smooth coat. It is covered in brown fur with white on its face, throat, and chest. These otters “talk” with each other using twelve different calls. To catch food, the otters use their hands and long fingers.

The zoo has planned a party for Tito’s arrival. Kids can get balloons and can get their faces painted.

