

Russian Zoo Names Black-Haired Goat 'Obama'

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The Primorye Safari Park in Russia's Far East has stirred online controversy after procuring a black-haired goat and naming it “Obama,” the news.ru website reported Monday.

The park released a press release detailing the goat's medical history and origins in the Black Sea resort town of Sochi. “We needed to ensure that 'Obama' carried no infection and that 'Obama' does not have worms,” park director Dmitry Mezentsev wrote in the press release.

The word “goat” in Russian is considered an insult when used in reference to people.

Photographs and a video accompanied the press release, including an image of the goat with the caption, “Obama on a leash on the shores of the Black Sea.”

The Primorye Safari Park is notorious for its publicity stunts. The zoo first gained online fame in 2015 when an Amur tiger developed an unlikely friendship with its goat-dinner and the two were filmed walking around the park together, charming media audiences worldwide.

The stunt comes a week after a company in Russia's Tatarstan halted production of their

chocolate-flavored “Little Obama” ice cream amid accusations of racism.

U.S. President Barack Obama is not the only Western leader to be granted an animal namesake amid tensions over the Ukrainian conflict. The park already has a female goat named Merkel.

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