

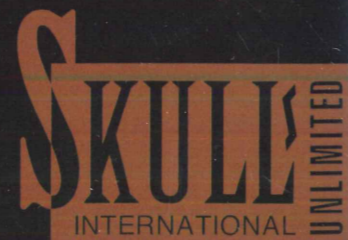
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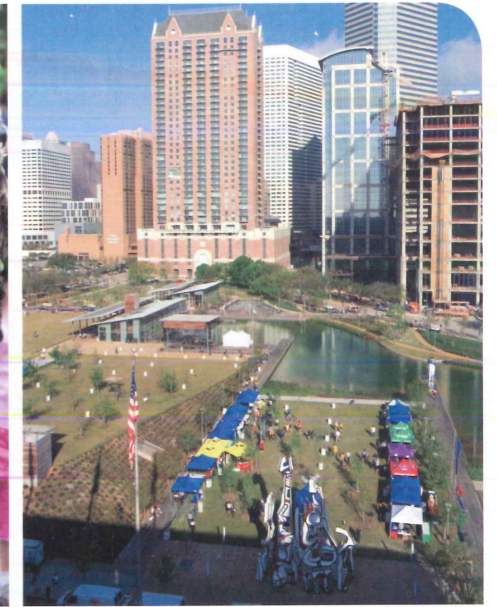
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ON THE COVER

The 2010 AZA Annual Conference is being hosted by the Houston Zoo from 11 to 16 September. The Conference will offer tools and resources to implement new and innovative strategies at your own zoo or aquarium. The cover shot is of a meerkat by Houston Zoo volunteer Dale Martin.

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SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS IN CONSERVATION



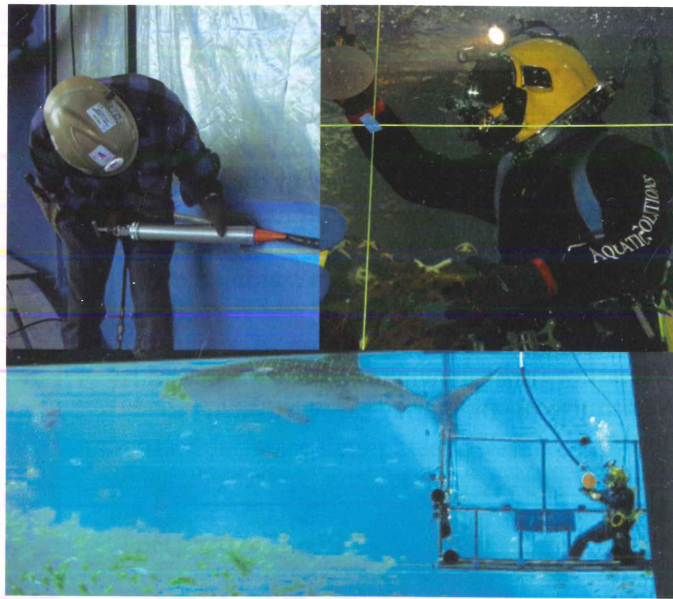
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Hospital when animal care staff determined it required medical attention. The baby was slowly warmed to a normal body temperature and handed in an incubator overnight. As its mother has successfully raised two other infants and was still showing maternal behaviors, the staff felt the infant had its best chance being raised by its mother. Less than 24 hours later, the animal care staff and veterinarians reintroduced the baby to its mother. Close observations through a closed circuit video feed showed the pair to be responding well.

Baby giant anteaters are almost identical in coloration to an adult with short course hair growing in with an identifiable white stripe running from head to tail, and longer hair on the tail which becomes very bushy. The unique long nose is only a few centimeters long at this stage and their strong front

limbs have small effective claws that enable them to cling onto the mother's back.

The Sacramento Zoo started exhibiting anteaters in 2004. Amber arrived in March 2009. Zookeepers observed breeding behavior and a full exam and ultrasound in January confirmed the pregnancy.

The mother gives birth after a gestation period of 180 days. In the wild, giant anteaters are solitary and the male is not involved in caring for the baby. That leaves the mother to do the heavy lifting, literally. Once the newborn lets out the first high-pitched screech, baby anteaters climb on their mother's back and many will ride there for up to a year. A mature anteater can weigh as much as 140 pounds and stretch

as much as seven feet from snout to tail tip.

PYGMY SLOW LORIS BORN AT LEE RICHARDSON ZOO

A pygmy slow loris was born at the Lee Richardson Zoo in March. Born on exhibit, Zoo staff discovered the infant clinging to its mother during a routine check. This is the first baby for both parents, and the mother is exhibiting excellent maternal instincts. The infant is only about two-to-three inches long and was born fully furred with eyes open.

Pygmy slow lorises are nocturnal, tree-dwelling primates that live in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. Considered threatened with extinction, their small native range has been ravaged by decades of military activity. Zoos are managing this species cooperatively through a Species Survival

Plan® (SSP) to ensure that a breeding population will be safely maintained in captivity for the long term.

The eight-year old male and five-year old female came to the Zoo in the fall of 2008 (from the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb., and the Duke Lemur Center in Durham, N.C., respectively) for breeding. After careful observation of the female for behaviors suggesting she might be receptive to the male for breeding, staff introduced the pair last March. Although it wasn't love at first sight, the pair did work out their differences, and breeding was noted in September. A veterinary check in January gave us hope that the female was pregnant. Calculating a six month gestation, keepers anticipated an early March birth. They were rewarded on 14 March with a glimpse of the newborn clinging tenaciously to its mother.

BIRTH OF A GOELDI MONKEY AT THE BRANDYWINE ZOO

The Brandywine Zoo has been exhibiting Goeldis monkeys since 1988. During this time, Zoo staff has worked closely with the breeding recommendations of the Goeldi Species Survival Plan® (SSP) to breed the two pairs exhibited at the Zoo. On 6 December 2009 the Brandywine Zoo announced that one of the Goeldi pairs had successfully produced a female offspring. Besides being a significant birth due to this species endangered status, the male Goeldi that fathered this infant is the oldest breeding male in captivity at 20 years of age.

On the third day, the newborn infant showed signs of weakening so the entire family was moved to the Zoo hospital for intensive care and observation. With assistance from Mark Warneke from The Chicago Zoological Society (Goeldi SSP Coordinator) and Vince Sodaro (Goeldi SSP Advisor and Lead Primate Keeper at the Brookfield Zoo) we started supplemental feeding to go along with the baby nursing from

the mother. We were able to train both goeldi parents to let us feed the baby without removing it from the parents. By doing this, we were able to allow the baby to grow and keep the bond with its parents and at the same time, develop natural behaviors. With Mark and Vince's assistance, our efforts to care for our Goeldis monkey family have proven very successful.

ENDANGERED PRIMATE BORN AT LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Visitors to Lincoln Park Zoo's Helen Brach Primate House have an opportunity to catch a rare glimpse of a newborn Francois' langur. This youngster, born 18 March, is hard to miss thanks to its bright orange fur and white face. This is in stark contrast to the color of the newborn's mother and the rest of the troop, which all sport a uniformly rich black coat and white stripe on their cheeks.

"All infants of this endangered species are born an eye-catching orange and they maintain this color for about three-to-six months before they transform to the black coat," explained Megan Ross, PhD, Lincoln Park Zoo's vice president for animal care. "Scientists believe the reason for the bright orange fur is to make the newborn stand out so that other females in the group will see it, be drawn to it, and provide the mother support for the little one's care."

Francois' langurs participate in a social system called "alloparenting," or, in other words, "aunting" behavior. The female monkeys are expected to give the mom a break once in a while by carrying and caring for the baby. "We believe this behavior helps prepare young females for motherhood," explained Ross.

The 13-year-old mother, named Pumpkin, is an experienced female who has given birth before. Her two male offspring, born in 2007 and 2009,

still live in the social group at the Zoo. This species is native to China and Vietnam and has become endangered in the wild due to habitat loss and hunting.

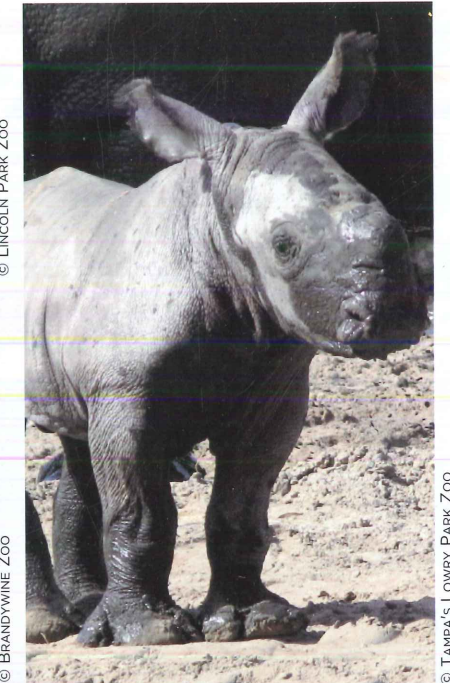
According to Ross, they are not commonly exhibited in zoos either - making this newborn a special treat for visitors to see.



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© TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO



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SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO BORN AT TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo welcomed a southern white rhinoceros in early spring. The rhino calf was born in the early morning hours on 18 March, to first-time mother "Kidogo" in the African rhino boma (barn) which houses the animals overnight. The birth marks the first southern white rhino calf in the Zoo's history, and the second birth in two days of animals sharing a habitat (southern white rhinos and Grevy's zebra).

Upon arriving at the Zoo the morning after the zebra birth, zoo keepers immediately spotted the newborn rhino calf that appeared alert, clean and dry. As with many first time mothers, Kidogo has appeared tentative at times, but is very attentive and protective of the unnamed calf, a male.

The Zoo's white rhinos are members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Southern White Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan® (SSP). "This birth will contribute to the conservation efforts of this species in North America, and specifically the SSP, adding valuable genetics to the program from an imported animal new to the population," noted Dr. Larry Killmar, the Zoo's director of collections.

According to the SSP's population analysis in June 2009, there were a total of 153 southern white rhinos among 47 AZA-accredited institutions in North America. "The white rhino population has been managed as an SSP since 1984, and every birth is very significant," noted Adam Eyres, white rhino SSP coordinator. "Fewer than 10 AZA institutions are currently producing calves, so this is great news for the white rhino population."

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is currently home to a herd of five white rhinos: three adult females who came to the Zoo from the Phinda Reserve in Africa, one adult male and the new male offspring. As a species that lives in a herd, the Zoo's mother rhino and calf will be gradually introduced to the remainder of the rhinos and the four Grevy's zebra in the near term.

Native to eastern and southern Africa, the southern white rhinoceros is classified as "near threatened." The white rhino is thought to be named after an English misinterpretation of the Afrikaans word, "weit," meaning wide. The land grazing mammals have unique square-lipped mouths that allow them to easily eat wide amounts of the grasses found throughout the open savannahs. The white rhinoceros has two horns at the end of its muzzle, the most prominent in the front. Both horns are made out of keratin, the same material found in human hair and nails.

The white rhino birth marks the second species of rhino born at the Zoo in the last year. An endangered Indian rhinoceros (also known as the great one-horned rhinoceros) was born 7 July 2009, in the *Asian Gardens* habitat area at the Zoo.

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo participates in nearly 40 Species Survival Plans (SSPs), cooperative breeding and conservation programs managed by AZA to carefully maintain healthy, self-sustaining captive populations.

PENINSULAR PRONGHORNS BORN AT LOS ANGELES ZOO

The Los Angeles Zoo announced the births of two rare peninsular pronghorn twins. The pair was pulled for hand rearing in the Zoo's nursery to ensure that they were given every opportunity to thrive.

On 26 February 2010, two peninsular pronghorns, one male and one female, were born. This is the third pair of pronghorn twins born at the L.A. Zoo, the other pairs were born in March 2008 and March 2009. So far the L.A. Zoo is the only institution in the U.S. to breed this rare species. Native to Baja California, these graceful animals are mostly active at dawn and dusk.

This birth is a great leap for conservation efforts of this critically endangered species because one of the two fawns is female; the first female born in the United States. Breeding efforts in the U.S. have been hindered due to a lack of females. "Before this pair, we had two sets of twins born here, all males," explains Curator of Mammals Jeff Holland. "The only way the Peninsular Pronghorn Recovery Project (PPRP) could keep moving forward is if we got a female fawn." Hunting, cattle ranching and agriculture have resulted in the significant decrease of this species.

Newborn pronghorns take their first steps within 30 minutes of birth. By the time they are four days old, they can outrun humans. After just a week, fawns can run faster than dogs and horseback riders over short distances. They are the second fastest land mammal and the fastest ungulate, clocking in at anywhere from 40-to-60 miles per hour. They can maintain this speed, without showing any sign of distress, for an hour or longer.

Typically, a pronghorn mother will have one or two fawns weighing in at around seven or eight pounds. When they reach adulthood, pronghorns weigh up to 125 pounds and reach a height of 35 inches. The females are usually 10-to-25 percent smaller than males.

The Los Angeles Zoo is partnered with the Vizcaino Desert Biosphere Reserve and the Mexican Government in the PPRP. Since 2000, the Zoo has provided both financial assistance as well as personnel support to the PPRP. The Zoo's breeding herd is a part of the Species Survival Plan® (SSP) for Peninsular pronghorns.

ZOO LEON BREEDS GOLDEN EAGLE

After a co-sponsored visit to the Leon Zoo, John Akins, former director of conservation at San Francisco Zoo and now director of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, left us with suggestions as to why we had not been successful in reproducing our golden eagles. Well, it took a bit of time to follow through, but the Zoo has achieved the natural hatching of its first chick on 23 March. The parents are feeding their offspring Cornish hens and rabbits. To our knowledge this is the first time in Mexico that an *ex-situ* pair of golden eagles has successfully reproduced in a totally unassisted environment. ■



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