



### SADDLE-BILLED STORKS IN DALLAS

Two saddle-billed stork chicks (*ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) hatched 28 February and 1 March at the Dallas Zoo.

The parents incubated both eggs, and the chicks are being parent-raised in an off-exhibit area of the Zoo. The Dallas Zoo is the only zoo in Texas to display these birds and the only known zoo in the world that allows chicks to be parent-reared.



### SIGNIFICANT ARRIVALS IN KNOXVILLE

A male white rhinoceros was born on 7 November 2000 and is now the 24th white rhino born at the Knoxville Zoo.

The Zoo has the second most successful breeding program in the United States. The calf was named Titan, after the Tennessee Titans NFL football team. Titan, his parents, and the rest of the Zoo's herd of six white rhinos are doing well.



Six red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens fulgens*) were also born in 2000, bringing the Zoo's total red panda births to 66 - the most successful breeding of this species in North America. In addition to the new

cubs, the Zoo has continued raising a red panda from Potter Park Zoo, so that it could be peer-raised with two other cubs. The Zoo hosts a red panda keeper training workshop every fall for keepers to share their expertise, questions and working solutions with others.



Three lion cubs - two females and one male - were born 25 January. The parents are two founders brought to Knoxville in 1997 from the Kapama Game Reserve in South Africa. They and a five-year-old

female, born at The Indianapolis Zoo, make up the Zoo's krugeri subspecies pride. The cubs are being mother-reared and will be introduced to the other two pride members soon. At this time, they spend small amounts of time in the Pridelands exhibit, where they get lots of exercise and attention from the Zoo's visitors.

### SAVING THE KIHANSI SPRAY TOAD

You don't have to be large or loud to grab the attention of the World Bank, the Tanzanian government, or the Wildlife Conservation Society. In fact, being just 3/4" long is all it takes, if you're a Kihansi spray toad that is.

Late in 1999, the Tanzanian Power Authority began diverting the water in Kihansi Gorge in the Southern Udzungwa Mountains to produce badly needed electricity. Progress never seems to come without a price, however. This time the recently discovered species' habitat was the victim. The toad's habitat is formed by the fine mist produced from the cascading waters of Kihansi Falls. The spray from the falls also supplies an almost constant temperature and humidity plus protection from predator safari ants. This environment is so specialized that the amphibian has not been found in any surrounding wetlands or gorges. As the hydroelectric plant became operational, the

water slowed to a trickle -and so did the toad's chances for survival.

Led by the Wildlife Conservation Society, a consortium of zoos developed a captive breeding plan over the next 14 months. After finalizing an agreement with the Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, and with help from the World Bank, NORPLAN (a Norwegian engineering firm) and WCS field biologist Tim Davenport, Bronx Zoo Reptile Keeper Jason Searle arrived in Tanzania in November to collect spray toads for captive breeding in the United States.

After a 3,000 foot climb to the falls, Jason and accompanying biologists collected the allotted 500 Kihansi spray toads in just one hour. This was a sure sign that the population had been compressed into remaining habitat. The toads were then swiftly transported to New York's Bronx Zoo. After carefully unpacking the precious cargo, males began calling within just five minutes of investigating their new home. The following day, 250 toads were transferred to the Detroit Zoo's National Amphibian Conservation Center.

Tanzania continues to investigate alternatives to insure the delicate balance between nature and meeting the power needs of their country. In fact, artificial spray systems have been set up at the gorge with their effectiveness being monitored.

The Kihansi spray toads currently remain in an off exhibit quarantine area at the Bronx Zoo so that further studies can be made regarding diet and development, as little is known about this rare amphibian species.



### PALLAS CATS IN SAN DIEGO

For the first time in the history of the Zoological Society of San Diego, keepers at the World-Famous San Diego Zoo are hand raising two Pallas' cat kittens at the Children's Zoo Nursery.

The kittens were born 4 April to two recent arrivals from the Moscow Zoo. This is the first litter for the female Pallas' cat that appeared to be unable to produce milk for her litter. Janet Hawes, nursery keeper, said the mother was keeping close to the kittens and was showing normal behavior. Keepers are not sure what went wrong.

The kittens, a male and a female, were transferred to the nursery where they will remain for 12 to 14 weeks. They are being fed liquid kitten formula seven times a day or every three hours and weigh approximately 100 grams - the equivalent of a stick of butter. The kittens have not been named yet and their future at the San Diego Zoo has not been determined. The kittens may remain in the Zoo's collection or may be entered into a breeding program to help the threatened wild cats.

The continued survival of wild Pallas' cats from the Caspian Sea to Iran is threatened. The cats can also be found in southeastern Siberia and China. The San Diego Zoo is now home to four Pallas' cats, including the kittens. Only about 40 cats are in captivity in the United States and 100 worldwide.

Mom and dad are on exhibit at the San Diego Zoo's Polar Bear Plunge. Adult cats weigh five to six pounds, but because of their dense fur the cats look much larger than a house cat.

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