

Biologists believe the Janos, Mexico site offers one of the best opportunities to re-establish another self-sustaining black-footed ferret population because it contains the largest remaining disease-free prairie dog colony in North America. Black-footed ferrets prey almost exclusively on prairie dogs, and use prairie dog burrows as their dens.

PALM VIPER BIRTHS IN SAN ANTONIO

One female Rowley's palm viper (*Bothriechis rowleyi*) gave birth to eight young on 31 August at the San Antonio Zoo. Another female gave birth to six young on 27 September. This is the first time palm vipers have bred at the San



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Antonio Zoo, and the species has only been bred twice in captivity, both occurring at the Houston Zoo, once in 1989 and again in 1990. The breeding group is on loan from Dr. Jonathan Campbell of the University of Texas at Arlington.

The group is believed to be the only breeding group in captivity at this time.

The Rowley's palm viper is a rare, endemic Mexican pit viper restricted to isolated cloud forests near the southern border of the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico. San Antonio Zoo staff visited Cerro Baul, Oaxaca this past May in hopes of securing new bloodlines for the present breeding group. Unfortunately, no palm vipers were observed in any of the remaining fragmented cloud forest, though locals have reported recent sightings of the secretive snake.

FOSSIL RIM MAKES STRIDES IN RHINO CONSERVATION

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas announced the arrival of Kusamona, a five-year-old male southern black rhinoceros, to their facility on 22 October. Donated from the Western Plains Zoo in Australia, Kusamona will hopefully contribute significantly to national black rhino captive-breeding efforts. His arrival brings the Wildlife Center's black rhino population to six: two males and four females.

In 1994, Fossil Rim sent a bull to the Western Plains Zoo for breeding purposes. The breeding program proved successful with the bull fathering four calves, Kusamona being the first. The objective of bringing Kusamona to North America is to add to the genetic stock in the North American SSP program. All of Kusamona's offspring resulting from breeding with any of the four female rhinos at Fossil Rim will be placed in the North American population.

Conservation news at Fossil Rim also included the births of four cheetah cubs. The first-time mother has been taking excellent care of her young. The sire is one of three brothers



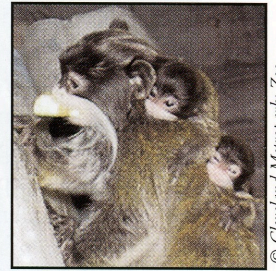
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on loan from the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The litter, consisting of two males and two females, brings the total number of cheetah cubs born at Fossil Rim to 93. The new cheetah family moved from the breeding facility to Fossil Rim's scenic drive-thru in early November for public viewing.

THREE SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS IN METROPARKS ZOO'S RAINFOREST

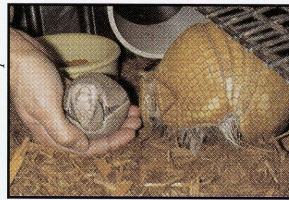
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo has announced several births among three species in their *Rainforest*. Twin emperor tamarins (*Saguinus imperator subgisezens*) were born on 10 October, weighing approximately 40 grams each. The 10-year-old father and

2-year-old mother, on loan from the Los Angeles Zoo, had recently been recommended for breeding by the Emperor Tamarin SSP. Native to the forests of northern Brazil, the endangered emperor tamarin is represented in North American zoos by less than 50 specimens.



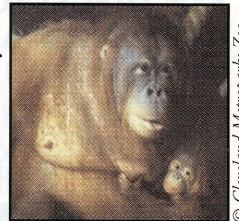
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On 17 October, a female La Plata three-banded armadillo (*Tolypeutes matacus*) was born, weighing approximately 74 grams. This is the second birth from a recently imported wild-born pair that arrived in August 1999. Only 10 births of this species occurred in North American zoos in the last 6 months.



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The *Rainforest* also welcomed a female Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*) on 23 April. This is only the second orangutan birth at the Zoo since 1962, and an important SSP birth of the Bornean subspecies. The mother and father, both 15 years old, were transported on SSP recommendation to Cleveland from Utah's Hogle Zoo and Yerkes Primate Research Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Although the mother was hand-raised, she exhibited good maternal instinct with her newborn. After a brief period of seclusion, the mother and baby were reunited with the troop now consisting of two adult females, one adult male and three young orangutans, ages 4, 3 and 6 months.



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SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS IN DALLAS

Twelve Kanburian pitvipers (*Trimeresurus kanburiensis*) were born at the Dallas Zoo on 30 September. Radiographs revealing a number of young, were taken in early September due to concern over the length of the gestation period. However, four weeks later, neonates were discovered in the female's display enclosure. The young averaged 14 centimeters in length and 3 grams in weight at birth. This is the Zoo's first captive reproduction of this Thailand endemic.