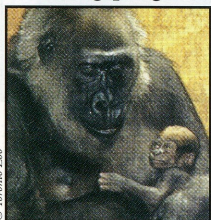


NEW MOMS IN TORONTO

The Toronto Zoo has announced the 27 January birth of a lion-tailed macaque to mother Si-Nikel and father Rama. Si-Nikel is raising the infant as it settles into family life with two siblings and the Zoo's newest male macaque, Carl. Found in southern India, these small primates are listed as endangered species with loss of habitat as their largest threat to survival. The Toronto Zoo is currently participating in a cooperative breeding program for this species.



© Toronto Zoo

Also new to the Zoo is a lowland gorilla born to mother Samantha on 9 February 2002. Meanwhile, 9-month-old lowland gorilla Jahari has been reunited with her mother Josephine on exhibit, and both offspring and mothers are doing well. Lowland gorillas are an AZA Species Survival Plan (SSP) species, and the Zoo's new infants represent important input for the captive breeding genetic pool.

ONE LITTLE, TWO LITTLE... TEN BABY RHINOS!

After a 16-month gestation period, a 134-pound male white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) calf greeted Memphis Zoo staff on 29 January. This is mother Tombi's third baby delivered in Memphis, and her tenth overall. Memphis' Pachyderm Team Leader Ken Paul noted that "ten babies are a lot of births for one rhino. In the wild, female rhinos are lucky to raise three to four babies during their lifespan. Due to great veterinary care, regular physicals and medicine, our animals are living longer and are able to have more babies, which is very positive for this endangered species."

According to keepers, the infant Badu (which means "tenth born" in Ghana) was quick to his feet from the start and, after just a few days, had already developed a noticeably independent personality. Due to the calmer weather in February, visitors did not have to wait to see the baby: keepers put Badu on exhibit soon after his birth on days when the weather was above 50°F and sunny.

Weighing an average of 7,500 pounds in adulthood, white rhinos are the second heaviest land mammals and have a life span of approximately 45 years. It is currently estimated that there are fewer than 8,500 southern white rhinos found in Africa, a number that is continuously falling. Badu's birth was an AZA white rhino Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommendation.

AUDUBON HATCHES MATAMATA

The Audubon Zoo has announced the hatching of two matamata (*Chelus fimbriatus*) from a clutch of 15 eggs laid in June 2001, eleven of which were infertile, while two were deemed full-term stillborn. The incubation period was 212



© Audubon Zoo

days at a constant temperature of 29.4°C. The hatchlings weighed 16 grams each. Though the Zoo's 4.2 adult specimens have been producing eggs annually for the past seven years, this is the first year their eggs have been fertile.

13TH RHINO BIRTH IN JACKSONVILLE

The Jacksonville Zoo announced the birth of a male white rhinoceros calf born on 8 February. The baby, weighing in at 167 pounds at birth, is the second offspring of Gabriella, an eight-year-old female, and the 13th offspring of Archie, the Zoo's 33-year-old male. Gabriella and her infant can be seen on exhibit in the *Plains of East Africa* with the Zoo's three other white rhinos.

The southern African population of the white rhino was almost exterminated in the 1800's, but effective protection after 1920 resulted in a steady increase in the sole surviving population. By 1982, the species was removed from the endangered species list, though the population currently found in Sudan and the Central African Republic is still considered endangered.

VIPERS AT FORT WORTH ZOO

Three Guatemalan palm vipers (*Bothriechis aurifer*) were born at the Fort Worth Zoo on 13 January 2002. Three neonates and three infertile ova were discovered in an exhibit that houses a single pair of adults who have reproduced previously at the Zoo, but whose offspring had thus far been stillborn. The neonates averaged 4.36 grams body weight at birth and are currently housed in 2.5-gallon aquariums maintained at 70° to 78°F.

The Guatemalan palm viper is rare both in the wild and in captivity, and is housed in four North American zoos. Captive breeding of this species is uncommon and has only occurred previously at the Dallas Zoo and the Houston Zoological Gardens.



© Ft. Worth Zoo

Also announced were the births of two female jaguar cubs on 2 February. At birth, each cub weighed approximately 1,000 grams, and

both are being mother-raised. This is only the second Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommended birth in the past eight years. The Audubon Zoo imported the jaguar cubs' parents from the Guadalajara Zoo in 1998 and 2001.

SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO'S HERD EXPANDS

The Sedgwick County Zoo recently welcomed a new addition to the *American Farms* exhibit: Myrtle, a Dutch Belted calf, was born 17 February 2002. At one week old, the calf weighed 90 pounds, and both mother and infant are doing well on

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