

## BLACK RHINO BORN AT SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO

On 5 November 2004, Sedgwick County Zoo staff welcomed a black rhinoceros calf. The female weighed approximately 60 lbs at birth. Mother, Bibi, and calf are doing fine. During the first few months the male is separated from the mother and calf.

Bibi came to the Sedgwick County Zoo

from the Kanazawa Zoological Gardens of Yokohama, Japan in October of 2001. She was the second rhinoceros ever of come to the United States from Japan. There are only 72 black rhinoceroses in North America and fewer than 2,000 left in the world. This birth is significant in regards to the diversity of the black rhinoceros gene pool in North America.

## WILD DOG PUPS BORN AT DENVER ZOO

Seven African Wild dog puppies were born at Denver Zoo on 18 November 2004. The puppies are behind the scenes with their mother in the *Predator Ridge* exhibit and can be seen on plasma video monitors in the interpretive center at the Zoo. This is the third litter of this endangered species born at Denver Zoo.

Denver Zoo has been a leader in breeding and managing African Wild dogs, since the Zoo began exhibiting three dogs in 2001. A total of 28 puppies have been born at Denver Zoo, all sanctioned by the SSP. Fourteen dogs have been sent to other institutions to conserve the captive population. Currently, the Denver Zoo pack totals 17 dogs and the captive population has grown to 126 dogs in 26 zoos in North America.

## NEW CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH CENTER TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

For more than a quarter of a century, the San Diego Zoo's department of Conservation and Research for Endangered Species (CRES) has celebrated significant breakthroughs in conservation and science for giant pandas, California condors, cheetahs, rhinos, iguanas and other species. Such efforts in using conservation and science together have had worldwide implications in preventing the extinction of wildlife, thus establishing CRES as a leader in research and wildlife conservation.

Beginning this year, CRES will celebrate the next step in maintaining its leadership role in endangered species research with the completion of the new *Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center for Conservation Research*, a \$22-million state-of-the-art facility, located adjacent to the *Paul Harter Veterinary Medical Center* at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park.

The *Beckman Center*, named in honor of the late Dr. Arnold Beckman and his late wife Mabel, will serve as a center for international scientists to learn and collaborate on conservation research projects. In addition, the facility will utilize the latest scientific technologies to overcome challenges relating to the conservation, health, genetic management, reproduction and general well being of endangered animals.

Founded in 1975 by Kurt Benirschke, MD, Zoological Society trustee emeritus, as the *Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species*, the division's name has undergone a change to reflect the primacy of its role in conservation. The new *Beckman Center* at the Wild Animal Park is a two-story, 50,000-square-foot facility, which includes 20,000 square feet of laboratory space with an additional 6,000 square feet for future renovations and 24,000 square feet for offices, a library, a conference room and the Frozen Zoo®.

The *Beckman Center* accommodates the equipment and personnel of seven of CRES' eight research divisions, including applied conservation; behavioral biology; ecology and evolution; reproductive physiology; genetics; endocrinology; and pathology. In addition, the Center will support work done by the Giant Panda Research division at the San Diego Zoo; the Hawaiian Bird Program located in Hawaii; and the Millennium Fellowship programs which are located throughout the world. These divisions all work together to find solutions to problems faced by animals in our own backyard and around the globe, which are then shared with other zoos and wildlife organizations through a cooperative international network.

## RED PANDAS BORN AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO

Two red panda cubs were born at the Sacramento Zoo on 3 June 2004. After about three weeks their eyes opened and they became active. It will be one year before they reach adult size. The 134-day gestation period is extraordinarily long for an animal of its body size. Red pandas typically have one to four cubs in each litter. It took the cubs over three months to leave their nesting area and venture out into their new Zoo habitat. They are solitary and elusive animals, so estimates of numbers remaining in the wild vary from 300 to 6,000.

The Sacramento Zoo is part of AZA's Red Panda SSP. There are 170 red pandas in the SSP. Part of the Zoo's long-term commitment to this breeding pro-



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