



quality wool. After World War I, the Leicester longwool population declined as other breeds were found that produced higher quantities of wool. The longwool are considered a Heritage Breed in need of conservation, and the four new lambs constitute important additions to the Buttonwood Park Zoo's rare breeds program.

Two rare San Clemente goats have also been added to the Zoo's rare breed program. The two goats are four years old and were donated to the Zoo by the Swiss Village Foundation of Newport, R.I.

According to the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, the status of San Clemente goats are listed as "critical" because there are less than 2,000 left in the world. San Clemente goats were brought to the New World by Spanish explorers in the 1500s and inhabited the island of San Clemente off the coast of California. The goats are relatively small, fine-boned and both sexes are horned with mostly red or tan with black markings.

### CALGARY ZOO WELCOMES SIX AFRICAN WILDDOGS

The Calgary Zoo has contributed to the preservation of the wild dog in Africa through its Conservation Fund. Now, the Calgary Zoo has a male pack to study and learn from. The Zoo's new pack of six males — Watson, Waldo, Weasley, Warner, Wilson and Wheaton — are from Mountain View Breeding and Conservation Centre in Langley, B.C., and come to Calgary with the assistance of the Kahanoff Foundation. They are two years old.

It is believed that fewer than 5,000 wild dogs, also known as African hunting dogs, exist in the wild. Their range has declined from 33 to 15 countries. The largest popu-



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lations exist in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Tanzania. The initial population reduction came during the early part of the century as a result of a very successful extermination campaign led by ranchers who feared the loss of livestock. Today, the effects of diseases — rabies, canine distemper, and parvovirus — spread by domestic dogs are having an even more devastating effect on wild dog numbers. Of additional concern is inbreeding due to the formation of genetically distinct groups of dogs in the southern and eastern regions of their current range. Their Latin name, *Lycaon pictus*, means "painted wolf-like animal."

### GRANT'S GAZELLE BORN AT VIRGINIA ZOO

Virginia Zoo announced the arrival of its newest family member, a female Grant's gazelle. The gazelle, born on 2 March, and her mother are in a protected area until the baby is strong enough to go out on exhibit. The gazelle and her mother have access to indoor and outdoor enclosures next to the giraffe exhibit.

Grant's gazelle are larger than most gazelle species. They are sandy or fawn in color with a white underbelly and rump. When fully grown they can weigh 84 to 178lbs. Males have very long and thick horns while the females have thin, slender horns. They generally live in semi-desert to open savannahs of Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. There are only approximately 50 Grant's gazelles in American zoos today.

### COQUEREL'S SIFAKA BORN AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO

The Sacramento Zoo announced its newest arrival — a male Coquerel's sifaka. Mother and baby have bonded well and she is providing excellent care. The Sacramento Zoo is one of only five North American zoos with sifakas.

The baby sifaka was found clinging to mom early on 9 February. Typically a single youngster is born and clings to the mother until weaned at approximately 4 to 5 months. The family group — mom, dad and baby — will be on exhibit together.



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Sifakas live in small groups of three to ten individuals with their age and sex composition varying widely. The parents in this case are both 14 years old.

Coquerel's sifakas are from the dry forests of Northwestern Madagascar. They are leaf-eating primates. Habitat destruction is the major conservation issue.

The Coquerel's sifaka is one of two new species housed in the *Lemurs of the Lost World* exhibit that opened in November of 2004. Shortly thereafter, it was discovered that the female was pregnant. Sifakas can weigh up to nine pounds and their fur is a combination of white and maroon-brown. Their legs are very long and their arms quite short. This enables them to push off from one branch and land vertically on another branch up to 20 feet away.

### BLACK RHINO BORN AT THE FORT WORTH ZOO

After an approximate 16-month gestation period, Mtoto, the Fort Worth Zoo's 16-year-old black rhino, gave birth to a female calf early on the morning of 11 March. Named "Muke" (MOO-KAY) which means "girl" in Swahili, the 50-pound calf is the first female black rhino born at the Fort Worth Zoo and represents a valuable addition to this critically endangered species.

Mtoto gave birth to her first calf Uhurhu in 2001. Still, the birth of black rhinos is relatively new to the Fort Worth Zoo. In the Zoo's history, only three black rhinos have been born: Little Harry (named after Zoo Board member Harry Tennison, who was instrumental in bring-



ing black rhinos to the United States), Uhuru and now Muke.

Black rhinos are listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union. Breeding efforts through the SSP are crucial, as black rhinos have suffered the most spectacular rate of decline among all rhino species, with a loss of more than 97 percent of the total population in 25 years. In the wild, poaching remains a threat to the survival of the species, even though the wild rhino population seems to be experiencing a gradual recovery. Currently, only an estimated 2,700 black rhinos are still in the wild.

**BIRTH OF TEAL CHICKS AT THE SHEDD AQUARIUM**

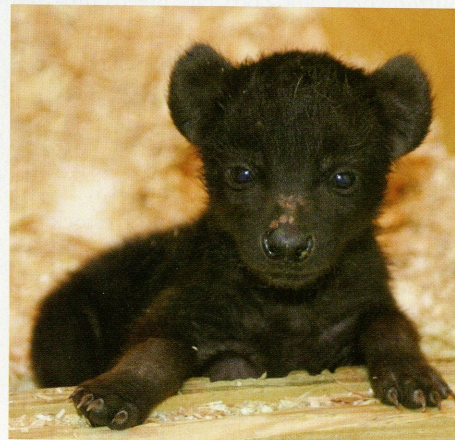
The Shedd Aquarium's Brazilian teals (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*) hatched four chicks on 15 March in the Aquarium's *Amazon Rising* exhibit.

The energetic hatchlings have been following their parents around the exhibit. The set of four ducklings followed their mom and dad wherever they went, including in and out of several of the exhibit's pools. These chicks grow very quickly and will not be small for long. They reach their adult size in six weeks.

**FIRST HYENA CUB SINCE 1987 BORN AT DENVER ZOO**

Denver Zoo celebrates the birth of a spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*), the first of this species born at the Zoo in 18 years. The cub was born on 16 March in the Zoo's new *Predator Ridge* exhibit. Two male spotted hyenas and one female came to Denver Zoo in June of 2004 as a donation from the University of California, Berkley and have been sharing the use of an outdoor enclosure with African wild dogs on a rotational basis. Zookeepers have not

identified the sex of the infant yet. Currently, the cub and mother are behind the scenes in their private maternity den, but can be seen by the public on television monitors. ■



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**2005 COMMUNIQUÉ PHOTO CONTEST**

*Communiqué* is holding a photography contest to highlight the best photography at AZA institutions in 2005. Photos need to have been taken in 2005 and be from staff at an accredited AZA institution. *Communiqué* staff will judge the photos, and the winner will appear on the December 2005 cover. Other exceptional photos will be highlighted inside the magazine. Submissions should include the name of the photographer, AZA institution, caption, date of picture and equipment used. Only one photo per photographer, so send in your best image. Pictures can include animals, people, and zoo or aquarium scenes — if you think it will make a good cover, send it in! To be considered for publication in *Communiqué*, photos that include people must be accompanied by a release signed by each person depicted. Release form can be found at [www.aza.org/AZAPublications/PhotoContest/](http://www.aza.org/AZAPublications/PhotoContest/).

To be considered for the cover, electronic photos need to be TIFF or EPS files at a minimum of 300 dpi resolution and 9"x12" in size. E-mail electronic images to [tlewthwaite@aza.org](mailto:tlewthwaite@aza.org). Hard copies can be mailed to:

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The deadline for submission is 16 September 2005. If you have any questions contact Tim Lewthwaite at (301) 562-0777 ext. 253 or by e-mail at [tlewthwaite@aza.org](mailto:tlewthwaite@aza.org).



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