

Animal Park is the only North American zoo to have successfully raised this species.



PREHENSILE TAILED PORCUPINE BORN AT NATIONAL ZOO

On the afternoon of 11 April, keepers at the Small Mammal House at the Smithsonian's National Zoo discovered that the Zoo's female prehensile-tailed porcupine (*Coendou prehensilis*) had given birth.

The next day, keepers and one of the Zoo's veterinarians examined the day-old baby, which weighed in at less than a pound. They were unable to determine its sex.

Over the next few months, the baby porcupine will lose its red hair and, like its parents, it will be covered with spines. Parents and offspring are on exhibit in the Small Mammal House.

Prehensile-tailed porcupines, which are native to South America, use their tails for grasping and hanging. Porcupines are mostly nocturnal, and can become quite aggressive when threatened. They shake their spines, growl and can curl up into a ball if caught.

DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM RHINO FAMILY ADDS CALF

Walt Disney World's white rhino Kendi gave birth to baby daughter, Kayla, at Disney's Animal Kingdom in February. At her first weigh-in on 10 March, Kayla weighed 143 pounds and has since grown to over 233 pounds, gaining on average

3½ pounds every day. Kendi is the first of four white rhinos born at Disney's Animal Kingdom and is nearly six years old. There are seven southern white rhi-

nos in the herd — four males and three females.

A rhino birth is a notable event — in the past two years there have been 21 births in North American zoos. At one time white rhinos were nearly extinct, numbering less than 200 animals. They were protected and managed, but even now there are only approximately 11,000 worldwide, with 171 in North American zoos. Many of the older animals in the population have not bred and it is critical to the long-term

survival of the North American population for this species to continue to reproduce. The gestation peri-

od is 16 months and normally results in a single birth.

NEW BABY GIRAFFE AT DICKERSON PARK ZOO

A Baringo giraffe (*Giraffa* camelopardalis rothschildi) was born 31 March at the Dickerson Park Zoo. Five-year-old Kamili gave birth to a female calf in the exhibit yard as Zoo guests and staff looked on. The calf took its first steps approximately an hour after birth.



Kamili was born at Utah's Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City in 1999. She came to Dickerson Park Zoo when she was 14-months old. This is Kamili's second calf. The calf's 18-year old father, Stretch, came to Dickerson Park Zoo in 1988 from Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo.

The public will see the calf, the nineteenth giraffe born at Dickerson Park Zoo, at the giraffe exhibit along with the Zoo's seven other giraffes.

TWIN LEMURS BORN AT WOODLAND PARK ZOO

Twin red-ruffed lemurs were born in mid April at Woodland Park Zoo. The twins, a male and female, will be off exhibit for a few months to ensure maternal bonding occurs. The Zoo's other red-ruffed lemurs can be viewed at the award-winning *Tropical Rain Forest*.

The newborn lemurs join ten other surviving offspring from the mother and father. This is the second birth of the species at the Zoo in two years. The babies

weigh 2.8 and 3.3 ounces each and appear to be healthy. All lemur species are native to the African island nation of Madagascar. Red-ruffed lemurs live in deciduous tropical forests of the Masoala Peninsula in northeastern Madagascar at elevations of up to 3,300 feet

The lemur birth is significant for populations in zoos

and in the wild. Woodland Park Zoo participates in the Red-ruffed Lemur Species Survival Plan. Habitat destruction, hunting, and live captures for the pet or animal trades have placed severe pressures on lemur populations. Scientists estimate that only 1,000 to 10,000 red-ruffed lemurs remain in the wild.

HOUSTON ZOO AND NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER SIGN CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

For more than ten years, the Houston Zoo and six other conservation oriented organizations have been actively involved in a recovery program for the endangered Attwater's prairie chicken. In late April, the Houston Zoo and officials of the National Aeronautics and Space