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AKRON ZOO ANNOUNCES BIRTH OF ENDANGERED JAGUAR CUBS

The Akron Zoo announced the birth of three endangered jaguar cubs born on 4 October 2005. All three cubs, females, are doing well. However, one had to be hand raised due to the lack of attention given to her by their mother. The cubs will remain indoors with their mother for the next several months.

The mother, Naom, and father, Chack (pronounced shock), are first time parents. Naom, 4, arrived at the Akron Zoo on 22 May 2002 from the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. Chack, 5, was brought to Akron on 26 October 2003, from the Zoologica La Jungla in Guatemala. The jaguars first went on exhibit at the Akron Zoo in May 2005, in the Zoo's new *Legends of the Wild* exhibit.

MIAMI METROZOO IMPORTS TWO GIANT RIVER OTTERS AND SUPPORTS IN-SITU CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN COLOMBIA

Miami MetroZoo announced the importation of two male giant river otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis brasiliensis*), "Lobo del Rio," on 9 December 2005. The two animals are almost two years old, captive born at the Cali Zoo, Cali, Colombia. They are from wild-caught parents that have produced at least eleven offspring. The river otters will be one of the keystone species in Miami Metro Zoo's *Tropical America* expansion.

Giant river otters are native to the tropical rainforest countries of South America.



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Their total body length is five to six and one-half feet and they weigh between fifty and seventy-one pounds. They are highly endangered and listed as Appendix I CITES.

This importation was supported by the Otter SSP, USFWS, the Colombian Government, and the Cali Zoo. Miami MetroZoo, The Dallas World Aquarium and the Philadelphia Zoo are the only three U.S. zoos to hold and exhibit this species. This importation will assist captive breeding and conservation efforts of giant river otters *in-situ* and *ex-situ*. Miami MetroZoo has contributed over \$45,000 toward conservation efforts at the Cali Zoo, and in the Amazon River and Orinoco River areas of Colombia.

Terry Webb, curator of mammals visited the Cali Zoo to coordinate the acquisition and transfer of Tucano and Witoto and hopes to work with other U.S. zoos to set up an exchange of animals for breeding purposes.

INDIAN RHINO BORN AT OKLAHOMA ZOO

The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden announced the birth of a female greater one-horned Asian (Indian) rhinoceros calf on 18 January. This is the third Indian rhino born at the Zoo since the Zoo began exhibiting the species in 1981. Tashi, the first Indian rhino calf was born in 1996 and now resides at the Buffalo Zoo. Jamie, born in 2001, lives at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Fla.

The birth occurred in the mother's exhibit inside the pachyderm building. Both mother and baby are doing well and are now undergoing a crucial bonding phase. The first 30 days after birth are crucial as it is during this time that the mother and calf must bond, the calf must begin to nurse regularly and the mother learns how to nurture her calf.

This is the third calf born to Mary, the 16-year-old mother and Chandra, the

20-year-old father. Mary came to the Zoo in November 1993. She was born at the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Park. Chandra came to the Zoo in 1990 and is on loan from the Los Angeles Zoo. Chandra is the only living offspring of a wild-caught female that is no longer alive. The new calf represents vital genetic material critical to the future survival of the species.

The Zoo participates in the Greater One-Horned Asian Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan (SSP). Currently there are 59 Indian rhinos in North America managed by the SSP.

WILD ANIMAL PARK CELEBRATES BIRTH OF 50TH INDIAN RHINO

The San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park celebrated the birth of its 50th Indian rhino calf Lali, a female.

The Wild Animal Park opened its doors for the first time in 1972 with two Indian rhinos in its collection. In 1978, the first calf was born. The Wild Animal Park is the first facility in the Western Hemisphere to have a successfully reproducing group of third and fourth generation Indian rhinos. The Park currently houses 16 individuals of this endangered species, the largest of any population in the United States.

Lali, which means darling girl in Hindi, was born 3 December to first-time mother, Gari. The pair spent eight weeks in private quarters to allow the pair to bond before the calf was introduced to the other members of the Indian rhino crash. Lali's sire has fathered 12 calves at the Wild Animal Park.

The female calf weighs approximately 180 pounds and can weigh as much as 5,000 pounds when full grown. Once widespread in Southeast Asia, Indian rhinoceroses are now found only in India and Nepal.



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CONTINUED, PAGE 36