

nest building and foraging were also added. The parents Zawadi and Aminah are handfed insects during morning training sessions and weighed on a weekly basis.

Past weighing and documentation allowed staff to determine the inter-birth interval for this pair is about 52 days so the keepers were able to anticipate this pending birth. In preparation, extra nesting material was added to the exhibit. Two weeks prior to estimated parturition the keepers began weighing the female daily. As in past pregnancies, Zoo staff expected and recorded an increase of almost 60 grams in the female's weight. A decrease of about 35 grams in weight suggested that the female had given birth. As a matter of policy, keepers do not disturb the nest box and the staff waited patiently for the new shrew's emergence. Alau, Swahili for "at last" made his first appearance on exhibit at 25 days old. Alau's growth rate is substantial, at about 25 days Alauh is already the size of his parents. This birth is especially encouraging since mother Aminah, a hand raised female, had shown very little interest in rearing any of her previous offspring.

Native to Kenya and Tanzania this species is listed as endangered. The AZA Rodent TAG has recently elevated this species to be managed at the PMP level. Glen Oak Zoo along with Cincinnati Zoo and Philadelphia Zoo are thought to be the only institutions to successfully breed this species or genus in zoological institutions.

WHITE RHINO BORN AT BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA BAY

A female white rhinoceros was born on 16 August 2006 at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

Weighing in at an estimated 100 pounds, this is the second rhino born

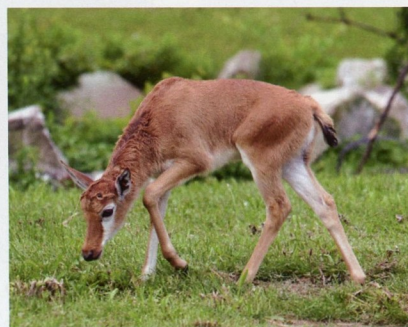
to mother Mlelani and father Tombo. The October 2004 birth of Mlelani and Tombo's first calf, Malaika, meaning Angel, marked the first white rhino birth in the adventure park's 46-year history. The birth brings the total white and black rhino population at the adventure park to 12. Park guests can get up-close views of the white rhinos via the Serengeti Express Train, which travels right through the open habitat, as well as from the Skyride and Rhino Rally. The rhinos share their habitat with other herds of African animals and birds.

ARIZONA RIDGE-NOSED RATTLE SNAKES AND ATTWATER PRAIRIE CHICKENS BORN AT ABILENE ZOO

The Abilene Zoo announced the hatching of 0.0.4 Arizona ridge-nosed rattlesnakes (*Crotalus willardi willardi*). This small montane species of rattlesnake is part of the PMP program. The parents originated from the wild making these offspring a valuable part of the program.

The Zoo also hatched 53 Attwater's prairie chickens this season. Thirty-one chicks and four adults were then moved to a refuge near Houston Texas for release into the wild.

The Attwater's prairie chicken is considered one of the most critically endangered birds on the planet. It is believed that less than 60 survive in the wild. Without strong conservation efforts and *ex-situ* breeding and rearing facilities these birds may have vanished over a decade ago. The Abilene Zoo, along with the Houston Zoo, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, San Antonio Zoo, Caldwell Zoo, Sea World Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services are



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CONTINUED, PAGE 40