

BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

CRITICALLY-ENDANGERED BLACK RHINO BORN AT LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Ill., reported the birth of an Eastern black rhinoceros calf on 26 August. The male calf weighed in at 60 pounds at birth. First time mom Kapuki (8) was recommended to breed with Maku (27) by the Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan® (SSP), a cooperative breeding and management strategy overseen by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The calf is the first to be born at Lincoln Park Zoo since 1989.

Black rhinos are critically endangered and were nearly driven to extinction in the 1990s. They are a major target for poachers, mainly due to a misconception in some cultures that

their horns have medicinal value. Recent estimates put the total number of wild black rhinos at around 5,000.

Lincoln Park Zoo is dedicated to rhino conservation and is home to three adult Eastern black rhinos. The Zoo has been housing critically endangered black rhinos since 1982. In addition to working closely with the SSP, Lincoln Park Zoo supports rhinos through field work in their native South Africa. The information Zoo scientists gather on rhino hormone levels, parasites, and sleep patterns increases global understanding of how to manage and conserve the species.

WEEDY SEADRAGONS HAVE HATCHED AT BIRCH AQUARIUM AT SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Between 19- 30 September, seven baby seadragons hatched from a male weedy seadragon carrying eggs on its tail at Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego, an event captive breeding programs rarely experience. The male was one of ten weedy seadragons donated to Birch Aquarium by the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, Calif.

The hatchlings were part of the first brood raised in Birch Aquarium's new Seadragon Propagation Program, which aquarists hope will follow in

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