BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

ZOO MIAMI SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS

Zoo Miami in Miami, Fla., recently celebrated three significant births. First, on 25 May, a black rhinoceros was born. This was the 13th successful birth at Zoo Miami for this highly endangered species. Weighing 122 pounds, the female calf was born after an approximately 15 month gestation period. The 14-year old mother, named Circe, was born at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, S.C., and arrived at Zoo Miami in 2006. The father, named Eddie, is also 14-years old and was born at the Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Black rhinos are highly endangered as they continue to be poached at alarming rates in Eastern and Southern Africa. Whereas there used to be over 100,000 running wild in Africa within the past century, those numbers are now down to an estimated 5,000 individuals. They are killed for their horns which are prized in some eastern cultures for medicinal purposes and as status symbols.

On 30 May, the Zoo welcomed the birth of a male white-faced saki monkey. This is the first birth of this species of tropical American monkey for Zoo Miami. Found in the rainforest trees of Brazil, Guyana, and Venezuela, these fruit eating monkeys rarely come to the ground and are considered vulnerable due to habitat destruction and hunting for food and the pet trade. Unfortunately, the first-time mother rejected the offspring so it is now being hand raised by Zoo staff.

Finally, on 16 June, Zoo Miami was extremely fortunate to experience the captive hatching of a blue-billed curassow. This is the second hatching of this highly endangered species at Zoo Miami. This turkey sized bird is originally from the humid lowlands of northern Colombia where much of its







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habitat has been destroyed by logging and mining. It is believed that there are as few as 250 individuals remaining in the wild making it one of the most critically endangered species of birds in the world.

EXTREMELY RARE PENINSULAR PRONGHORNS BORN AT THE EL PASO ZOO

The El Paso Zoo in El Paso, Texas, is one of only four zoos involved in the management of endangered peninsular pronghorns (Antilocapra americana peninsularis), a subspecies of the only American antelope, and the second fastest land mammal in the world. A new group of three peninsular pronghorns that arrived last December from the Los Angeles Zoo recently gave birth to two sets of twins on 9 April and 3 May. Only 250 remain in the wild and 28 in zoos with the El Paso Zoo holding over 20 percent of the captive population.

Pronghorn have survived in North America since the Pleistocene age (10,000 to 1.8 million years ago) when they lived during the time of now extinct ground sloths, short-faced bears, tapirs, camels and mammoths. More than likely they developed the ability to run at high speeds to avoid the American cheetah, (Miracinonyx), another extinct species from this period.

There are five recognized subspecies of pronghorn. Those living closes to the Zoo in West Texas are sometimes referred to as pronghorn or Mexican pronghorn (Antilocapra americana mexicana).

Pronghorn are the only animals in the world with branched horns. Unlike other animals with horns like sheep, goats and antelope, the pronghorn sheds the outer most horn layer like a deer sheds its antler.

DALLAS ZOO'S OTTER PUP BEATS THE ODDS TO SURVIVE

The Dallas Zoo in Dallas, Texas, celebrated the successful birth and nurturing of a new Asian small-clawed otter pup. She was born 25 January. It needed more than 100 days of devoted care from her keepers, because single otter pups usually do not survive.

The pup's mother, Daphne, became the oldest Asian small-clawed female otter in the North American Species Survival Plan® (SSP) breeding population to give birth. Now 13, Daphne was age 12 years, 9 months when the pup was born. She has been named Tasanee, which means "beautiful view" in Thai. Dad Jimmy (8) was born at the Dallas Zoo in 2006.

The survival rate for single otter pups is extremely poor, possibly due to their mothers' insufficient milk production and lack of stimulation from

