

## BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

### DENVER ZOO WELCOMES BIRTH OF EXTREMELY ENDANGERED AMUR LEOPARD CUB

Denver Zoo in Denver, Colo., celebrated the birth of a critically endangered Amur leopard cub named Sochi, born 3 December 2013. The young male, named for the Russian city hosting this year's winter Olympics, is the tenth birth of his species at Denver Zoo since Amur leopards arrived in 1989. After spending time bonding with his mother, Dazma, Sochi can now be spotted by Zoo guests inside the Zoo's Feline Building.

Sochi is the second cub for Dazma and her mate, Hari-Kari. Hari-Kari was born at El Paso Zoo in El Paso, Texas, in 2003 and arrived at Denver Zoo in 2005. Dazma was born at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 2001 before coming to Denver Zoo in 2004. The two were paired under recommendation of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan® (SSP) which ensures healthy populations and genetic diversity among zoo animals. Fortunately, the couple has proved to be an excellent match.

Amur leopards take their name from the Amur region in eastern Russia. Once found from South Korea to north of the China-Russia border, they are now nearly extinct in the wild due to poaching for fur, loss of habitat and trophy hunting. In fact, Amur leopards are considered the most endangered cats on the planet. Though there are differing reports about just how many of them remain in the wild, the largest estimation is less than 50 individuals, compared to 96 in North American zoos. In 1989, when Denver Zoo's first Amur leopard, Galax, arrived; there were still less than 50 in the wild and only ten in North American zoos.

Amur leopards live further north than any other subspecies of leopard and have several adaptations for surviving in their cold, snowy climates. They have beautiful fur that is longer and paler than other leopards. In winter it can grow to nearly three inches long. In addition they have long legs to help them move through deep snow in search of prey. Amur leopards are also agile climbers and can leap ten feet in the air. They can drag a kill up to three times their own weight into a tree to avoid competition from other predators.

Adult male Amur leopards can grow to weigh about 120 pounds and measure up to two-and-a-half-feet tall at the shoulder and eight or nine-feet-long from head to tail.

### TWO SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO CALVES BORN AT THE WILDS

Two healthy white rhino calves were recently welcomed at the Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio. The first calf was born in November and the second entered the world in January.

The calf born in November is a female and a fourth generation offspring born in human care. The calf's mother is Sally who was also born at the Wilds in 2006. Her father is Fireball, born in 2002 at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, Texas. This is the second calf for Sally.

The second calf, born 3 January, is also a female and a fourth generation offspring. Her mother, Eve, was born

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at the Wilds in 2006 and Fireball is the father of this calf as well. This is Eve's second calf and Fireball's eighth. Both mothers and calves are doing fine and will be slowly introduced to the rest of the herd after the weather warms up in the spring.

The birth of these calves are the 19th and 20th rhinos (and 14th and 15th white rhinos) born at the Wilds since 2004. The Wilds is also the only place, outside of Africa, with fourth generation offspring and has one of the largest herds of white rhinos in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

There are five species of rhinoceros; black and white rhinos are found in Africa and the greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhinos are found in Asia. Despite some conservation success stories all rhino species are in peril from poaching and loss of habitat.

## FOUR EGYPTIAN GOSLINGS HATCHED AT BREC'S BATON ROUGE ZOO

Four Egyptian goslings were hatched on 19 January at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo in Baker, La. Found naturally south of the Sahara in Africa, these water lovers were considered sacred by the ancient Egyptians and later kept in domestic flocks by Romans and Greeks. The goslings are actively on display near Cool Critters Café.

## OMAHA'S HENRY DOORLY ZOO AND AQUARIUM WELCOMES FIVE ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN CHICKS

Five rockhopper penguin chicks recently hatched at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha, Neb. Typically adult birds will raise their own chicks, but these eggs were hand raised due to increased activity levels in the exhibit. The eggs were kept in an incubator set at 97

degrees Fahrenheit for 36 days. Once an egg began to hatch, keepers put the egg in a hatcher until the chick was fully hatched and dry. The chicks were then transferred to a brooder with a temperature of about 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature of the brooder will slowly decrease as the chicks grow, eventually reaching the exhibit temperature of 38 degrees Fahrenheit.

Keepers follow strict hand rearing guidelines that allow the chicks to only consume ten percent of their body weight at each feeding. Rockhopper chicks are fed five times a day and eat a fish and krill formula that is made fresh daily and packed with all the vitamins and minerals the growing chicks need. They also eat small fish filets until they progress to whole fish. Since the chicks consume ten percent of their body weight at each feeding, it is very important for the keepers to tell them apart. Each chick has one foot marked with a non-toxic paint to allow keepers to identify them.



WDM Architects P.A. • 105 North Washington • Wichita, KS 67202 • 316.262.4700 • wdmarchitects.com

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