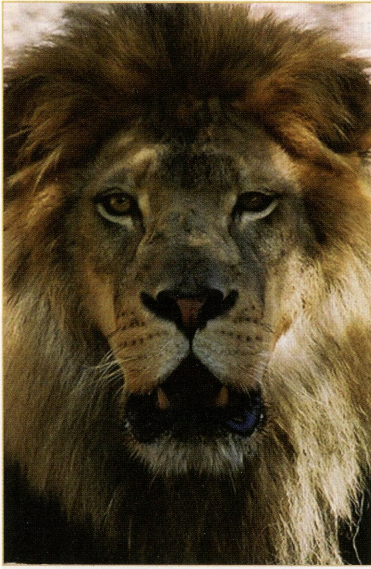


SACRAMENTO ZOO MAKES ROOM FOR MALE AFRICAN LION

The Sacramento Zoo recently debuted Aslan, a seven-year-old male African lion on loan from the Knoxville Zoo who will be introduced to Massina, Sacramento Zoo's 13-year-old female, by recommendation of the Lion Species Survival Plan (SSP). Aslan was captive born in South Africa and represents a brand new genetic line for the SSP.



© Sacramento Zoo

Although the African lion is not listed as endangered, they are far from plentiful. Their habitats are now only in game reserves in Eastern and Southern Africa. Lions are an important resource to game reserves in the region, bringing in much needed visitors and income from eco-tourism. Loss of genetic diversity from inbreeding, fragmentation, disease and loss of habitat are all problems that continue to threaten this species. Diseases from domestic cats and dogs have also made an impact on wild populations.

WOODLAND PARK ZOO WELCOMES MALAYAN TAPIR

As a group of Woodland Park Zoo visitors watched in awe, an endangered Malayan tapir delivered a male calf on exhibit on 29 September. Zookeepers were fortunate to capture the rare birth on video. The 29-pound, unnamed calf is the second successful birth for the 8-year-old parents. The calf will remain off exhibit in a heated barn for an extended period of time due to temperature needs. Zoo-goers may view him on a closed-circuit "tapir cam" in the *Trail of Vines* exhibit.

Woodland Park Zoo's last Malayan tapir birth occurred in Spring 2000. "The birth of the tapir is significant because his genetic line is underrepresented in the North American zoo population," says Bret Sellers, the Zoo's Collection Manager of Mammals. Sellers noted that just three Malayan tapir births occurred in North American zoos in the last six months. The Zoo's birth brings the total number of Malayan tapirs in North American zoos to 56. Native to Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Burma, southern Thailand and possibly Laos, an estimated 900 to 3,000 Malayan tapirs remain in the wild.

RHINO ARRIVES AT AUDUBON

Audubon Zoo, a facility of Audubon Nature Institute, is proud to announce the first birth of a rhino in New Orleans, born the evening of 8 September. His birth is especially significant because both parents are captive born. The calf's

father was born at the Jacksonville Zoo 12 years ago, while his 13-year-old mother was born in Knoxville and is owned by the Baton Rouge Zoo. Mother and youngster are thriving and can be viewed daily via the Audubon "RhinoCam" at www.auduboninstitute.org.



© Audubon Zoo

PARMA WALLABY DEBUTS AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO

Against all odds, Dash, a female parma wallaby, is finally on exhibit at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Dash is one of eight wallabies rescued from Kawau Island, New Zealand, last February by Adrienne Miller, Zoo Collection Manager. Without Miller's efforts, Dash's future, like thousands of endangered parma wallabies on Kawau Island, would have been very uncertain. The New Zealand Department of Conservation is actively eradicating wallabies from the island due to the ecological problems they are causing. Parma wallabies are a non-native species originally introduced to Kawau Island in the 1880s. A stay of execution has been granted in order to rescue as many parma wallabies as possible for transfer to interested zoos. As head of the AZA Parma Wallaby Population Management Plan, which is based at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Miller has spearheaded efforts to get as many wallabies into North American zoos as possible.

Dash was quarantined after her arrival in February, but has recently been issued a clean bill of health and can finally be seen in her new home in the Zoo's *Australasia* exhibit, along with two other female parma wallabies who came to the Zoo from Kawau Island in 1997. Miller will travel back to the island this fall to research the current wallaby population and, if necessary, attempt the rescue of more animals.

DETROIT ZOO ANNOUNCES AMUR TIGER BIRTHS

The Detroit Zoo recently celebrated the births of three critically endangered Amur tiger cubs. The 10-pound cubs were born on 12 August and are tucked away in their den with their mother. The cubs are just starting to play and walk, and are expected to appear on exhibit in November. This is the second successful set of births in two decades, with three other cubs born in 2000.

The tiger cubs, offspring of 13-year-old Bransk and 11-year-old Sheba, are a welcome addition to the Detroit Zoo due to their critically endangered status. Sheba joined Bransk earlier this year as a part of a Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommendation.

Zoo Director Ron Kagan states, "We were fortunate to be chosen as one of 11 zoos in North America to breed Amur tigers, [and] we are also very excited for the public." Currently, only 63 zoos in North America hold Amur tigers.