

## significant births and hatchings



*Photo by Chris Grassl*

Female white rhino born at Disney on 23 March.

### Twin Prehensile Tail Porcupines Born

Rosie and Nina, the first recorded twin prehensile tail porcupines born in the United States play in sight of mom at the Nairobi Animal Nursery at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

Covered with soft auburn-colored hair and a growing layers of quills, the pair have become animal ambassadors for the African adventure park.

Since their 24 March birth, the duo has traveled to the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and Univision's Despierta America.

Native to Mexico and South America, the prehensile tailed porcupine is arboreal, spending much of its time in trees where its tail can function as an additional limb.

### Female White Rhino Born at Disney

A female white rhino was born at Disney's Animal Kingdom on 23 March. The dam, from the White Oak Plantation, was transferred to Disney's Animal Kingdom in 1998, after breeding, as part of the White Rhino SSP recommendations. Both mother and calf are doing well and will rejoin the herd in a few months.

At 10 weeks, the calf weighed 455 lbs, and is target trained to facilitate regular weighing. This is the first white rhino born at Disney's Animal Kingdom and the 13th calf for the mother.



*Photo courtesy of Busch Gardens*

Twin prehensile porcupines.

### Rare Rüppell's Griffin Vulture Chick Born In Milwaukee

The Milwaukee County Zoo is proud to announce the successful hatching of a Rüppell's Griffin Vulture chick on 9 April. The egg was laid on 13 February and was immediately removed from the nest and raised by zookeepers. Now that the chick has hatched, the chick will continue to be raised by keepers.

The tiny chick weighed only 4.5 ounces and was measured no longer than a human hand. To keep the chick from becoming domesticated while being cared for, zookeepers wear a plastic hand puppet that looks like an adult vulture. The keepers also remain screened from sight. The chick's daily food intake is roughly one fourth of its total body weight.

The zookeepers won't know the sex of the chick for several months. After that time, the bird should be large enough to take the blood sample needed to determine the sex.

Rüppell's Griffin Vultures are quite rare, with less than 30 in North America, which is why the hatching is significant. If the bird is male, it will remain with the Milwaukee County Zoo to breed with a female whose previous mate died.

This Rüppell's Griffin Vulture will take about seven years to reach sexual maturity, but if it is a male, that time should not prohibit and eventually pairing with the older female vulture.



*Photo courtesy of Milwaukee County Zoo*

Rare Rüppell's Griffin Vulture chick.