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WARTHOG PIGLETS BORN AT ZOO ATLANTA

Shirley's latest little ones are heralds of spring

ATLANTA – April 8, 2010 – Has the pitter-patter of piglet feet become as beloved a sign of springtime in Atlanta as beautiful weather and daffodils? Yes, if the Farmer's Almanac consults Zoo Atlanta's veteran warthog parents Vern and Shirley. Four-year-old Shirley has given birth to her third litter, with five piglets (four girls and one boy) born late in the evening Wednesday, April 7. The Animal Management and Veterinary Teams continue to monitor the mother and her piglets closely.

"We are delighted about Shirley's new piglets," said Dr. Dwight Lawson, Senior Vice President of Collections, Education and Conservation. "Spring is an exciting season at Zoo Atlanta, and we look forward to Members and guests coming to visit the new litter."

Currently, 11-month-old warthogs Lenny and Squiggy live separate from their parents who are housed in the Georgia Power sponsored warthog exhibit Kalahari Connections. Piglets are typically weaned by the time they are 6 months old; in the wild, older siblings may continue to reside with their mother until her next litter is born or longer. While wild warthog fathers tend to have little or no association with their young, 4-year-old Vern has proven himself to be an interested and dedicated parent.

Found throughout the savanna of eastern sub-Saharan Africa, warthogs are not currently endangered. Female warthogs usually give birth to one litter (average three to five piglets) after a five to six-month gestation.

Stay tuned for announcements on when Members and guests can see the newest members of the warthog family.

About Zoo Atlanta

An accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta inspires value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family fun. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with more than 1,000 animals from around the world. An all-new carnivore complex, featuring the exciting debut of two new sun bears, is scheduled to open in summer 2010. Zoo Atlanta is also the proud home of Xi Lan, the only giant panda cub born in the U.S. in 2008, and the popular Boundless Budgies: A Parakeet Adventure, the largest interactive experience of its kind in the Southeast. Other highlights

include the nation's largest collection of great apes and a global center of excellence for the care and reproduction of vanishing amphibians and reptiles. Zoo Atlanta is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, call 404.624.WILD or visit zooatlanta.org.

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