



For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Keisha N. Hines, Director of Public Relations and Communications
404.624.5980 –office
404.309.2238 –cell
khines@zooatlanta.org

Simone Griffin, Public Relations Coordinator
404.624.2809
sgriffin@zooatlanta.org

INFANT ORANGUTAN MAKES FIRST TRIPS OUTSIDE WITH HIS NEW MOTHER

Species Survival Plan selected Zoo Atlanta's Madu as Remy's surrogate mom

ATLANTA – April 21, 2011 – An infant ape who journeyed from Texas to be fostered by one of the nation's best surrogate mothers is now beginning to explore his outdoor habitat. Remy, a 4-month-old male Sumatran orangutan from the Fort Worth Zoo, is adjusting well and has been accepted by Madu, a 27-year-old Sumatran orangutan at Zoo Atlanta.

The infant, whose full name is Rembulan Wajah (Rembulan means "moon;" Wajah, "face," in Indonesian) was born on November 26, 2010. His biological mother became very ill and was unable to care for Remy. Although she has since improved, she remains under close veterinary supervision. The Orangutan Species Survival Plan (SSP) identified Madu as the top candidate for surrogacy, as she has successfully reared two previous foster infants.

"It's critical that orangutans be raised by other orangutans. Orangutan mothers provide life skills that humans can't offer," said Lori Perkins, Director of Animal Programs at Zoo Atlanta and the Chair of the Orangutan SSP. "Remy had to have an orangutan mother, and Madu is an excellent surrogate with the abilities and instincts to give him the care he needs."

Now that Madu and her newest adoptive son have bonded and Remy has passed several important developmental milestones, the pair has begun making appearances in their outdoor exhibit in the Zoo's Asian Forest. Visitors may get a glimpse of the tiny ape on sunny days when winds are low and temperatures are above 70.

Born May 13, 1983, at Zoo Atlanta, Madu has no offspring of her own. She reared her first foster infant, Bernas, in 2002 after his biological mother failed to demonstrate appropriate maternal care. Madu's success

with Bernas led the Orangutan SSP to hand-pick her for parenting again in 2006, when the biological mother of Dumadi, an infant born at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, passed away unexpectedly. As was the case with Bernas and Dumadi, Madu is trained to assist keepers in caring for Remy by bringing him forward on request for regular bottle feedings and medications.

Native to the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, Sumatran orangutans are vanishing in the wild as a result of habitat conversion to palm oil plantations, over-harvesting of timber and human encroachment. Experts predict that the species could be extinct in 10 years without targeted conservation efforts. Zoo Atlanta houses the nation's largest zoological collection of orangutans, now with 13 Sumatran and Bornean individuals living in separate family groups.

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. Complex Carnivores, a new series of exhibits featuring bush dogs, fossa and binturong, opened on April 1. Zoo Atlanta is also proud to be one of only four zoos in the U.S. that giant pandas call home: Lun Lun's newest cub, born November 3, 2010, made his public debut in spring 2011. Other highlights include the nation's largest collection of western lowland gorillas, the nation's largest zoological collection of orangutans and a global center of excellence for the care and study of vanishing reptiles and amphibians. The Zoo 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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