



For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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

GIRAFFE BORN AT ZOO ATLANTA
Zuri has a brand-new sibling

ATLANTA – July 22, 2011 – Mona, a 5-year-old female giraffe at Zoo Atlanta, gave birth to her first calf in the early morning hours of July 22, 2011. The newborn stands around 6 feet tall and is estimated to weigh between 100 and 150 pounds.

“We’re delighted about the birth of Mona’s calf,” said Rebecca Snyder, PhD, Curator of Mammals. “Giraffes are among the most popular animals in our collection, and they’re a stunning representation of the beauty and diversity of African wildlife. We’re excited about watching this little one grow, not just in feet, but in milestones.”

Mona’s offspring is just the second surviving giraffe calf born in Zoo Atlanta’s 122-year history. The first, Zuri, born to Mona’s half-sister Glenda on July 13, 2010, is now eight feet tall and weighs around 600 pounds. Male Abu, 5, is the father of both calves. Since Zuri’s birth, there have been several significant additions to the Zoo Atlanta family, most famously giant panda cub, Po, but also 1 waterbuck, 1 western lowland gorilla, 2 red kangaroos, 2 golden lion tamarins, 3 warthogs and most recently 2 Sumatran tiger cubs.

At 15 months, the giraffe gestation period is one of the longest in the animal kingdom. The Animal Management and Veterinary Teams based their estimation of Mona’s birth window on breeding dates, weight gain, physical signs of an advancing pregnancy, and, more recently, visible movement of the fetus. Giraffes give birth standing up, and their offspring are usually born front feet-first. Healthy calves are able to walk within two hours of birth.

The calf will have an opportunity to bond with its mother behind-the-scenes before meeting the rest of the herd and exploring its African Plains habitat. Stay tuned for updates on when Members and guests will be able to see the Zoo’s tallest baby.

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, Po, 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 zoatlanta.org.

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