



For Immediate Release

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SUMATRAN TIGER CUBS BORN AT ZOO ATLANTA
New arrivals are the first tigers born at the Zoo in a decade

ATLANTA – July 6, 2011 – Chelsea, a 7-year-old female Sumatran tiger, gave birth to two cubs late on July 5. The first offspring for Chelsea and 10-year-old male Kavi, the cubs are the first tigers born at Zoo Atlanta in more than a decade.

Chelsea's pregnancy was confirmed via ultrasound on May 20. Thanks to groundbreaking training achievements prior to her conception, the tiger has participated voluntarily in ultrasounds throughout her pregnancy, permitting veterinarians to monitor her condition without the risk of general anesthesia.

"We're very excited about the birth of Chelsea's cubs, and proud of the superior animal care and training efforts that have enabled us to track the cubs' development as her pregnancy progressed," said Raymond King, President and CEO. "We hope that as we watch these cubs grow, we can help our guests better understand the need to protect tigers in the wild."

Sumatran tigers are the world's rarest tiger species, with fewer than 400 believed to remain in the wild. Poaching, habitat loss and territory fragmentation caused by deforestation are the primary threats to the critically endangered cats, which are found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The last tiger cub born at Zoo Atlanta was female Bahagia, who was born in 2000 and moved to the Sacramento Zoo in 2002.

Zoo Atlanta is a participant in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP), which seeks to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically diverse population within North American zoos. Conservation projects supported by Zoo Atlanta include work to preserve tiger habitat located in a critical wildlife corridor in Sumatra's Aceh Forest.

Chelsea and her cubs are currently bonding in a specially prepared indoor den. Once the Animal Management and Veterinary Teams are confident that Chelsea has adjusted appropriately to her first experience with motherhood, guests will have the opportunity to observe the cubs live on camera at the Sun Bear/Tiger Terrace at Zoo Atlanta, as well as via webcam on zooatlanta.org. Webcam viewing will be available later this week through partnership with Earthcam; stay tuned for details on the cubs' debut.

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 in April 2011. 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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