



NEWS RELEASE

- For Immediate Release -

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Baby giraffe arrives just in time for the holidays!

Calgary, AB – The newest addition to the Calgary Zoo’s giraffe herd made her entrance at approximately 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Experienced mother Mardi managed the delivery on her own and is now doting on her new calf in the privacy of the nursery. The adorable little female giraffe measures 5 ft 10 inches tall and weighs 130 lbs.

“She is a beautiful new addition to our giraffe family. Both mom and baby are doing very well; we couldn’t have asked for a better gift at this time of year,” said Mona Keith, zoo keeper.

The calf will remain in the nursery area with Mardi for a few days as she gains confidence and gets ready to venture out into the public areas of the African Savannah.

“We prefer a hands-off approach at first whenever possible to allow bonding to take place between mom and calf. On Monday, at two days old, our vets conducted a quick check-up including recording her height and weight,” continued Keith.

The Calgary giraffe herd now increases to five as this bright-eyed and energetic little girl joins mother Mardi and father Tenga, as well as another adult female Carrie and her 16-month-old calf Sherri. This is the 16th giraffe born at the Calgary Zoo.

It is anticipated that Mardi will be ready to show off her new calf to the public next week - so stay-tuned!

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The Calgary Zoo is part of a professional, accredited association and member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) comprised of caring, trusted experts committed to ensuring that many endangered and threatened species are part of the world's future. AZA and CAZA advocate on behalf of animals with a unified and consistent voice, and collaborate with others committed to their long-term survival. The Calgary Zoo participates in many Species Survival Plans (SSP), a network among accredited institutions designed to breed endangered species in captivity to ensure the best possible genetic diversity and maintain healthy populations in human care. Through our conservation, education and research programs, many animals in our care play an essential role in the survival of their species in the wild.

The Calgary Zoological Society is a charitable organization. Charitable Registration #118824192 RR0001