

**For Immediate Release:
January 21, 2009**

**For More Information:
Katie Gray, Supervisor of Public Relations,
(416) 392-5941**



NEWBORN BABY MANDRILL ENGAGES ZOO VISITORS

January 15, 2009, Toronto, Ontario: It's a girl! She is tiny, soft, and furry and has huge quizzical eyes. The new baby, who arrived on December 2nd, 2008 and is now on display in the Mandrill Exhibit of the Zoo's African Rainforest Pavilion with parents Annette and Jabba, is proving to be quite popular with Zoo visitors. Annette, who is twenty two years old, has had eight babies, seven of them with twenty year old Jabba. There are five mandrills on display at present: Jabba, the male, three females including Annette, and her new baby. Mandrills are listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a Vulnerable species in the wild.

"Although Mom is very protective, the little one is starting to initiate adventures on its own. And the baby is so cute that there's always a crowd of Moms and children watching her antics."

"We're very excited at this new birth," comments Maria Franke, the Zoo's Curator of Mammals. "The wild population has declined over 30% in the last 30 years due to hunting for the illegal bushmeat trade and habitat loss. This baby is ensuring that we are maintaining a healthy genetic population for future generations."

Mandrills are ground-dwelling inhabitants of forests in Equatorial West Africa, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Congo Republic. Males have extremely colourful hind quarters and red and blue colouring on their noses. Females, who are more drab, do not have the exotic colouring of the males. Babies, which cling to the fur of their mother's chest area after birth, are born after a gestation period of from six to seven months. After two to three weeks, the baby is able to ride on the mother's back. Mandrills have a life expectancy in captivity of forty years or more.

**For more information, please contact
Katie Gray, Supervisor of Public Relations at (416) 392-5941**

-30-

Current Zoo Hours and Admission Prices

Current Zoo Hours: 9:30am to 4:30pm. Last admission is one hour before closing. General Admission 13-64 incl. is \$20, Children 3 and under are free, Children 4-12 are \$12 and Seniors 65+ are \$14. Parking is FREE until March 1st. Events and admission prices are subject to change without notice. The Zoo is located at Meadowvale Road and Hwy. 401, Exit 389 east and west bound. For general information, call (416) 392-5929. The Toronto Zoo is open year round (except December 25th).

torontozoo.com