



Masai Giraffe Born At Toronto Zoo

Friday, October 18, 2013: The Toronto Zoo can confirm that Twiga, our 23 year old Masai giraffe, gave birth yesterday to a baby girl. This newest addition to the Toronto Zoo Family is the offspring of Stripes who passed away September 29, 2012 at the age of 21. Giraffes are listed by the International Union for Conservation and Nature (IUCN) as least concern/conservation dependent however, recent population estimates suggest a large decline in wild numbers due to habitat destruction and poaching which will likely warrant a higher classification. "The Toronto Zoo is part of the Masai Giraffe Species Survival Plan (SSP) and the birth of this calf is very important to the North American captive population", says Maria Franke, Toronto Zoo Curator of Mammals. This is the 17th Masai giraffe born at the Toronto Zoo.

Almost everything about a giraffe seems exaggerated. Its height can range up to 6.1 metres, making it the world's tallest animal, its heart, as an adult, weighs 11.5 kg, and Mom gives birth standing - meaning that the baby, which is approximately 2 metres tall, has a 1.6 metre drop to the ground! In the wild, a giraffe can deliver a kick which will send a lion spinning.

To media: Zoo staff are focused on the health and well-being of the animals. We will share updates as available, but no media/photo opportunities are available at this time. Thank you!

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