



For immediate release

EARLY BIRTH OF POLAR BEAR TRIPLETS

Zoo staff valiantly working to save two cubs

October 12, 2011, Toronto, Canada: Toronto Zoo today announced that one of their two, 10 year old female polar bears, Aurora, gave birth to three cubs overnight. Two males and one female were born however they were rejected by their mother. Zoo staff immediately intervened and moved the two surviving cubs to the intensive care unit. They are currently receiving round the clock care by Zoo veterinarians and wildlife care staff. They will continue to be hand-raised and we are hopeful that they will both get stronger but they are far from being out of the woods at this time.

Toronto Zoo is involved in a collaborative research project involving multiple accredited zoos to understand polar bear reproductive biology. Polar bears typically give birth at the end of November and in December. With this birth on October 11, 2011 it is likely the earliest recorded birth of polar bears in captivity.

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To media: At this time, Zoo professional staff is focused on their survival and the Zoo will share updates as available.

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