

PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Endangered Indian Rhinoceros calf conceived by artificial insemination born at the Montgomery Zoo

MONTGOMERY ZOO: MONTGOMERY, AL: The Montgomery Zoo and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Center for Conservation & Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) are excited to announce the birth of a male Indian rhino calf produced by artificial insemination (AI). This is the first known calf, of any rhino species in the U.S., to be produced by AI and be born and thrive in captivity. In February 2012, CREW's Reproductive Physiologist, Dr. Monica Stoops worked in partnership with Montgomery Zoo's staff to perform a standing sedation AI procedure, inseminating Jeta, the Montgomery Zoo's 12-year-old female, who is on an extended breeding loan from the San Diego Wild Animal Park, with frozen-thawed semen from the resident male rhino, Himal. Dr. Stoops collected Himal's sperm in 2004 and stored it at -320°F in CREW's CryoBioBank in Cincinnati for eight years before it was brought to Alabama, thawed, and used in the AI procedure. The Montgomery Zoo staff monitored Jeta's pregnancy over the 15-16 month gestation period and on June 5, 2013 she gave birth to a healthy calf. This is the second calf born to Jeta at the Montgomery Zoo and it weighs approximately 90 pounds.

This is a significant birth and scientific achievement for the Montgomery Zoo, CREW and the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) since the Indian rhino is an endangered species. Jeta's calf demonstrates using AI science, developed by CREW's Dr. Stoops, as a repeatable and valuable tool to help manage the captive Indian rhino population. With only 60 Indian rhinos in captivity in North America and approximately 2,500 remaining in the wild, successful breeding between rhino pairs is important to maintain the genetic diversity necessary to keep a population healthy and self-sustaining. Unfortunately, natural breeding attempts in captive Indian rhinos frequently result in severe aggression between the male and female. Because of this behavioral incompatibility, genetic management of the Indian rhino is a challenge. Artificial insemination can be used to improve the genetic health of captive Indian rhinos by infusing genes from non- or under-represented rhinos.

"The staff of the Montgomery Zoo is pleased with the partnership between these two zoos and the outcome of a significant Indian Rhino birth. We encourage the public to come out to the Montgomery Zoo and observe this

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calf as he develops.” -- Doug Goode, Montgomery Zoo Director

“Everyone at the Cincinnati Zoo and the scientists at CREW are incredibly excited to watch this calf grow up,” said Dr. Stoops. “The scientific significance of the birth and the successful upbringing by Jeta are a lifetime of work in the making. We were honored to work closely with the Montgomery Zoo staff to do the AI and we are proud to help introduce this baby to the world.”

MONTGOMERY ZOO INFO: Zoo hours, open daily 9:00am - 5:30pm. The last admission tickets are sold and animal exhibits begin closing at 4:30pm. Discount combo tickets to both Zoo and Mann Museum are: Adults \$16, Children (3-12 years old) \$11, Toddlers (2 years and younger) FREE. Zoo only admission are: Adults: \$12, Children (3-12 years old) \$8, Toddlers (2 years and younger) FREE. The Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum are located at 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110. For more info, please call (334) 240-4900 or visit our web site at montgomeryzoo.com. You can also follow us on facebook, flickr, myspace, twitter and youtube.

The Montgomery Zoo is a Department of the City of Montgomery, Alabama.

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden: The world famous Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden was rated the #1 attraction locally and one of the top zoos in the nation by Zagat Survey. It was recognized by Parents Magazine as #7 on the “Top 10 Best Zoos for Kids.” It has also been recognized by Child Magazine as one of “The 10 Best Zoos for Kids.” Over one million people visit the Zoo’s award-winning exhibits, and more than 500 animal and 3000 plant species annually. The Zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), is internationally known for its success in the protection and propagation of endangered animals and plants, and engages in research and conservation projects worldwide. Visit www.cincinnati-zoo.org for more information.