



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: JJ Vitale ▪ 904.757.4463, ext. 145 ▪ cell: 636.328.2036 ▪ vitalej@jacksonvillezoo.org
Lyndsay Plemmons ▪ 904.757.4463, ext. 208 ▪ cell: 904-728-0618 ▪ plemmons1@jacksonvillezoo.org

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER: THE ZOO CONTINUES PRIMATE BABY BOOM WITH BIRTH OF 2 LEMUR INFANTS

June 11, 2015 – Jacksonville, FL - The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) is ecstatic to wrap up the primate baby boom with the announcement of the birth of two Black and White Ruffed Lemur infants on May 17, 2015.

In the past 8 months, JZG has welcomed one bonobo, two gorillas, one mandrill, one Guereza colobus monkey, two Ruffed lemurs and even a human! Tracy Fenn, supervisor of mammals, welcomed daughter Aria in November. The bonobo male, Lukuru, was born on October 1 to first-time mother Jo-T. Gorilla infant George was born on February 6 and we are pleased to announce that the second gorilla, born May 9, is a female named Patty. The unnamed male mandrill was born May 4 and can be seen on exhibit with mother Deanna.

The two Black and White Ruffed lemurs, one male, one female, were born May 17 to mother, Hawk. This species is listed as critically endangered due to habitat destruction, commercial exportation and hunting. The male colobus born February 5 is a lively addition to the shared gorilla/colobus exhibit as he's often seen playing with his big sister Cissy.

"I am very proud of our animal care team's success with all of these primate births. As populations in human care and those in native ranges are increasingly requiring global cooperation on conservation strategies, each birth is important to saving endangered species." said Tracy Fenn, Supervisor of Mammals and head of our primate care team. Executive Director, Tony Vecchio said, "Primates have always been one of the most popular groups of zoo animals. And, of course, people love baby animals. So to see all of these baby primates, with their attentive mothers, acting in ways which are so familiar to us human primates, has been an exceptional experience for our visitors."

All the young primates are on exhibit daily, including the new Ruffed lemur infants who were introduced to their exhibit for the first time this morning and will be spending the next few weeks adjusting to their new home. Come say hello to all the new additions at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens "Great Apes" loop.

About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit jacksonvillezoo.org.