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June 1, 2007

**AND THEN THERE WERE SIX...
THREE MORE STINGRAY PUPS BORN AT ZOO**

FRESNO, Ca. – Three more Southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*) were born sometime late last night or early this morning at Fresno Chaffee Zoo's Stingray Bay: A Touching Experience. The newborns have joined the three Southern stingray pups discovered on May 27 in a protected area of the 14,500 gallon specially constructed saltwater pool.

"The stingray pups born last weekend were such a pleasant surprise" said CEO/Director Lewis Greene, "and now we have been given another gift. All newborns are amazing and fragile creatures and we are doing everything within our means to provide them every chance to survive. "

Visitors to Stingray Bay: A Touching Experience are encouraged to touch and even feed the adult rays, however the area of the pool that has become a nursery for the young pups is a "look but don't touch" zone.

Southern stingray babies are born after a gestation period of four to 11 months meaning the mother was pregnant when she arrived at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. Litter sizes generally range from two to ten stingray pups. At birth, the young stingrays are about six inches wide, are thin in proportion to the adult, and come out folded like a newspaper. The young pups must immediately fend for themselves. The female adult southern stingray can reach up to six feet across and weigh up to 150 pounds. The smaller males grow up to two and a half feet.

With the addition of the six new pups, Stingray Bay: A Touching Experience currently houses nine southern stingrays and 16 of the smaller cownose rays. Stingray Bay opened March 31 and runs through September 30, 2007. Admission to Stingray Bay is \$1 with regular Zoo admission. Fresno Chaffee Zoo members and children under 2 years of age are free.