

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RARE ANTELOPE BORN AT FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO

FRESNO, Ca. – An addax, a rare desert antelope, was born early this morning at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The calf, whose sex has not yet been determined, appears to be bonding with its mother and has already been observed nursing.

The baby's birth after a nine-month gestation is a result of a pairing recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP). These plans work to improve the genetic diversity of managed animal populations. This is the second baby for the mother "Citron" and father "Jasper" and Fresno Chaffee Zoo is now home to four addax, including their first offspring "Cal" who was born in February 2008.

Addax are an antelope from Africa's Sahara Desert and are one of the world's rarest mammals with a wild population estimated to be less than 300 individuals. In December of 2007 two addax from Fresno Chaffee Zoo were released in Tunisia as part of an effort by United States and European zoos to establish a population in an area where the species was extinct. Over hunting is the primary cause for the species demise but they have also been victims of human conflict in northern Africa.



Addax are a medium-sized sandy colored antelope and both sexes possess long, thin, spiral horns. Adult addax have a brown toupee-looking tuft of hair on their forehead above a white mask that crosses their face.

Addax are well adapted to life in the desert. They have broad flat hooves for traveling long distances on soft sand in search of food. Their diet consists of grasses, shrubs and succulents and most of their water intake is from the vegetation they consume.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children 2-11 and seniors 62+. Children under 2 and Fresno Chaffee Zoo members are free. The mission of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to provide a fun, unique and up-close experience that strengthens the bond between people and wildlife. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

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