

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

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Endangered Lemur Quadruplets Born at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo Births Contribute to International Conservation Efforts

San José, CA---- Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is proud to announce the birth of endangered Red Ruffed lemur quadruplets on May 17, 2009. The births are the first of a kind for Happy Hollow and mark an important step for both the Zoo and this endangered species. The babies, two females and two males, have become more visible as the mother has started to leave the nest box for small periods at a time.

The births are also a first for the new parents. Meva, the 9-year old mother who came from the Micke Grove Zoo in Lodi one year ago while the father, Achelous, 26, has been at Happy Hollow since 1990. Meva is part of the Ruffed lemur Species Survival Plan (SSP), a program of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums dedicated to long-term management and conservation of the lemur. The Ruffed lemur SSP, consisting of fifty-two zoos, representing 166 individual animals, maintains genetic records of the Ruffed lemur in captivity throughout North America and makes recommendations to Zoos regarding breeding. Red Ruffed lemurs are listed as endangered, due to habitat loss, hunting, and the pet trade as primary threats. The exact status of the animals in the wild is not fully known. Participation in the Ruffed lemur SSP gives zoos a direct impact on the status of an endangered species.

“The SSP is the computer dating plan for Ruffed lemurs,” says Valerie Riegel, Zoo Curator, “After holding a bachelor group of Ruffed lemurs for almost twenty years, we were excited about the SSP breeding recommendation to provide the boys with the opportunity to meet a female for the first time - and are pleased to have the results of this significant pairing more than double the population of Red Ruffed lemurs here at the Zoo!”

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Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

Red Ruffed Lemurs Quadruplets Born

Zoo staff have received numerous questions about where the animals are during the facility renovation. “The Zoo animals never left the facility during the closure – in fact they have been doing quite well,” says Riegel. “New ones have arrived from other facilities as we prepare to re-open, and in some cases others have been born here like the lemurs and an endangered Parma wallaby.”

About Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo closed its gates after 46 years on July 9, 2008, for a major renovation. The scope of the project includes the renovation of the 12 acres of existing ride areas and Zoo, as well as adding 4 additional acres to the facility which include several new animal exhibits, Veterinary and commissary buildings, Education Center, Guest Services and Gift Shop, Restaurant, new parking lot and a suspension bridge for pedestrians from parking lot to entrance. The new Happy Hollow will combine innovative green architecture with whimsical fun. The completed project will be a first for Silicon Valley and the country – as the first LEED certified Zoo and Amusement Park project. Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is scheduled to reopen in Spring 2010.

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