



Media Release
9th September 2010

Baby Boom at Dublin Zoo

Dublin Zoo is celebrating a recent baby boom with a bundle of new arrivals from the African Plains all the way to the Family Farm. Among the new arrivals are eight Chilean flamingo chicks, four rearing-to-go red river hoglets, a lovely leopard tortoise, a Sulawesi Crested Macaque and a new kid on the block at the Family Farm.

The new arrivals are yet to be named but the keepers are watching closely to see if they display outstanding characteristics so they can give them a name that will suit their personalities.

Chilean Flamingo Chicks

The three week old flamingo chicks hatched after 30 days incubation. After about four days of being hatched they left their nest and ventured into towards the water where they have formed a crèche with the other young members of the now 80-strong flock.

Red-River Hoglets

Four excitable young red river hoglets were born two weeks ago to their parents Buster and Bonnie. Their mother Bonnie is taking good care of them by providing milk for her young however, the hoglets are beginning to nose through her feed and nibbling on her vegetables. In about eight weeks the hoglets will be big and bold enough to join their brother and sister outside.

Leopard Tortoise

The young leopard tortoise was only 28 grams and 12cm in length when it hatched from the egg three weeks ago after 100 days incubation. It is too early to tell if it is a male or female but the keepers confirm it doing very well and munching on lettuce leaves and small pieces of carrots.

Sulawesi Crested Macaque

The newborn macaque, was born to father Sumo and mother Ailbhe, who has been a Zoo resident since 1999. The baby will share its island habitat with a group of ten other macaques.

Kid (Baby Goat)

The new kid on the block is the first new arrival to the recently refurbished Family Farm which houses Dublin Zoo's family of goats. The unnamed kid's coat is a mixture of black and white and will eventually be all white when it matures. The kid is full of personality and bouncing around with her mother and father in the Family Farm.

Leo Oosterweghel, Director of Dublin Zoo said, *"We are delighted to announce news of all the new arrivals this summer. Breeding is an extremely important function for Dublin Zoo who currently holds 39 species involved in breeding programmes."*

The new arrivals are out and about in the zoo waiting to meet all their new friends so get down to Dublin Zoo to catch a glimpse of the newborns before they grow up.

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Notes to Editor:

Dublin Zoo is easily accessible by bus, LUAS, and train and is open everyday with the exception of Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day (26th December). Admission prices and opening times can all be found on the website. Dublin Zoo is accessible by the less-abled and manual wheel chairs are available on request.