



Press Release
15th December 2010

Dublin Zoo Welcomes their Biggest Bundle of Joy

Dublin Zoo is celebrating yet again with news of another birth, this time it is a male southern white rhinoceros calf. The calf, which is yet to be named, was born to mother Ashanti on Friday 10th December at 7.30am and weighs approximately 50kgs.

This calf is another significant success for Dublin Zoo as part of the European Breeding Programme established to assist the survival of endangered southern white rhinoceros. These rhinos are hunted for their horns and it is estimated that there are only 11,000 in the wild.

Helen Clarke-Bennet, team leader of the African Plains said, "We are absolutely thrilled with the new arrival. This male is a significant birth because he will play an important role for future breeding programmes."

Helen added, "Ashanti gave birth to her first calf Zuki in May 2008 and is adapting very well to being a mother for the second time. The mother and son are bonding and will remain close for the first year of his life. He is a typical young male with plenty of energy and curiosity."

The new rhino calf can be seen alongside his mother Ashanti, older sister Zuki and father Chaka at the African Plains in Dublin Zoo today.

Dublin Zoo would like to invite fans to suggest a name for the newest arrival, based on his African origin, to be in with the chance of winning an annual family pass. To enter, please send suggestions to Dublin Zoo by post, email or their facebook page.

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For more information, please contact:

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Notes to Editor:

Lowveld Rhino Trust

In 2009, Dublin Zoo decided to begin supporting the Lowveld Rhino Trust in Zimbabwe. In May, Dublin Zoo responded to “Crisis Zimbabwe” – an urgent appeal for funds to mitigate for the dramatic increase in poaching of white and black rhinos in Zimbabwe. Following on from this, it was decided to build a long-term relationship with the Lowveld Rhino Trust via “Save the Rhino” organisation.

The Lowveld conservancies are home to approximately 50% of Zimbabwe’s white rhinos and 80% of the country’s black rhinos. However, due to increasing political, social and economic problems in Zimbabwe, poaching has increased greatly. The Lowveld Rhino Trust is involved with translocating rhinos to safer areas, treating wounded rhinos and helping authorities apprehend poachers. In addition to this work they also monitor rhino populations and develop community outreach programmes.

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.