



**Media Release**

**15th March 2011**

## **Celebrate Snakes at Dublin Zoo this St. Patrick's Day**

At a time of year when we celebrate St. Patrick banishing the snakes from Ireland, Dublin Zoo is celebrating the arrival of a King Ratsnake.

The female King Ratsnake is the newest addition to the Reptile House and visitors to the Zoo can see her from this Thursday (St Patrick's Day). To celebrate the new arrival, Dublin Zoo has planned a host of festivities and entertainment including keeper talks, face painting and a live traditional Irish band for St. Patrick's Day.

### **King Ratsnake**

The name "King Ratsnake" was given to this species of reptile because of its snake-eating habits and can measure up to 2.4m in length. They are naturally found throughout China, Vietnam and Taiwan and many farmers in Taiwan revere this snake because of the number of rats they kill and consume, thus protecting the farmer's crops. Besides rats they also prey on other snakes, birds and their eggs, lizards and insects.

### **The Zoo TV Series**

There are lots of exciting developments happening in the Reptile House this week on 'The Zoo'. To find out more be sure not to miss 'The Zoo' this Friday at 7.30pm on RTE1.

**ENDS**

### **For more information, please contact:**

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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 (26<sup>th</sup> 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.