



PRESS RELEASE  
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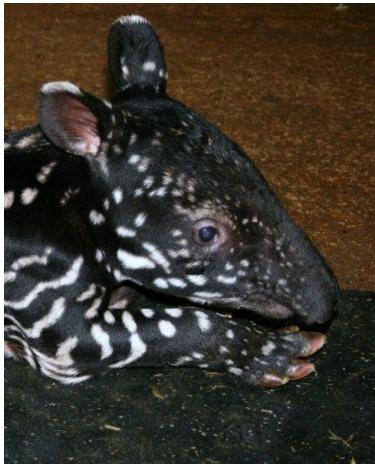
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**The Jackson Zoo Celebrates  
The Birth of A Male Malayan Tapir  
*One of SE Asia's most endangered species***

**JACKSON MS 6/1/11-**

The staff of the Jackson Zoo are proud to announce the birth of a male Malayan Tapir on last Thursday, May 26th. The Tapir is a large, hoofed, hoglike mammal of tropical America and Malayan peninsula.

Adults have a dramatic color scheme with a black front half, white sides and black hind legs. As you can see from the picture below, the young are born with a distinctive polka-dot pattern.



Baby Tapir Born May 26th 2011

Tapir populations are declining in the wild due to habitat loss from deforestation and flooding by hydroelectric projects. There are fewer than 50 Malayan Tapirs in zoos.

The Tapir's closest relatives include the horses and rhinos.

The Father (Sire) and Mother (Dam) are 'LaRue' who has been here about 17 years and is nearly 18 years old and 'Symphony' who has been here 16 years and is close to 17 years old. They have had six offspring here at the Jackson Zoo.

The mother and baby are being allowed access to the outside exhibit each morning and may choose to come out or stay inside.

Press agents are encouraged to call or email before visiting the zoo for filming or photographs as the baby may not be on view. A 'name the baby tapir' contest is being planned to begin on this Friday, June 3rd.

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Zoo admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children ages 2-12, and \$8.10 for senior citizens (65 and over). Children under the age of 2 and Friends of the Zoo members are admitted free of charge.

The Jackson Zoo is located at 2918 West Capitol Street in Jackson and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [www.jacksonzoo.org](http://www.jacksonzoo.org) to check out exciting special events, animal updates, one-of-a-kind education programs, membership and adoption packages, and so much more. The Jackson Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA is America's leading accrediting organization that sets rigorous, professional standards for zoos and aquariums. The AZA is building North American's largest wildlife conservation movement by engaging and inspiring the 143 million annual visitors to its member institutions and their communities to care about and take action to help protect wildlife.