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For Immediate Use

## IT'S A GIRL! Giraffe Gives Birth at Jackson Zoo

Jackson, MS - 12/09/09 - On Tuesday, December 8th, a cool and rainy day in Jackson, Diamond and Casper, the Zoo's Reticulated Giraffes welcomed a new addition to their family.

The calf weighed in today at 104 pounds and was confirmed a female. This is Diamond's seventh offspring and the keeper staff is very excited that this calf appears healthy and is nursing from its mother, especially after the disappointment of losing her sixth calf last year after just a few days.

The mother and calf will remain inside their warm barn area for the next 10 days or so. Photos may be arranged through the Zoo's marketing department by appointment by emailing Rosemary Jalink, Director of Marketing and Promotions at [rjalink@jacksonzoo.org](mailto:rjalink@jacksonzoo.org)

The Zoo will be holding a **'Name the Baby Giraffe' contest** from December 21st through the 31st with the winning entry being announced on New Years' Day and receiving a family membership to the Zoo. Entries for the 'Name the Giraffe' contest will be taken for a \$1 donation at the main entrance gate of the Zoo for this 10 day period.

### Baby Giraffe Gets Weighed

First exam and weighing the baby (female weight of 104 lbs)

Left to right is Keeper Jonathan Fields, Zoo Veterinarian Dr. Rodney Walker, Animal Curator Willie Bennett

Photo credit Donna Todd



Please note that the Zoo will be closing at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and all day Christmas Day.

Zoo admission is \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 2-12, and \$5.40 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.

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