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Media Release

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From a New Troop of Squirrel Monkeys to a New Baby - It's Monkeys Galore at the Sac Zoo

(Sacramento, CA – September 11, 2020) -- Last week, the Sacramento Zoo welcomed a group of young, male squirrel monkeys to their new habitat at the zoo.



The three boys - Blaze, Taco and Arlo - are exploring their new habitat and getting plenty of enrichment from their keepers. The Sac Zoo has been working with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Squirrel Monkey SSP (Species Survival Program) to bring squirrel monkeys back to the zoo. The plan is to bring a few more of the monkeys to the zoo to add to the bachelor troop. Squirrel monkeys are a New World monkey living primarily in

Central and South America in the canopy layer.

In addition to the new group of squirrel monkeys, the Sac Zoo also welcomed a baby Wolf's guenon during the early morning hours on September 8. Zookeepers had been monitoring the experienced mother closely prior to the expected birth. Staff will continue to monitor the family group to ensure that the infant is receiving all the care that it needs from mom. The sex is unknown at this time.

Mimi, the mother, was born at the San Diego Zoo in 2007 and Eddie, the father, was born at the San Antonio Zoo in 1995. This is the fifth infant for Mimi and Eddie. The Sacramento Zoo began exhibiting Wolf's guenons in 2012 with the arrival of Mimi and Eddie.





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For the first few weeks of life, infant guenons spend the majority of their time clinging to their mother, nursing and learning about their new world. The new infant and the zoo's guenon family can generally be seen on exhibit during zoo open hours.

Wolf's guenons are listed as a Vulnerable species and not commonly found at zoological parks. Wolf's guenons are native to central Africa where they inhabit dense forests and forage for fruits, seeds and an occasional insect. Forming loose family groups in the wild, these monkeys are even known to spend time with other primate species including bonobos, colobus monkeys and other guenon species. A larger mixed-species group may mean that there are more eyes on the lookout for predators, and many guenons have learned to recognize other monkeys' alarm calls so that they know how to respond correctly if a neighbor spots a leopard or eagle.

Not a lot is known about this species in the wild so each birth, including this one, adds to our overall knowledge of this species, their biology, social interactions, developmental stages and more. The nonprofit Sacramento Zoo participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan® program for the Wolf's guenon species.

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Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to nearly 500 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Sacramento Zoo, managed by the nonprofit Sacramento Zoological Society, inspires conservation awareness and action through education and recreation. Daily admission is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; zoo grounds are open until 5 p.m. General admission is \$17.50; children ages 2- 11 are \$12.50 and children one and under are admitted free. Currently, all tickets must be reserved and purchased online at www.saczoo.org. For information, call 916-808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.

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