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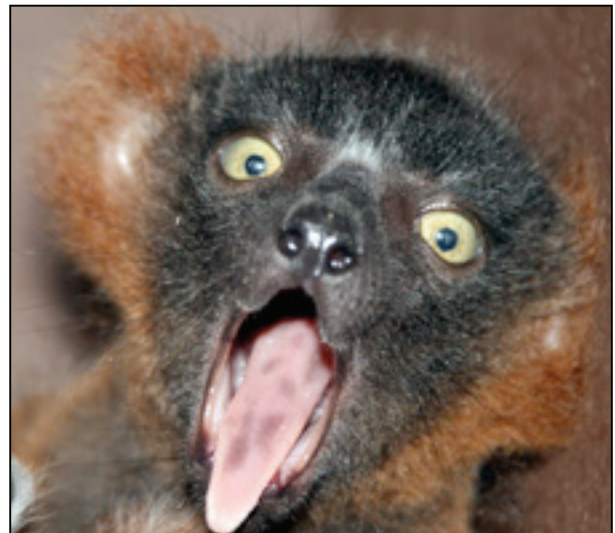
FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Lemur Triplets born at the Palm Beach Zoo

DATE: Wednesday, June 28, 2007

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June 28, 2007, West Palm Beach – The Palm Beach Zoo has announced the birth of triplet Red ruffed lemurs (*Varecia variegata rubra*). The infants were born to mother “Moon” and father “Rusty” on Monday, May 21, 2007. The sexes of the triplets have yet to be determined; they will be named by zookeepers according to their sexes.



“Moon” came to the Palm Beach Zoo from the Charles Paddock Zoo in California. “Rusty” is on loan from the Duke Primate Center in North Carolina. This is the second litter of the critically endangered lemur species born at the Palm Beach Zoo. Siblings “Mena” and “Meso” were born in May 2006. Unlike most primates whose offspring immediately cling to their parents, Red-ruffed lemurs spend the first weeks of their lives in a nest and when they are ready to be moved, they are carried in their mother’s mouth.

Red ruffed lemurs get their name from the thick red ruff around their head. One of the most beautiful of the lemurs, the red ruffed lemur has a soft, thick orange-red coat, a black head with a fox-like mouth, and a ruff of reddish fur around the head. The rest of the body is black while the back of the neck may have a patch of white fur on it.

Red ruffed lemurs can live up to 20 years in the wild. All lemurs are vegetarians; they primarily eat fruit, leaves, flowers and seeds. Lemurs are found only in the tropical forests on the island of Madagascar.

Red ruffed lemurs are critically endangered due to deforestation, hunting, and trapping. Red ruffed lemurs are protected under Appendix 1 of CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species). There are an estimated 1,000 left in the wild.

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non profit zoological organization located at Dreher Park in West Palm Beach, housing over 1,500 animals within 23 acres of lush tropical habitat. Its mission is to provide an open-air classroom of living creatures to foster awareness, appreciation and respect for the natural world.

Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevard. Admission: Regular \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. The zoo is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.) For more information visit www.palmbeachzoo.org.

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