

July 21, 2006

STORK VISITS SANTA ANA ZOO!

The Santa Ana Zoo in Prentice Park is pleased to announce the birth of a white-face saki monkey on Tuesday, July 11. The new baby, whose sex is yet to be determined, has been determined as “bright-eyed and bushy tailed” by zoo vet Dr. Lorrie Boldrick, and weighing in at approximately 6 to 8 oz.. The proud parents are Aaliyah (mom) and Dakota (dad). All three can be found at home in the Rain Forest Exhibit at the Zoo.

White-faced sakis are found in South America. They are arboreal (tree-living) monkeys preferring to live in the understory and lower canopy levels of lowland evergreen rainforests. Sakis are monogamous and live in small groups of two to five of parents and offspring. They give birth to a single baby after a gestation period of 163 to 176 days. Baby clings to mom for the first couple of weeks, then dad or a sibling may carry it. They are independent by six months but usually stay with the family group.

Adult males are black with a striking white face and females are brownish-grey with only a narrow white stripe on the face between the inner eye and mouth. They have long shaggy coats and non-prehensile, bushy tails. Adult males weigh around 4 pounds and the females are slightly smaller at 3 pounds. Their body length is 12-16 inches with their tail being about the same length as their body.

In the wild, their diet consists of fruit, berries, seeds, nuts, flowers and leaves. They will also catch and eat birds, insects and small mammals. At the Zoo, they eat fruits, vegetables, and a special zoo diet of Monkey Chow. They have large canine teeth for opening nuts and tough fruit. They cup their hands to drink water.

The new baby is on view for the public daily between 10:00AM and 4:00PM at the Santa Ana Zoo in Prentice Park, 1801 Chestnut Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92701. Admission is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors and children 3-12 years. Children under three are free. For more information call 714-836-4000 or visit our website at: www.santaanazoo.org.