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## **Offenly Adorable! Asian Small-Clawed Otter Born at the Zoo**

December 21, 2018 – *Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is celebrating a special Christmas present that came early with the birth of an Asian small-clawed otter pup. The birth is a first for the Zoo who debuted the species with the opening of the Land of the Tiger in 2014.

The tiny pup was born to first-time parents, Carlisle and Harley, on November 14. Named, "Scotter", by a very dear friend and zoo patron, the pup was only 3-ounces when born but is now a fluffy 18 ounces. Asian small-clawed otters are the smallest of the 13 species. They are slow developers and the little one is just now starting to open its eyes. In fact, they are so slow to develop, staff has yet to determine the pup's gender.

Asian small-clawed otters are very social animals, with both parents sharing responsibilities raising the pup. Carlisle and Harley have been busy with grooming and nest building the healthy little one in their behind-the-scenes otter house.

Next up for the increasingly mobile pup will be swimming lessons. The proud parents will introduce the little one to a small tub of shallow water in the night house. Unlike most other otter species, Asian small-clawed otters spend much more time on the land but are still agile swimmers.

It will be several weeks before the pup is able to explore the large exhibit that is shared with two babirusa pigs, Jeffrey and Ramona. Until then, the Zoo will share milestones like swimming lessons on their social media channels.

Asian small-clawed otters are native to Southeast Asia where they are considered "vulnerable" by the IUCN. The species is threatened by habitat loss for palm oil production.

[Dropbox link to photos and video](#)

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### **About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens**

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. **The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the over 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world, and here in NE Florida.** JZG is proud to be an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org).

