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## **Zoo Celebrates Giraffe Calf Birth And World Giraffe Day**

June 20, 2016-- *Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) proudly announces the birth of a male Reticulated giraffe calf in the early hours of June 12. His birth marks the 39<sup>th</sup> giraffe born at the Zoo. Mother, Naomi, has had four previous calves and father, Duke is famous for being the sire of 15 other “little” ones. With two infants under a month old in the herd, the Zoo is looking forward to celebrating World Giraffe Day on June 21.

Keepers came in to find the giraffe calf standing with his mother in the birthing-suite of the giraffe barn last Sunday morning. A review of the tapes showed the birth at 1:27 a.m, with the calf standing and nursing by 3:00 a.m.

Veterinary staff examined the calf early the next morning and determined that it is a boy in good health. He measured 6'4" tall and weighed 187 pounds; the tallest giraffe calf ever born at the Zoo! After trial introductions to his habitat over the weekend, the calf and mother are now on exhibit with the rest of the herd.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens will join other zoos and conservation organizations around the world in celebrating World Giraffe Day on June 21. The holiday is always observed on the longest day of the year in a nod to the long necks of the giraffes whose populations are steadily declining. JZG will have keepers talking to the public about giraffe facts and conservation efforts with funds from the giraffe feedings donated to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.

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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 bo-

tanical 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).