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SQUEALING WITH EXCITEMENT OVER BIRTH OF WATHOG PIGLETS

May 25, 2017 – Jacksonville, FL – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) is excited to announce four warthog piglets born May 11, 2017. The two boys and two girls were born to first-time parents Chico and Acacia.

Father, Chico, was born at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in 2011 also in a litter of four piglets. Acacia was brought to the Zoo in 2016 on a pairing arranged through the Species Survival Plan – SSP. Chico and Acacia spent a few weeks getting to know each other from the other side of some fencing and were immediately showing positive interactions.

Within minutes of being together for the first time, it was obvious the Zoo had a love connection. Keepers have not witnessed any breeding behavior after that first introduction back in November, which is a good indication that the breeding was successful.

The piglets received a check-up from Zoo veterinarian, Dr. Yousuf Jafarey, and veterinary nurse, Dewey Maddox, when they were less than 24 hours old. Vet staff gave a clean bill of health and were delighted to find the male piglets already have cute little warts and all four were born with tiny tusks.

The little ones are still spending some quiet time with Acacia with occasional outings into the side yard of the warthog enclosure. They are expected to make their debut into the main warthog yard within the next two weeks.

Executive Director Tony Vecchio, a self-described pig aficionado, is over the moon, "Piglets! What could be a better way for children around town to start their summer vacations than coming out and seeing our warthog piglets?"

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.