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## **Magellanic Penguin Chick is COOL New Addition to the Zoo**

June 10, 2016-- *Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) is happy to announce that a Magellanic penguin chick hatched on June 3. This chick marks the second successful hatching at the Zoo since the opening of Tuxedo Coast in 2010. A male named CJ was hatched August of last year and quickly waddled his way into guests' hearts.

The parents of the chick are Troy and Victoria have been a bonded pair since they first came to JZG in 2010, from the San Francisco Zoo. Although they've been a bonded pair for 6 years, this is their first chick.

The chick pipped (cracked the shell) on its own, but when there was no progression of the hatching process, keepers decided to intervene and help the little one along. Keepers are hand-rearing the extremely active one-week-old and have described the youngster as a "little jumping bean." The chick will be hand-reared by keepers for the next few months and then will be slowly and safely introduced to the rest of the colony of 16 penguins. JZG is experienced in raising a young penguin, as CJ required hand-rearing as well.

The chick's gender is not known at this time but will be determined soon through DNA testing on its egg shell. The little one is expected to make its public debut in the next few months.

Magellanic penguins are native to South Africa and are considered "warm-weather penguins." They are listed as near threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (ICUN). JZG supports SANCCOB, a South African conservation organization whose primary objective is the rescue, rehabilitation and release of seabirds, especially African penguins. Since 2009, the Zoo has donated funds from penguin specific events like World Penguin Day and the portion of each ticket that goes directly to conservation in the wild.

Photo credit: DeeAnna Murphy with Pink Pelican Photography—*high-res photos available*

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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).