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Something to be Thankful for Zoo Celebrates 40th Giraffe Birth

November 21, 2017-- *Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) proudly announces the birth of a male Reticulated giraffe calf in the early hours of November 19. His birth marks the 40th giraffe born at the Zoo. Mother, Naomi, has had five previous calves and this is father Duke's 17th calf. With such a momentous number of births, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has much to be thankful for!

Keepers arrived to find the giraffe with his mother and the rest of the herd early Sunday morning. The calf was standing and nursing. A review of security cameras show the calf was born at 5 a.m.

Veterinary staff examined the calf late in the afternoon on Sunday and determined that it is a boy in good health. He measured 6'4" tall and weighed 191 pounds; the exact same height as his brother Newton who was born in June 2016.

After a trial couple of days in the side yard of the giraffe exhibit, the calf and mother, Naomi will join the rest of the herd on exhibit.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is open Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday the 24th for regular hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children receive free admission to the Zoo through the end of November with the purchase of an adult ticket as part of the Kids Free November promotion.

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.