

# NEWS FROM...



**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FROM: THE PALM BEACH ZOO**

**RE: JAGUAR CUB BORN AT THE PALM BEACH ZOO**

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**and \*MEDIA NOTE: The Palm Beach Zoo has video available of the birth  
of the cub's first interactions with mom**



**West Palm Beach, FL, October 30, 2008**– An endangered jaguar at the Palm Beach Zoo (*Pantheris Onca*) gave birth to a healthy cub on Tuesday, October 28, in the early morning hours. Until the cub and mother return to their exhibit, the birth and frequently updated video will allow zoo enthusiasts to watch the cub grow by clicking on the jaguar icon at [www.palmbeachzoo.org](http://www.palmbeachzoo.org).

In 1972, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the jaguar as an endangered species under the

Endangered Species Act. There are numerous threats to the jaguar throughout its range, including significant loss of habitat and hunting. As a result, today, a startling 50% of the jaguar's original range is gone.

Regarding the zoo's exciting announcement, Luis Fernandez, Chairman of the Palm Beach Zoo Board of Directors, said "Because the jaguar is a highly endangered species, this is a critical birth. This cub serves as a visible testimony of the important role the Palm Beach Zoo and all zoos play in wildlife conservation."

Of all the big cats, the jaguar remains the least studied. While some information comes from the wild, most of what is known about jaguars has been learned from captive animals. The Palm Beach Zoo has supported an extensive population assessment of jaguars in Yucatan, Mexico utilizing non-invasive camera trapping techniques. Additionally, the zoo supports a non-invasive study of jaguar and other carnivore populations in Iguaza National Park in Argentina

using trained scat-detector dogs for fecal identification. In 2009, the Palm Beach Zoo's Director of Living Collections and Curator of Carnivores will assist in collecting data and in developing a jaguar conservation program for townspeople surrounding the National Park.

All jaguars housed at United States zoos are managed under the auspices of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Jaguar Species Survival Plan (SSP) which consists of 47 institutions dedicated to long-term management and conservation of the jaguar. In 2007 Animal Planet honored Palm Beach Zoo for achievement as the world's best jaguar exhibit. The Palm Beach Zoo's jaguars, female "Nabalam" (shown top left) and male "Muchacho," have produced five cubs. Three of the cubs have been placed in other AZA zoos for breeding purposes. Keith Lovett, Director of Living Collections, said "The Palm Beach Zoo has developed a successful jaguar captive breeding program for their conservation in the wild. This latest birth, which was uniquely captured on videotape, will allow zoo guests to watch the interactions of mother and cub and be able to garner a better appreciation of this magnificent species."

Zoo officials hope to have the cub on exhibit sometime in January. In the interim, zoo visitors can see the adult male and a fully grown offspring born at the zoo in 2007. The cub's sex is still unknown. Dr. William Karesh, vice president of Global Programs with the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo, said "Speaking from personal experience, coming eye to eye with a jaguar lets one see beauty, grace and power in a way that inspires us to make the world a safe and healthy place for all."

#### About the Palm Beach Zoo

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non-profit institution located in Dreher Park in West Palm Beach, housing more than 1,600 animals within 23 acres of lush, tropical habitat. Its mission is *to provide an outdoor classroom of living creatures to promote awareness, appreciation and respect for the natural world.* The zoo currently sponsors many conservation projects in numerous regions of the world. Most of this work deals with animals that are represented in the zoo's population.

All activities are free for Palm Beach Zoo and Big Cat Club members and with regular paid admission. Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevard. Regular zoo admission: Adults \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. For more information regarding the Palm Beach Zoo, please visit [www.palmbeachzoo.org](http://www.palmbeachzoo.org).

##30##