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News Release

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Giraffe Herd Grows Again!

ABILENE, Texas - The Abilene Zoo is happy to announce the arrival of another giraffe calf born on Monday, November 6th at approximately 9:00 A.M. This was a first time birth for mother Jamie who arrived last year prior to the opening of Giraffe Safari. "The birth went very well for this first time mom," according to Zoo Executive Director Bill Gersonde. "It was pretty much a text book birth."

The male calf received his first physical on November 7th weighing in at 122 pounds and standing at 5'11". "Results from the exam indicate that he's a healthy newborn," said Zoo Staff Veterinarian Dr. Stephanie Carle. "He's nursing well and the bond between he and his mother grows stronger each day." Plans are to begin introductions to the herd in the next few weeks and once they are successfully integrated, mom and calf will go on exhibit.

The male calf born in October continues to recover from his surgery and herd introductions have begun. "He's doing great, full of spunk and energy," said Animal Care Supervisor Denise Ibarra. Zoo Staff have named him Mtumishi (m-to-me-she) meaning survivor in Swahili, which is fitting after the rough start he's had. Plans are for Mtumishi to go on exhibit within the next two weeks.

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