



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

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Media Release

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It's a BIG Boy!

Successful Elephant Birth at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Syracuse, N.Y. – Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney is pleased to announce that 18-year-old Asian elephant, Mali, has given birth to a healthy male calf. The calf was born at 3:58 a.m. this morning after a 642 day gestation period.

Mali began pre-stages of labor on Mother's Day. Her petite pachyderm greeted the world after four hours of active labor, weighing 281 pounds and standing 36.1 inches tall (just over 3 feet). The new addition is strong and healthy. The calf's father is the zoo's 17-year-old male Asian elephant, Doc.

"We are thrilled to announce the arrival of the zoo's newest Asian elephant, a baby boy. The zoo's dedicated elephant staff and veterinarians are to be commended for their hard work in caring for Mali and her son. We are so pleased to share this long-awaited birth announcement with the community," says County Executive Joanie Mahoney.

"After such a long pregnancy, we are very excited about this birth. Mali and her calf are both healthy and doing great. We could not be happier that everything went so smoothly. We are giving both mother and son some time to bond before he is introduced to the rest of the herd, as well as the public," says Zoo Director Ted Fox.

Zoo Director Ted Fox will be available for interviews about the elephant birth.

A public reveal and details on how the community will be invited to help select the baby's name will be released at a later date.

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