

For Immediate Release

For more information:
Jaime Alvarez, Director of Public Relations
Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park
Phone: (315) 435-8511 x110

Muntjac Fawn Born at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Syracuse, N.Y. (October 2, 2014) – The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is pleased to announce the birth of a female Chinese muntjac (also called the Reeves’ muntjac). The fawn, named Kya, was born on September 19 to parents Katara and Walter.

“We are excited to welcome a new muntjac to our herd. With approximately 650,000 in China, the Reeves’ muntjac is not considered endangered, though the species has been categorized as vulnerable due to habitat loss and hunting. The birth of any female, like Kya, remains important to the North American population. There are currently 146 of the species in zoos across North America,” said Ted Fox, zoo director.



Kya, a female muntjac fawn. Photo credit: Terri Redhead

Muntjacs are the oldest known deer; fossilized remains from 15-35 million years ago have been recorded, making the species of great interest to evolutionary studies. Chinese muntjacs are native to forests of southeastern China and Taiwan. They feed on low-growing vegetation, fruit and nuts and are predominantly solitary by nature.

Distinctive members of the deer family, muntjacs stand no more than 20 inches tall and can weigh up to 30 pounds. Males tend to fight for territory not with their antlers, but rather with tusks,

which are actually downward-pointing canine teeth. Females are typically smaller than males and do not grow antlers.

FUN FACT: Muntjacs are often referred to as “barking deer” for the sharp, bark-like call they produce, which resembles that of a dog. They often “bark” to warn other muntjacs of imminent danger.

The muntjacs are located on the zoo's Wildlife Trails across from white-lipped deer and adjacent to red panda. Kya can be seen on exhibit with her mother, father and brother, Fang, born in 2013. An unrelated male, Sokka, is on view in a separate exhibit.

In addition to Kya, baby animals born earlier this season and currently on exhibit at the zoo include:

- a male patas monkey, Harry, born in May, on exhibit outdoors at Primate Park and indoors in the Social Building;
- markhor kids, Nuri (female) and Daler (male), born in June, on exhibit on the Wildlife Trails;
- Asa, a male snow leopard, born in July via emergency surgery, now on view on the Wildlife Trails across from Amur tiger and adjacent to red-tailed hawk.

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests "the best day ever," ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

One Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204 • (315) 435-8511 • (315) 435-8517 fax

www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

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