

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2008

YOUNG COLOBUS MONKEY BREACHES HABITAT

FRESNO, Ca. – At approximately 9:55 am today a one-year-old male black and white colobus monkey (*Colobus guereza*) named “Kijani” was able to leave his habitat. The ten-pound monkey remained on the top of his exhibit while Zoo staff patiently watched hoping he would return on his own. After waiting for about two and a half hours the decision was made to tranquilize Kijani and he was subsequently taken to the Zoo’s Animal Hospital until he is fully recovered from the sedation. He is expected to return to his troop that includes his father and sister tomorrow.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo staff immediately followed emergency protocol for the escape of an animal, such as a colobus monkey, that does not pose a danger to Zoo visitors. This protocol includes securing the area surrounding the exhibit allowing visitors to enjoy the rest of the Zoo. It is unknown at this time how the monkey was able to leave his habitat.

Colobus monkeys are arboreal animals that live in the treetops of east Africa. The monkeys were once hunted extensively for their beautiful black fur which is contrasted by a long white mantle and tail. Protected populations are now fairly abundant but are at risk due to habitat destruction for timber and agriculture.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission during regular Zoo hours is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children 2-11 and seniors 62+, and children under 2 and Fresno Chaffee Zoo members are free. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to provide a fun, unique and up-close experience that strengthens the bond between people and wildlife. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

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