

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANOTHER PRIMATE BIRTH AT FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO

FRESNO, California -- The newest member of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo family is a baby colobus monkey (*Colobus guereza*) born September 11, 2006.

The unnamed male infant is in the care of his mother, 15-year-old Julie. Julie and baby are on exhibit along with eight-year-old father Kiazi, and one-year-old sister Juboli. Colobus babies are born after a six month gestation period and are then carried by their mother as well as other members of the troop for their first eight months.

The fur of a newborn colobus monkey is all white, in sharp contrast to the beautiful black and white adults. The baby's color will begin to change at one month of age and the transition is complete in about three months.

Colobus monkeys are the most arboreal of all African monkeys. Their elongated limbs assist with movement in the upper forest canopy and their long shoulder hair acts like a parachute, slowing their descent during leaps that can reach 15-20 feet.

Once hunted for their spectacular coats, the main threat to the species survival today is the deforestation now occurring wildly in tropical areas.