



Media Alert
For Immediate Release

Baby Giraffe Makes Public Debut at Como Zoo!

After shaky start, baby giraffe is ready to meet his fans at Como Zoo

CONTACT: Matt Reinartz – Como Park Zoo & Conservatory 651-248-9836

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: Saint Paul, MN (June 4, 2009) – Como Zoo's baby giraffe will make his first public appearance tomorrow, Friday June 5th from 10am-1pm, one month to the day that he was born. In order for him to become familiar with his new surroundings he will only be on display for portions of the day starting Friday. He will be on display inside the Hoof Stock Building for a period of time before he makes his way to the outside display area. Zookeepers will be available for interviews.

The baby giraffe had a rough start to his young life suffering from Septicemia, which is the presence of bacteria in the blood, as well as trouble holding his head up and standing. With the incredible care of the University of Minnesota and the Como Zookeepers, the baby giraffe is now standing tall, head held high and ready for his public debut. After spending some time at the University Of Minnesota Veterinarian Hospital, the feisty boy returned to Como Zoo to spend some quality time with his mother, getting acclimated to his new surroundings and adjusting to the sights, smells and sounds that come with his new home.

This marks the 13th giraffe birth in the past 16 years. Como's current giraffe population includes mom, Clover and another adult female Daisy, and her baby Willow born last October, as well as father Jahari who has sired a total of 19 here in Saint Paul and at Busch Gardens. Como's other giraffe offspring can be seen across the country at other AZA institutions.

WHEN: Friday, June 5th from 10:00am-1:00pm

WHERE: Como Zoo Hoof Stock Building.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Background

For over 100 years, Como Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in St. Paul, Minnesota has charmed, educated and entertained millions of children and adults while fostering an appreciation of the natural world. The Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is open 365 days; 10am-6pm from April 1-October 1 and **10am-4pm from October 2-March 31**. Admission to both the Como Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is always free and a voluntary donation is appreciated. For more information, visit www.comozooconservatory.org.

