



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS AND ZOO OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE BIRTH OF THREE MEERKAT PUPS

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** joins Seneca Park Zoo officials in announcing the birth of three meerkat pups. The pups will be on limited exhibit, beginning today. They join the Zoo's existing meerkat collection of six adults.

*"The birth of baby animals at Monroe County's Seneca Park Zoo is always exciting news for our entire community" said **Brooks**. "The addition of three meerkat pups to our active family group will further increase the educational potential of this exhibit by offering visitors of all ages another opportunity to learn about animal conservation, up-close, here at the Zoo."*

The meerkat exhibit, located in the Zoo's Main Building, opened in September of 2007 with three females from the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco, Texas. Three males from the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. joined the females in February of 2008. Seneca Park Zoo officials had always hoped the meerkats would breed.

*"Successful reproduction is always a testament to the great care all of the Zoo's animals receive from our talented staff," said **Larry Sorel**, Monroe County's Zoo Director. "Because of the very complex social interactions of meerkats, this birth is particularly rewarding."*

The meerkat pups measured about two inches long when they were born in late February. Today they are approximately seven inches long. The Zoo waited to put the pups on display and announce their births, in order to give the first-time mother enough time to learn essential mothering skills.

*"These adorable babies escalate the buzz surrounding an already popular exhibit," said **Rachel Baker August**, Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. "The pint-sized mammals are extremely energetic and fascinating to watch. Now, having two generations in the exhibit provides visitors with a completely new experience."*

At this time, the pups will likely be on exhibit from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Their exhibit time will increase as they get familiar with the space.

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