

PRESS RELEASE

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An Easter Arrival at the Isle of Wight Zoo

Black Lemur Adala gives birth to a healthy baby

Isle of Wight Zoo staff were thrilled on Wednesday 20th April to welcome the newest addition to the zoo family. Black lemurs Adala and Mitsio were the lucky parents, and as part of a European Endangered Species Breeding Programme the baby was very good news indeed.

Black lemurs are only found wild in North-west Madagascar, and are classified on the IUCN Red List as a vulnerable species. The breeding programme involves zoos across Europe cooperating to introduce suitable lemurs to each other in the hope of maintaining a genetically healthy group of animals.

Although zoo staff provided a screened-off bedroom for Adala to give birth in, she didn't appear to have used it. Instead she proudly sat in view of the public cleaning her baby, who appears to be female. Black lemurs have different colouring depending on their sex –males are black, but females are a paler brown with white ear tufts. The baby has tiny ear tufts and a ginger back, so staff are tentatively declaring her to be a daughter. She will, however, begin life clinging tightly to her mother so it may be some time before her keepers are able to get a really good view of her.

In the meantime mother and baby will be closely monitored. Adala has been a mother before so her keepers are optimistic that she will bond with her new daughter and raise her successfully.



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Notes to editors:

Isle of Wight Zoo aims to promote the survival of endangered species through first class educational and recreational experiences, exemplary animal management, conservation and research. The Zoo is best known for its work with exotic cats. As a centre for surplus or rescued big cats, all have come to the Zoo at different stages of their lives and from a variety of backgrounds. The Zoo strives to encourage the social development and natural behaviour of each cat in their care. Every species of big cat residing at the Zoo is currently under considerable threat in its natural habitat. Isle of Wight Zoo is currently home to 8 tigers, 4 lions and 2 jaguars.