

PRESS RELEASE
11TH October 2009

Monkey Mayhem

Millie the spider monkey celebrates her first birthday in style

This time last year everyone at the Isle of Wight Zoo was thrilled – and somewhat surprised - when Ella the spider monkey had a baby daughter. At 26 Ella was unusually old for a first-time mum, but proved to be fantastic at taking care of her baby, who has been a big hit with staff and guests alike.

Amazingly, a whole year has passed, and baby Millie celebrated her birthday on September 30th. Having spend a year enchanting the zoo's visitors, the keepers felt she deserved an extra special party. The fence around her enclosure was decorated with banners and balloons, leaving passers-by in no doubt that something special was going on. At noon she was given her birthday treats – cake and pina coladas, monkey style.

Millie's cakes were made of tropical fruits and monkey pellets, while the pina coladas were alcohol-free frozen concoctions of pineapple and coconut. And as Millie is still young enough to be clinging to her mother's back, the whole family got in on the birthday treat. Indeed, Millie's parents ate even more than she did!

Of course, the most important part of any birthday is being the centre of attention during the Happy Birthday song, and Millie was lucky enough to be sung to by a crowd of visitors. As a thank you, the zoo arranged for anyone adopting Millie that day to be given a special party bag as a memento of her first birthday.

-END-

Media enquiries: Sonia Mitchell, Admin and Marketing Assistant, Isle of Wight Zoo
marketing@isleofwightzoo.com

01983 403883 <http://www.isleofwightzoo.com>

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 12 tigers, 3 lions and 2 jaguars

Isle of Wight Zoo, Yaverland Seafront, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8QB
Tel: 01983 403883, E-mail: enquiries@isleofwightzoo.com,
web: www.isleofwightzoo.com, VAT Reg No. 411 4766 71