

MARYLAND ZOO

NEWS

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MARYLAND ZOO WELCOMES ADDRA GAZELLE CALF

BALTIMORE, MD -- The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore recently welcomed an Addra gazelle calf. The male calf was born on Wednesday, November 7, to parents Wren and Mukuru.

The Zoo's herd is now made up of four animals. The females, Wren and Pipit, are named for birds, so to stick with that theme, the animal care team has named the calf Merle, which is French for blackbird.

"He is a healthy 11-pound calf," stated Erin Cantwell, mammal collection and conservation manager at the Zoo. "This is Wren's first baby and she is doing a great job caring for him."

The Addra gazelle (*Nanger dama*), also known as the dama gazelle and mhorr gazelle, is the largest and tallest gazelle species. Native to Africa's Sahara desert region, Addra gazelle are critically endangered due to habitat loss and overhunting.

"Right now, Wren and Merle are bonding behind-the-scenes," said Cantwell. "Based on their health and the cold weather, we anticipate it will be a couple of months before they will make their public debut."

The calf's birth was the result of a recommendation from the Addra Gazelle Species Survival Plan (SSP) coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). SSPs provide breeding recommendations to maximize genetic diversity, with the goal of ensuring health of the individual animal, as well as the long-term survival of the species population to help save animals from extinction.

During warmer weather, the Addra gazelles can be found in the African Watering Hole habitat near the rhino, ostrich, and zebra.

About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo's varied natural habitat exhibits such as the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the Children's Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit www.marylandzoo.org.

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