



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 3, 2017

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Rare antelope calf receives specialized care at Brevard Zoo

MELBOURNE, Fla., April 3, 2017 — On Tuesday, February 28, Brevard Zoo welcomed its second scimitar-horned oryx calf of the year. The first-time mother, Kitcha, did not appear interested in the female newborn, so she is being hand-reared by the Zoo's dedicated animal care staff.

Kitcha was born at the Zoo in 2009. The father, Nuri, came from Smithsonian's National Zoo and now lives at Lion Country Safari. Nuri also fathered the male calf born February 3.

Tests performed the day after birth showed the calf had not yet nursed, and a decision was made to pull her from the exhibit. She is living in an area where she can see and smell the rest of the herd.

"She was quite small as a newborn, so we are monitoring her weight and food intake," said Michelle Smurl, the Zoo's director of animal programs. "For the first four days, she was eating every four hours. As her weight increases, we increase her food intake and she is now eating three times a day."

Scimitar-horned oryx were once one of the most prominent mammal species across northern Africa, extending from Morocco to Egypt and as far south as Sudan. In 1999, they became extinct in the wild as a result of climate change and an increase of hunting due to a growing human presence in the region. The species is now successfully bred in human care and a healthy population of captive-born oryx has been introduced to their native range.

Photos and video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wz3dsp26g2jc1s3/AADY6hfooWH089pwANZuUHU3a>

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Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 180 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.

Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at www.treetoptrek.com.