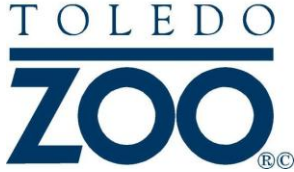




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Toledo Zoo Elephant in Early Stages of Pregnancy

Toledo, Ohio—Renee, The Toledo Zoo's 30-year-old female African elephant, is in the early stages of pregnancy. The Zoo's animal care staff is monitoring Renee's progress, and they remain cautiously optimistic that she will successfully carry the calf to term. The gestation period of elephants is around 22 months, so if the pregnancy were to be successful, Renee would give birth in late spring or early summer 2011.

According to Dr. Anne Baker, the Zoo's Executive Director, "just as is the case for humans, the first trimester is the riskiest time in an elephant's pregnancy. The potential for miscarriage is still very much an issue, and we do not want to get anyone's hopes up. Early indications suggest that her pregnancy is going well, though, so we can remain hopeful that Renee will continue to do well throughout the long journey ahead."

An artificial insemination procedure was performed on Renee in August of 2009 from semen supplied by African elephants in the Indianapolis and Pittsburgh Zoos. In addition to Renee, The Toledo Zoo is also home to 6-year-old Louie, who was born to Renee in 2003, and Twiggy, a 25-year-old female who arrived at the Zoo in February after being confiscated from a private facility by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Toledo Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. 4 p.m. and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit www.toledozoo.org or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

The Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.

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