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Note: Please contact the Marketing & PR Department for digital images of the giraffe calf; media filming and viewing are not available at this point. Curator of Mammals Randi Meyerson will be available for interviews today (July 26) from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Female Giraffe Born at the Toledo Zoo

Toledo, Ohio—The Toledo Zoo is proud to announce that seven-year-old Elvira, one of the Zoo's Masai giraffes, gave birth to a female calf late on Saturday, July 23, after a 15-month pregnancy. The yet-unnamed calf stood nearly six feet tall and weighed about 160 pounds at birth.

Both mother and daughter are doing well, with Elvira exhibiting good maternal behavior and the calf nursing without assistance. They will, however, remain off exhibit and under close monitoring until Zoo animal care staff determines they are ready for public viewing.

While Elvira and her calf are off exhibit, the Zoo's other three Masai giraffes, including the calf's older brother, Enzi, and her father, Mowgli, will be available for public viewing in the *Africa!* exhibit.

Elvira came from the Cleveland Zoo in 2004, and Mowgli came from the Toronto Zoo in 2001. Masai giraffes are the tallest animals on the planet, standing an average of 16 to 18 feet when fully grown. Despite their size, they can run at speeds up to 35 mph. They can be identified by their irregularly shaped spots, which are as unique and identifiable as human fingerprints.

The Toledo Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 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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