

---

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### BABY CHIMPANZEE BORN AT THE TULSA ZOO!

*First in Sixteen Years*

**WHO:** Tulsa Area Media

**WHAT:** A new bundle of joy has arrived! A baby chimpanzee is the newest addition to the troop of chimps here at the Zoo. Alvin and Jodi are the proud parents of this baby girl born on Saturday, February 17th. This new arrival is now the 11<sup>th</sup> chimp born here at the Zoo!

The infant chimp is a welcome addition to our family of primates. This birth is momentous since the Zoo's chimp troop is regulated by the SSP or Species Survival Plan. The SSP monitors and regulates the breeding of chimpanzees at AZA accredited zoos, to which the Tulsa Zoo is a member. Only the SSP may determine when, where and with whom breeding may occur. Zoo keepers confirmed Jodi's pregnancy after administering a human pregnancy test.

The media will be able to **view Jodi and her newborn daughter before the public** at our Chimpanzee Connection exhibit. Other members of the chimpanzee troop will also be available for viewing.

**WHEN:** **Friday, February 23, 2007 at 10:30am**

**WHERE:** The Tulsa Zoo is located at 6421 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street North

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jodi Koch at 669-6635 or [jkoch@tulsazoo.org](mailto:jkoch@tulsazoo.org)

-###-

**About the Tulsa Zoo:**

The Tulsa Zoo, voted "America's Favorite Zoo," is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information visit [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org). The Tulsa Zoo is also accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), a national accrediting body for museums. For more information visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). The Tulsa Zoo is located in Mohawk Park on 36<sup>th</sup> Street North, just east of Sheridan. The zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Weekend and holiday parking is \$2 for cars and \$10 for buses. Admission is \$6.04 for adults, \$4.03 for seniors age 55 and older and \$3.02 for children age 3-11; children 2 and under and Zoo Friends members are free. For more info call (918) 669-6600 or [www.tulsazoo.org](http://www.tulsazoo.org).

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **CHIMPANZEE BORN AT THE TULSA ZOO!** *First in Sixteen Years*

TULSA, OK, February 23, 2007 –A new bundle of joy has arrived! A new baby chimpanzee is the newest addition to the troop of chimps here at the Zoo. Alvin and Jodi are the proud parents of this baby girl born on Saturday, February 17th. This new arrival is now the 11<sup>th</sup> chimp born here at the Zoo!

Father Alvin, who at 15 years old had been the baby of the group, has now relinquished that title to his own daughter. Alvin shares more in common with his new baby than just his youth, he too was born right here at the Zoo! Mother Jodi is approximately 33 years old and has lived at the Zoo since 1977. Jodi is an old pro when it comes to motherhood; this is her fourth baby at the Zoo, but her fourth daughter!

Jodi was not separated from the troop during the birth. Her inclusion in the exhibit during her delivery was important to maintain the dynamics of the six-member troop. Interaction among the troop is encouraged and other troop members will be allowed to carry the infant chimp.

At birth, chimps weigh roughly four pounds, where as, full-grown adults weigh approximately 80 to 140 pounds. Their diet consists mainly of fruit and vegetables. Their population in the wild has declined due to deforestation and poaching. In captivity, chimps can live into their fifties.

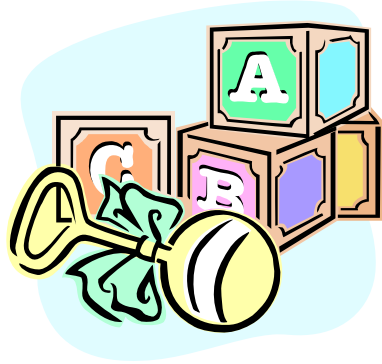
The infant chimp is a welcome addition to our family of primates. This birth is momentous since the Zoo's chimp troop is regulated by the SSP or Species Survival Plan. The SSP monitors and regulates the breeding of chimpanzees at AZA accredited zoos, to which the Tulsa Zoo is a member. Only the SSP may determine when, where and with whom breeding may occur. This is to ensure genetic diversity and control for overpopulation. The Tulsa Zoo was given approval by SSP to allow breeding between Alvin and Jodi. Zoo keepers confirmed Jodi's pregnancy after administering a human pregnancy test.

The new baby is adjusting well to its new “wild” life at the Tulsa Zoo. The baby chimp is now on public display along with its parent’s Alvin and Jodi and fellow troop members: Sarah, Hope, Susie and Morris. Guests can view the infant at the Zoo’s Chimpanzee Connection exhibit.

-###-

**About the Tulsa Zoo:**

The Tulsa Zoo, voted “*America’s Favorite Zoo*,” is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information visit [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org). The Tulsa Zoo is also accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), a national accrediting body for museums. For more information visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). The Tulsa Zoo is located in Mohawk Park on 36<sup>th</sup> Street North, just east of Sheridan. The zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Weekend and holiday parking is \$2 for cars and \$10 for buses. Admission is \$6.04 for adults, \$4.03 for seniors age 55 and older and \$3.02 for children age 3-11; children 2 and under and Zoo Friends members are free. For more info call (918) 669-6600 or [www.tulsazoo.org](http://www.tulsazoo.org).



## HELP NAME OUR NEW BABY!

In celebration of The Tulsa Zoo's new chimpanzee baby, Tulsa Zoo Friends is hosting a naming contest. From now until March 18, members of The Tulsa Zoo can submit their baby name selections by logging onto [Chimps.TulsaZoo.org](http://Chimps.TulsaZoo.org). Members whose selections are chosen as the final three will be entered into a drawing for a free year of membership to The Tulsa Zoo.

On Thursday, March 22, members of the public can vote for their favorite names of three selected by The Zoo's primate keepers by logging on to [Chimps.TulsaZoo.org](http://Chimps.TulsaZoo.org). Voters will be eligible to win a behind-the-scenes tour and a free annual Tulsa Zoo Friends membership.

For more information about the baby chimpanzee naming contest, updates on the baby chimpanzee, members of the media can contact the The Tulsa Zoo's PR Office at (918) 669.6635.

-###-

**About the Tulsa Zoo:**

The Tulsa Zoo, voted *"America's Favorite Zoo,"* is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information visit [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org). The Tulsa Zoo is also accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), a national accrediting body for museums. For more information visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). The Tulsa Zoo is located in Mohawk Park on 36<sup>th</sup> Street North, just east of Sheridan. The zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Weekend and holiday parking is \$2 for cars and \$10 for buses. Admission is \$6.04 for adults, \$4.03 for seniors age 55 and older and \$3.02 for children age 3-11; children 2 and under and Zoo Friends members are free. For more info call (918) 669-6600 or [www.tulsazoo.org](http://www.tulsazoo.org).

## Meet the Proud Parents:



### Jodi

Born: 1973 Arrived: 1977

#### Physical:

Jodi has a notch in the top of her left ear and numerous freckles on her chin. She is the largest female with the stockiest build.

#### Personality/Bkgd:

Jodi came to the Tulsa Zoo in 1977 from the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Illinois. Prior to living at a zoo Jodi was unfortunately, a pet. Her association with humans led her to become imprinted. This set her back in the chimp learning process. However, with time and the birth of her first offspring in 1982, things became easier for her. Jodi still has a tendency to focus on humans, and stays to the periphery to observe the interactions going on in the troop rather than participate. She is the "Master tool user" of the troop. She will take every opportunity to try and pull an item into the enclosure that is not "chimp approved" (i.e., rakes, brooms, gloves, ladders, you name it). However, when items are found in the chimp exhibit that could be potentially harmful to the chimps, Jodi willingly retrieves them and "trades" them to the keeper staff for safe removal, always followed by a large reward for her hard work. This is Jodi's fourth baby.



## Alvin

Born 1991 at the Tulsa Zoo

### Physical:

Alvin has thin black hair like his mother, Sarah; along with a balding spot on top of his head and a stocky muscular build like his father.

### Personality/Bkgd:

Alvin is the youngest chimp in the troop and the last to be born at the Tulsa Zoo. Alvin's mother, Sarah is looking forward to being a new grandmother! Alvin is the alpha male of the troop and as a new dad his confidence level is high. It is common during one of his displays to see him throwing sand at the other chimps, as well as swaggering with his hair erect while simultaneously doing one of his flying side kicks on the exhibit doors when he interacts with the troop. Alvin excels at the operant conditioning program and is skilled at tool use and manipulating enrichment devices as well. This is Alvin's first baby.

# Tulsa Zoo Chimpanzee Family Album

## Susie

Born: 1971 in the wild

Lived at the Tulsa Zoo since 1973

Sex: Female

Physical Characteristics:

- Individual with the most grey hair, especially on her back
- Slender body form
- Long/skinny fingers and toes

Personality/Background:

- Very independent and dominant individual
- Has raised 4 offspring at the zoo; 2 still live here (Morris and Hope)
- Frequently spends time grooming with daughter Hope
- Seeks support from her son Morris during times of conflict in the troop

## Morris

Born: 1986 at the Tulsa Zoo

Sex: Male

Physical Characteristics:

- Tall and slender chimp with long arms and legs
- Very thick long black hair
- Large ears

Personality/Background:

- Alpha male, or leader, of the chimp troop
- Known for impressive displays of dominance (including: banging on steel doors, pounding on glass windows, swaggering, chasing others, etc.)
- Interacts and defends his position as alpha on a daily basis, with half-brother, Alvin
- When tensions are high in the troop he seeks support from mother, Susie

## Jodi

Born: 1973 in the wild

Lived at the Tulsa Zoo since 1977

Sex: Female

Physical Characteristics:

- Largest female with a stocky build
- Freckles on her chin

- Notch in top of left ear
- Lower lip sometimes hangs down loosely

Personality/Background:

- Often observes the other chimps from a distance
- Has raised 3 offspring, all daughters
- Frequently watches zoo guests and takes interest in their belongings
- Unfortunately, was a pet when she was very young, which made it hard for her to live with chimps at first. This is the reason she is so “imprinted” on humans today

## Hope

Born: 1991 at the Tulsa Zoo

Sex: Female

Physical Characteristics:

- Large ears like her brother, Morris
- Thick black hair
- Medium build

Personality/Background:

- Inventive with tools and enrichment items
- Frequently spends time with her aunt, Jodi
- Youngest female chimp and subordinate to others
- Independent like her mother, Susie
- Fond of water and likes to splash it (unusual for chimps!)

## Sarah

Born: 1975 in the wild

Lived at the Tulsa Zoo since 1980

Sex: Female

Physical Characteristics:

- Only chimpanzee with white spots on her eyelids
- The most slender of the females
- Thin hair on majority of body with balding area on hands, forearms, and top of head
- Hair stands up on the back of her head

Personality/Background:

- Subordinate female to other chimps
- Has raised 3 male offspring at the zoo; one still lives here, Alvin
- Extremely protective mother, she is frequently seen supporting her son, Alvin, when tension is high in the troop

# Alvin

Born: 1991 at the Tulsa Zoo

Sex: Male

## Physical Characteristics:

- Bald spot on top of head
- Thin hair like his mother, Sarah
- Stocky build, smaller of the two males

## Personality/Background:

- Youngest chimpanzee in the troop
- Currently challenging his brother, Morris, for alpha status
- Frequently demonstrates displays of intimidation by throwing sand, banging on steel doors, and chasing others
- Periodically seen interacting with brother, Morris, in game of “play”, as seen by tugging on one another’s ankles, this activity helps relieve tension between the two males

## Chimpanzee Connection, The Exhibit:

Today the outdoor habitat that the chimpanzees occupy is very different from what it was originally constructed to house. Their outdoor island enclosure was originally created in 1931 for rhesus monkeys and was considered most modern for its time. A water moat encircled a rocky mound of soil that some 40 rhesus monkeys called home in the warmer months. In 1978 the monkeys were removed and the island area was renovated for the chimpanzees. The separate flat-roofed building was constructed at the same time to house the chimps at night and during colder months.

This large outdoor habitat provides the chimpanzee's access to an extensive climbing structure, cargo nets, ropes, caves, a termite mound and plenty of vegetation to explore. The cage-less open air habitat allows the guests an unbarred view of this truly amazing social species. The water filled moat still surrounding the island today prevents the chimps from escaping, as these apes cannot swim or float!

In 1991, the "Chimpanzee Connection", the salmon colored building that stands today was completed. This provides year-round, indoor viewing for a glimpse into the private lives of the chimpanzees as they climb their log structure; sit atop their rockwork and build their nests of hay to rest, all the while being surrounded by natural light.

The indoor guest viewing area holds a video monitor that explains the life history of chimpanzees and a message from Dr. Jane Goodall, world-renowned chimpanzee researcher. After the completion of the indoor habitat, Dr. Goodall proclaimed our facility to be one of the "best she has ever seen" and her trips to Tulsa have included personal visits with the chimps.

# Species Survival Plan (SSP) and Chimpanzee Conservation

The SSP, or Species Survival Plan, is a program implemented by the AZA (American Zoo & Aquarium Association) to ensure the survival of selected species. The Chimpanzee SSP manages the breeding of chimpanzees in order to maintain a healthy and self-sustaining population. The Chimpanzee SSP also participates in conservation activities, research, husbandry, public education, training of zoo staff and field projects.

SSP's are managed by a group of volunteers from AZA accredited zoos. Thirty-nine zoos participate in the Chimpanzee SSP, including the Tulsa Zoo. The SSP oversees 281 chimpanzees of which approximately fifteen females are recommended to breed each year. Of these, half usually reproduce. The SSP has a goal of 7-8 chimp births per year.

Chimpanzees are listed as an endangered species. In 1900 there were approximately 1-2 Million chimps in Africa. Today there are approximately 150,000 - 200,000. The two main threats to chimpanzee survival are habitat destruction and harvesting for the commercial food market. Chimpanzee habitats are being destroyed for logging, mining and farming. Hunting of chimpanzees has become commercial with the meat going to urban and international markets.

The Tulsa Zoo is a proud member of the AZA and is fortunate to be able to share its now, seven-member chimpanzee troop with our visitors. We hope that with continued education, the chimpanzee population will grow in the wild and one day, no longer be listed as an Endangered species.

XXX

**About the Tulsa Zoo:**

The Tulsa Zoo, voted "*America's Favorite Zoo*," is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information visit [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org). The Tulsa Zoo is also accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), a national accrediting body for museums. For more information visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). The Tulsa Zoo is located in Mohawk Park on 36<sup>th</sup> Street North, just east of Sheridan. The zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Weekend and holiday parking is \$2 for cars and \$10 for buses. Admission is \$6.04 for adults, \$4.03 for seniors age 55 and older and \$3.02 for children age 3-11; children 2 and under and Zoo Friends members are free. For more info call (918) 669-6600 or [www.tulsazoo.org](http://www.tulsazoo.org).



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kelly Fiddner  
Direct: 918.669.6612  
Cell: 918.406.6618  
Marketing & Public Relations

### SPRING BREAK ZOO-VENTURES

Looking for some 'zoventure' this **spring break**? Bring the family to The Tulsa Zoo where you can travel to the tropics of Central America, search on safari for big game and trek the trails of North America, all in a day!

#### *Children's Spring Activities*

**March 1**      **Children's Zoo Activities** - Celebrate the arrival of spring by visiting the newest addition to our contact yard – guinea hogs. Get up close and personal with llamas, goats, chickens, lambs and more!

#### *Keeper Chats, Animal Feedings, and Demonstrations*

**Shark Feeding (Mon/Wed/Sat, 11:00am)** – Travel through the North American Living Museum to the Lowlands and meet our resident nurse sharks - Gilbert, Sullivan and Buttercup - in their 20,000-gallon salt-water home. At 11:00am, view their feeding that consists of shrimp, fish and squid and meet some of the other tank residents – moray eels, remoras (or suckerfish) and bony fish, such as lookdowns and permits.

-MORE-

## SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES AT THE TULSA ZOO

2-2-2

### Workshops

- March 17**      **Super Safari Kids Class (ages 6-8)** – Go on safari this Spring Break at The Tulsa Zoo and learn about *The Maasai Village and African Animals*, March 17 from 10:00 – 11:30 am. Cost of Super Safaris are \$15 for the general public and \$12 for Tulsa Zoo Friends members. **Pre-registration required.** Call (918)669.6219 or go to [www.tulsazoo.org](http://www.tulsazoo.org) to download the registration form.
- March 19–23**      **Spring Break Exploration Camp (ages 6 – 10)** - Join Tulsa Zoo's Nature Exchange and look for clues to solve some of *Nature's Mysteries and Marvels*, **March 19 - 23 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.** Track down zookeepers, peek behind the scenes, search for clues and discover some of nature's secrets through experiments and other mind-boggling activities. This week-long, all-day camp adventure costs \$250 for the general public and \$200 for Tulsa Zoo Friends members. Price includes all supplies, snacks, and a zoo-nique t-shirt! Campers will need to bring their own sack lunch Monday through Thursday; The Zoo will provide a farewell luncheon on Friday. **Space is limited. Registration is required.** For more information or to register, call (918) 669-6642 or email [natureexchange@tulsazoo.org](mailto:natureexchange@tulsazoo.org).

### New Exhibits

**Visit Nature's Attic and the Oklahoma Room** - As Oklahoma's Centennial Celebration continues, don't forget to visit Nature's Attic and the Oklahoma Room inside of the Helmerich Discovery Center at The Tulsa Zoo. Escape the cold weather and learn about Oklahoma's WILD past. Visit Monday through Friday from noon until 1 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 2 -4 pm.

**Bison-ennial Exhibit** – The Tulsa Zoo continues the Centennial Celebration with an exhibit honoring one of the most majestic symbols of Oklahoma's heritage, the American Bison. These animals are the largest land mammals in the United States, weighing 800 – 1,200 lbs. and standing nearly six feet high at the shoulder. This exhibit is temporary, so don't miss an opportunity to see these intriguing animals!

-MORE-

## WILD ACTIVITIES AT THE TULSA ZOO

3-3-3

### *Travel Opportunities*

**One Wild Challenge** – The Tulsa Zoo challenges adventurous, strong spirited Tulsans to climb Wyoming’s formidable Grand Teton (13,770 feet) this fall! One Wild Challenge is The Zoo’s newest fundraising program which includes six days of travel, training and mountaineering – with two full days devoted to the actual summit attempt. Individuals are responsible for raising a minimum of \$5,000, all of which supports the development and construction of the new California Sea Lion exhibit. Only 16 slots remain, so call (918) 669.6607 today or log on to [www.onewildchallenge.com](http://www.onewildchallenge.com) for more information.

-###-

#### **About The Tulsa Zoo:**

The Tulsa Zoo is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information visit [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org). The Tulsa Zoo is also accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), a national accrediting body for museums. For more information visit [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org). The Tulsa Zoo is located in Mohawk Park on 36<sup>th</sup> Street North, just east of Sheridan. The zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Weekend and holiday parking is \$2 for cars and \$10 for buses. Admission is \$6.04 for adults, \$4.03 for seniors age 55 and older and \$3.02 for children age 3-11; children 2 and under and Zoo Friends members are free. For more info call (918) 669-6600 or [www.tulsazoo.org](http://www.tulsazoo.org).