



For Immediate Release
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MEDIA INQUIRIES - PLEASE NOTE

To schedule a media interview please email charlotte.orr@sanjoseca.gov Our Zoo animals require a great amount of routine care, therefore, we will be unable to accommodate drop-in interviews.

Media kit, photos, and fact-sheets available: <http://bit.ly/HHwallaby2019>



Parma wallaby born at San José Zoo *Happy Hollow welcomes another new joey*

San José, CA – Another Parma wallaby joey is starting to peek their head out of its mother's pouch at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. The joey is the twenty-sixth Parma wallaby born at San Jose's zoo since 1994. Another joey, whose gender will be revealed after its annual spring examination, was born at Happy Hollow in 2018 and is currently on exhibit.





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“This sweet little joey has decided to start looking at life outside the pouch,” says Kevin Hertell, Happy Hollow Zoo Manager. “It will be another month or so before we see the little one hopping around on their own, but in the meantime we have caught a glimpse of a very cute little head.”

Parma wallabies are smaller than a jellybean at birth, and must climb their way up into their mother’s pouch after birth. The normal gestation period for these small macropods is only thirty-five days, but the small joeys do not start appearing outside the pouch until months after birth.

Parma wallabies are the smallest member of the genus *Macropus*, which includes all kangaroos and wallabies. Adults weigh 7 to 12 pounds and are around 18-20 inches tall, only one-tenth the height of the tallest macropod, the red kangaroo.

“Happy Hollow is an important contributor to the survival of this rare species,” says Hertell. Natives of Australia, Parma wallabies were once thought to be extinct until a small population was discovered in 1967 on a small island near New Zealand. The Parma wallaby was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife in 1970.

Happy Hollow participates in co-operative breeding programs, known as a Species Survival Plans which is coordinated through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to protect and increase populations of threatened or endangered species.

“Over the last twenty-five years, several joeys born here have made their way to zoos across the United States and even abroad.” Happy Hollow is currently home to two adult Parma wallabies, one juvenile and the new addition brings Happy Hollow’s count to four.

For the health and safety of this new addition, visitors are reminded to be respectful and to remember that the new joey may not be visible from inside the pouch, especially on colder days. The best way to learn and see animals is through calm, quiet observation, attending the daily animal meet-and-greets, and sharing questions with zoo staff.

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Happy Hollow Park & Zoo has provided outdoor play to the Bay Area since 1961. Happy Hollow is a division of the City of San José Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Department, and is supported by the Happy Hollow Foundation. The mission of Happy Hollow is connecting people to nature through play. Happy Hollow features a unique combination of family rides and amusements, a Puppet Castle Theater, nature themed play areas, special events for all seasons, an Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoo, and an animal education and wildlife conservation program with classes and camps for all ages. Happy Hollow also offers annual memberships for families and individuals. More information can be found at www.happyhollow.org or by calling (408) 794-6400.