



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Betsey Brewer
betsey@southwickszoo.com

January 29, 2014

Birth Announcement

Mendon, MA—Southwick's Zoo's giraffe Dotty recently gave birth to a female calf named Daisy. Daisy was born January 11, 2014 measuring 6 feet tall and weighing an impressive 140 lbs. This is unusually large for a female calf, and it was Dottie's first pregnancy, so it was a long and difficult labor. Daisy was unable to stand up to nurse right away, so she did not consume any colostrum. Colostrum is a special type of milk produced late into pregnancy that provides newborns with valuable nutrients and bolsters their immune system.

The zoo's veterinarian decided that it would be best to transport her to the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Grafton, MA for immediate care. Blood tests revealed that Daisy's white blood cell count was dangerously low and she had an infection. Daisy had to be fed intravenously and was given antibiotics. She remained at Tufts for 8 days before she was healthy enough to return to the zoo.

Daisy, back at the zoo, is being cared for by Southwick's Zoo staff. Her mother is no longer producing milk and does not understand that Daisy is her calf, so she will have to be bottle fed. She is in the same barn as the other giraffes so they can see and smell one another, but she is in her own separate section to prevent any accidental injuries. Daisy is growing stronger each day and visitors will be able to see her after the zoo opens for the 2014 season on April 12.

###

Southwick's Zoo is a privately owned Zoo located at 2 Southwick Street in Mendon, MA. Southwick's is home to hundreds of wild animals, featuring more than 100 varied species (many of which are endangered). The Southwick team's mission is to provide an extensive zoological collection and educational facility for their visitors. Southwick's Zoo strives to promote an exciting environment for a positive family experience. Visit us online at www.southwickszoo.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/southwickszoo.