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For immediate release

Magnetic Hill Zoo shares first precious photos of 2 baby jaguars born at Magnetic Hill Zoo on August 22

These are the first cubs (both males) for mother BJ and father Rio, born on the morning of August 22, 2019. Animal care staff at the Zoo always hope that any mammal born at the zoo receives the care required from mom. Sometimes, however, that is not the case and keepers must step in to assist. During their first veterinary check, it was obvious that one of the cubs was considerably smaller than the other. After a couple of days, animal care staff was concerned by his smaller size and lower growth curve. Staff began supplementing the smaller cub with some extra milk during weigh in time and immediately returning to mom and his brother. This process allows us to ensure proper behaviour development with mom and brother while ensuring a healthy growth.

Zoo director Jill Marvin, said, “The cubs’ eyes are open, they are gaining weight and they are becoming steadier on their paws. The cubs first 30 days are still critical but we felt it important to share this exciting news and progress with our Moncton zoo supporters. We are very excited with the births of these two new additions and look forward to them being out for guests to see. However, it will not be for another couple weeks before they begin to venture out of their den and several weeks before they will be ready to venture to their outside exhibit for the visitors.”

Female jaguars can have litters of one to four cubs, which are blind and helpless at birth. The mother stays with them and defends them fiercely from any animal that may approach—even their own father. The father, Rio, can be seen daily by Magnetic Hill Zoo visitors but mom and her two cubs are safely tucked away in their den off exhibit.

The Jaguars present range extends from the Southwestern United States, Mexico, across much of Central America, south to Paraguay and into northern Argentina. Today, most populations are threatened by hunting, high deforestation rates and loss of habitat from events like the fires currently raging in the Amazon. The Jaguar is classified as “**Near Threatened**” on the [IUCN Red List](#). Visitors of Magnetic Hill Zoo are encouraged to learn more about this precious species and take positive actions like reducing, reusing and recycling to help protect this species.

Most Jaguars are tan or orange, with distinctive black spots, dubbed “rosettes” because they are shaped like roses. The jaguars at Magnetic Hill Zoo are black-on-black, or melanistic. This coloration is usually found in the darker rain forest areas and appears to be spotless, though their rosette markings can be seen on closer inspection.

The Magnetic Hill Zoo, located in Moncton, New Brunswick, is dedicated to the care of more than 70 species and 800 animals from around the world. Atlantic Canada's leading zoo educates and inspires conservation action.

Bring home some great memories. Every visit is a new experience! The Zoo is located at 125 Magic Mountain Road and is open from 10 am to 5 pm, seven days a week. Visit moncton.ca/zoo for more information.

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