



Greater Vancouver Zoo – PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 25, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FRIEND FOR HAZINA THE HIPPO

Aldergrove – The Greater Vancouver Zoo is thrilled to welcome a friend for Hazina and his name is “Haben” which is an African name meaning “Pride”.

Haben was born August 11, 2005 and is now weighing in at approximately 1000 lbs, which is roughly half the weight and size of Hazina (our female hippo). The male hippo arrived at the Greater Vancouver Zoo on April 20, we allowed the two hippos to become familiar with each other through the various stalls in the indoor enclosure of “Hippo Haven” (completed in June 2006) to ensure the safety of both animals.

When Haben arrived at the Zoo he was very calm, but was extremely happy to indulge himself soon after in the indoor heated pool. Hazina and Haben then stayed up most of the first night along with their dedicated Zookeeper, Animal Care Manager and Property Manager. The hippos communicated by touch through the stalls of the enclosure and with a variety of grunts and growls. Hippos have excellent hearing, sight and smell senses.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better introduction of two animals.....” Jamie Dorgan, Animal Care Manager stated. Hippopotamus are very social animals and also very territorial, but Hazina just can’t seem to get enough of him and the feeling seems mutual.



Haben (on the left) & Hazina (one the right)



Haben grazing on grass in his new home "Hippo Haven"

Hippopotamus means "water or river horse" in Greek. Hippos spend most of their day wallowing in the water or mud and coming out at night to feed or graze on the land. At the Zoo our hippos eat hay, grain, fruits, vegetables, pellets and graze on the grasses.

The media is invited to a "special photo opportunity" **today at 11:00 am** to meet Haben and to see Hazina along with Dr. Bruce Burton (Zoo Veterinarian) and Jamie Dorgan (Animal Care Manager). For further details, please contact Jody Henderson (Zoo's Media Contact) Marketing & Promotions Manager.

Media Contact:

Jody Henderson
Marketing & Promotions Manager
Phone: 604.856.6825 x 33
Email: jhenderson@gvzoo.com

To learn more about the good things we do at the Zoo
visit us at: www.gvzoo.com or better yet come visit us in person!

Since 1970....dedicated to conservation, preservation & protection of endangered species!