

**It's a Boy!**

Zoo Atlanta is celebrating a very special addition to its family, a one-day-old baby orangutan. A team of doctors and nurses more accustomed to working with humans than Sumatran apes carried out the procedure, and that team included some of our very own. A group of Children's specialists assisted in the birth of the orangutan via Caesarean section on Thursday, Jan. 10. The mother, a 16-year-old Sumatran orangutan named Blaze, has been with the zoo since 2010.

The medical team overseeing Blaze's care chose to deliver the baby by Caesarean to minimize potential risks for both mother and baby. And with Children's help, Zoo Atlanta Animal Management and Veterinary Teams developed a detailed birthing plan in preparation for several potential birth scenarios. Blaze's Caesarean is one of only three performed on Sumatran orangutans in recent years.

The Zoo Atlanta Veterinary Team along with a group of human experts and consultant veterinarians carried out the procedure with no complications. Children's neonatologists Sandy Jun, MD, and Wendy Troyer, MD, Willie Bailey, Respiratory Care Professional, Scottish Rite, and Kum Kim, Assistant Nurse Manager, NICU, Scottish Rite, assisted in the birth. Following the birth, the infant had a neonatal cardiac exam performed by Bobbie Boyd, Senior Cardiac Sonographer, Egleston.



"It was an exciting honor to be included in this team of specialists to help Blaze give birth successfully," said Dr. Jun. "It was very rewarding to use our human neonatal skills to deliver this orangutan newborn safely, and we were glad to find that many of those skills translated seamlessly across species. It is not something we will forget."

Blaze is resting comfortably following the procedure and her baby is currently in a nursery unit monitored around the clock by the Zoo Atlanta Veterinary team and primate care professionals. The team hopes to reintroduce mother and baby as soon as today so they may begin bonding with each other.

