

## PRESS STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2021

### Birth Announcement from the Alaska Zoo

*One of Anchorage's most popular family venues is proud to announce the arrival of two baby wolverine kits to proud wolverine parents Olga and Jumbo*

The Alaska Zoo is excited to announce the birth of two wolverine kits to zoo wolverine parents Olga and Jumbo. Animal care staff anticipated a possible birth and prepared the habitat area in advance with multiple den boxes, stick and log piles and plenty of bedding. The kits are estimated to have been born February 10<sup>th</sup>. Zoo wolverine Olga is rearing the kits and doing a great job keeping them healthy and well cared for.

Olga first arrived at the Alaska Zoo in 2015 as a 1-year-old wolverine from the Novosibirsk Zoo in Russia. She was later joined by Jumbo, a male who arrived as a 3-year-old in 2016 from Järvzoo in Sweden. This is the first time Olga and Jumbo have paired to produce a litter of kits.

"As every parent knows, raising kids is enriching and very challenging. Our wolverine care team prepared a very appropriate enclosure giving Olga cues and low stress levels to allow for implantation of embryos, eventual birth and rearing of the kits. What a fabulous partnership between humans and animals. I am so very proud of the wolverines and team" says Curator Shannon Jensen.

Zoo officials ask the visiting public to observe **quietly** from the trails in an effort to keep Olga and the new kits calm and comfortable, as she rears the kits. Baby wolverines, otherwise called kits or cubs, are born covered in light colored fur. They nurse from their mother for their first 10 weeks, capable of moving around with her by late May. They grow quickly, reaching adult size by late fall.

**\*\*Please note\*\*** There is a very low chance that press or visitors will be able to view one of the new Kits. Additionally, we are not allowing anyone to cross the split rail fencing in order to obtain photos to maintain a calm environment for Olga and the kits.

**Executive Director, Pat Lampi is available for interviews from 1 – 5pm Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10am – noon Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

#### ANCHORAGE, Alaska – ***About the Alaska Zoo***

The Alaska Zoo is a nonprofit organization that has provided a home for orphaned, injured and captive-born animals for 51 years. Open year-round, the zoo is dedicated to promoting conservation of Arctic and sub-Arctic species through education, research, and community enrichment. Additional information on admission rates, annual memberships, history, animals and more is available at [www.alaskazoo.org](http://www.alaskazoo.org).

###

**Media Contact:**

Jill Myer

Development Director

[development@alaskazoo.org](mailto:development@alaskazoo.org)

907.341.6435