Baby Animals Debut at Zoos

A handful of baby animals born in the U.S. are old enough now to be seen by the public.

Visitors to the New York Aquarium in New York City are now able to see a baby walrus that was born four months ago. The male calf, which weighs more than 260 pounds, is the first baby walrus born at the aquarium. The baby likes to play in the water with his mother, Kulu (KOO-loo). Aquarium workers invited visitors and others to vote for a name for the baby. The baby walrus is only the tenth walrus born in captivity in North America since 1968.

At the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., visitors can see a giant anteater and her new baby. The pup's name is Aurora. When anteaters are born, they let out a loud cry to help their mothers find them. They do that because anteaters don't see very well. After an anteater is born, it climbs on its mother's back. The baby can be hard to spot because it is the same color as its mother. An anteater stays on its mother's back for nearly a year.

NEWS WORD BOX

debut   aquarium
captivity   separated
accident   public

The latest addition at the San Diego Zoo is a baby panda. According to Chinese tradition, baby pandas are not named until they are 100 days old. People will be invited to vote online for a name for the new panda. The female panda cub is the fourth giant panda born at the zoo. All the babies have come from the same mother, Bai Yun (by-YOON).

MORE ZOO BABIES BORN IN SEPTEMBER
- A Grevy's zebra was born at the Denver Zoo. Grevy's zebras are an endangered species. Only 2,000 live in the wild. A baby zebra is called a foal.
- A baby chimp was born at the Kansas City Zoo. The birth of the infant chimp brings to 16 the number of chimps in the zoo's troop.
- Five baby crocodiles, or crocklets, were born at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Illinois. Since the father might eat the babies, they have been separated.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Aquarium visitors were invited to help name the baby walrus.
What name would you give it? Think of some names.
Then have a class vote to decide the winning name.