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VANCOUVER AQUARIUM'S GOELDI'S MONKEY GIVES BIRTH

Vancouver, B.C. – The Goeldi's monkey family living at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre recently got a little bigger! Ginger, our female Goeldi's monkey, gave birth to a healthy newborn on the morning of Sunday, October 23, 2011.

"Mother and baby are slowly bonding and are doing well," says Dr. Dennis Thoney, director of Animal Operations. "The newborn has been nursing and the mother appears to be comfortable in her habitat with the newborn on her back. To allow mother and newborn time to bond, we will be closely monitoring but not disturbing them—as such, the sex of the newborn will not be known for another few weeks."

Goeldi's marmosets are small monkeys that typically live in the Amazon. They are black in colour and their body is about 20 to 23 centimetres long; their tail can be as long as 30 centimetres. The gestation period is between 140 and 180 days and the mother carries one single baby per pregnancy.

For the first few weeks of the newborn's life, the mother is known to be very protective and acts as the primary caregiver. She carries the minuscule baby on her back and it blends in with her fur. As time progresses, she will slowly allow the father to come closer and carry the baby on his back for short periods of time. In time, she will also allow other members of the family to interact with the newborn.

This new addition now makes it a family of five Goeldi's marmosets and consists of the new baby, Ginger (mother), Fred (father), Diego (older brother) and Hugo, (youngest brother).

About the Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, conservation practices, education, research, and direct action. www.vanaqua.org.

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Note: Footage and stills are available to media.

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