

**FOR RELEASE AFTER 3 P.M., Thursday, September 26, 2002**

# **Animal Births: Two Kinds of Antelope Born at Naples Zoo -- One is Easy Prey, The Other is a Lion-Killer !**

## **Two Species of Antelopes Born Just A Day Apart**

**What:** **Two antelopes just a week old.** Two different species of African antelope were recently born just a day apart at Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples. An impala fawn was born on Wednesday, September 18. The very next day, a sable antelope calf was born. Following a week of observation insuring that both youngsters are healthy, their birth is being publicly announced on Thursday.

The impala antelope is on the menu for practically every carnivore in Africa including eagles. In contrast, the sable antelope has few predators and has even been known to kill lions in self-defense.

**When:** **Thursday, September 26, 2002 at 10 a.m.**

**Where:** The African Oasis exhibit at *Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples* at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from Coastland Center.

**Why:** The population of sable antelope in North America has declined in the past decade. This birth helps increase the number toward the goal for a sustainable North American population. The two sables at Caribbean Gardens are included in the Population Management Plan to protect the genetic diversity of the sables living outside the wild.

**Photo Ops:** **10:00 a.m.** Announcement by zoo director David Tetzlaff of the births at *African Oasis* including the impala fawn.

**10:15 a.m.** Sable calf in exhibit in *Lagoon Loop*.

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**CARIBBEAN GARDENS**  
**The ZOO in Naples**

# Two Animal Births: Two Kinds of Antelope Born at Naples Zoo

## Impala Facts:

**Gestation:** 6 to 7 Months

**Adult Size:** Males can weigh over 150 pounds with s-shaped horns up to 3 feet in length. Females weigh just around 100 to 120 pounds and do not have horns.

**What Eats Impala:** Practically everything – from lions, leopards, wild dogs, cheetahs, and hyenas to smaller cats like caracals and servals and even martial eagles have been known to carry off fawns.

**Growing Up Fast:** Within 15 to 30 minutes of birth, impala stand and will be running within an hour or so. Following a few days of hiding in a clump of grass or other cover, mothers will bring newborns into the herd.

## Sable Facts:

**Gestation:** 8 to 9 months

**Adult Size:** Males will weigh over 500 pounds with curving horns from 3 to 5 feet in length. Females weigh just under 500 pounds with horns 2 to 3 feet in length.

**What Eats Sable:** Very few animals. Although lions will attack them, adult lions hunting in numbers have even limped away the worse for wear after attempting to take down an adult sable antelope. One encounter recorded between two lionesses and one sable yielded fatal wounds for both lions, while the sable ran away with moderate scratches. (Sables stab and slash with their long horns. And they are herbivores, they do not eat the lions they kill in self-defense.) Young sables that fall behind the herd are occasionally taken by spotted hyenas and leopards.

**The Importance of Not Being Seen:** Following birth, sable calves will spend up to three weeks in hiding. Mothers will guard the general area. When it's time to nurse, the sable calf will come to the mother. Afterwards, the calf will go and find a new hiding place in the area.

**Getting Mom's Attention:** If a mother and her offspring become separated, the two animals will make a birdlike whistle to attract each other's attention.

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