



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Note to the Media: Photo and video access is not available. Click here for the zoo's March 5 blog post with downloadable photographs: [Colobus Photos at One Month of Age](#)*

*Click here for video: [Newborn Colobus Monkey \(January 2014\)](#)*

## **Zoo Names Colobus Monkey Babies**

### **Two half-siblings were born in late January**

Zoo keepers have named the two colobus monkey babies born January 26 and 28 at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

**Obi (pronounced "oh-bee")** was born on January 26 to mother Jibini and father Finnigan. Obi is a male and his name means "heart".

**Mchumba (pronounced "meh-choom-ba")** was born January 28 to mother Wamblenica and father Finnigan. Mchumba is a female and her name means "sweetheart."

Why did keepers wait so long to name the babies? "We wanted to wait until we found out both of their sexes so we could give them corresponding names," says African Journey Area Manager Amber Eagleson. Determining Mchumba's sex took longer because the infant monkey clung very tightly to her mother, and keepers waited some time before approaching mom and baby. This clinging behavior is typical in colobus infants."

According to Zoo Keeper Jessica Walker, the babies are developing normally and have undergone behavioral as well as physical changes. "Since their arrival, the babies have developed rapidly! Initially, they clung tight to their respective mothers, and either nursed or slept for the majority of the day. They vocalized only slightly. Now, although

they still display the clinging and nursing behaviors of infancy, both babies have been moving more and have found their voices."

Walker also notes changes in Obi and Mchumba's physical appearance. "The first couple of days after birth the little ones were completely white. Their coloration is slowly changing to resemble the black-and-white pattern of an adult colobus monkey. The change will be more noticeable in the coming weeks."

The colobus monkeys will live indoors until the weather permits outdoor access. During the zoo season, guests can observe the troop on exhibit in the African Journey.

Colobus monkeys live in the rain forests of central and eastern Africa, and the survival of their species is threatened by habitat destruction. The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and participates in the Species Survival Plan to ensure genetically healthy populations of endangered and threatened animals.

Zoo babies are sponsored by Lutheran Children's Hospital.

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**About the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo:** The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is northeast Indiana's largest tourist attraction, hosting more than 500,000 guests annually. The zoo was voted Indiana's **#1 "Gotta-Do Summer Attraction"** and is consistently named one of the nation's **Top Ten Zoos for Kids** by national media outlets.

The zoo is a conservation leader, contributing more than \$80,000 annually to local, regional, and international efforts to protect wild animals and habitats, and participating in cooperative management programs for 15 endangered species.

As a self-supporting facility, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo receives no tax dollars for operations. The zoo's operations are funded entirely by earned revenue and donations.

The zoo opens for the 2014 season on April 26, 2014. Admission is \$14.00 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors age 60+; and \$9.00 for children ages 2-18. Babies age 1 and under and Zoo Society Members are admitted free.

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo  
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