



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOLPHIN CALF BORN AT SHEDD AQUARIUM

CHICAGO – Shedd Aquarium’s Pacific white-sided dolphin Tique (TEE-kay) gave birth to a calf today at 8:47 a.m. Shortly after the birth, the calf swam to the surface, took its first breath and began to swim around the Secluded Bay habitat with mom. Both mother and calf appear to be doing well and will remain under 24-hour observation by Shedd’s animal care staff for several weeks. The gender of the calf has yet to be determined. The gestation period for Pacific white-sided dolphins is approximately 12 months.

“We are thrilled about the birth; however, the calf must reach several milestones in its first days and months,” said Ken Ramirez, executive vice president of animal collections and training. “The biggest milestone we will be watching closely for throughout the coming days is the interaction between mom and calf. It’s critical for the calf and mom to bond.”

Besides bonding, the new calf must overcome a number of other challenging milestones, such as learning to nurse and, later, learning to feed independently. Shedd Aquarium’s animal care and animal health staffs are using the knowledge gained through previous births and information shared through cooperative breeding programs to help the mother and calf through these important milestones.

“Our Pacific white-sided dolphins provide meaningful connections with our guests and help educate millions of people about marine life and aquatic issues,” said Ramirez. “Caring for these amazing animals has allowed us to learn vital information about these rarely studied marine mammals, including hard-to-obtain pregnancy and neonatal data.”

The pregnancy was a result of a partnership with the Miami Seaquarium. Tique, Shedd’s 26-year-old, 200-pound dolphin, was temporarily relocated to Miami as part of a strategic breeding cooperative. Miami Seaquarium’s male dolphin, Lii, is the father of the calf.

There are fewer than 20 Pacific white-sided dolphins in North American facilities. According to Ramirez, strategic partnerships with organizations like the Miami Seaquarium and other leading aquariums around the world are critical to increasing Pacific white-sided dolphin populations and genetic diversity in zoos and aquariums.

Because Shedd Aquarium is committed to providing the best animal care, both mother and calf will be off exhibit until this first critical period has ended. Only the Secluded Bay area in the Abbott Oceanarium will be temporarily closed to the public. More information will be available on Shedd’s website at www.sheddaquarium.org, along with updates on Shedd’s [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#).

VISUAL NOTE: Photos of the birth and newborn calf are available on Shedd’s FTP site. Visit:

<https://backup.filesanywhere.com/fs/v.aspx?v=896e62875c606e78a4ae>

Call Melissa Kruth (312) 692-3330 for video update.

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*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums.*