

## Cincinnati Zoo says premature hippo gets some mother's milk

January 27 2017

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In this photo provided by the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden a zoo employee using a bottle to provide fluids to a female Nile hippopotamus calf born to 17-year-old mother Bibi and 35-year-old father Henry Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, six weeks before the anticipated March 2017 due date, at the zoo in Cincinnati. Cincinnati Zoo staffers are providing critical care to the prematurely born baby hippo which is the first Nile hippo born there in 75 years. (Michelle Curley/Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden via AP)

The Cincinnati Zoo says a prematurely born baby hippo is getting some

of her mother's milk.

The zoo says the calf born early Tuesday is getting stronger, helped in part by [nutrients](#) she's now taking by bottle from milk collected from her 17-year-old mother Bibi. Zoo spokeswoman Michelle Curley said Friday the milk is supplemented with formula prepared by the zoo's nutritionist.

The zoo says 17-year-old Bibi gave birth six weeks early to the first Nile hippo born there in 75 years. The [calf](#) was 29 pounds at birth, well below the normal range of [birth weight](#) of 55 to 120 pounds and was unable to stand to nurse.

Nutritionist Barbara Henry says some of Bibi's milk will be analyzed and added to the Smithsonian's National Zoo milk repository.



In this photo provided by the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden a zoo employee uses a stethoscope while caring for a female Nile hippopotamus calf born to 17-year-old mother Bibi and 35-year-old father Henry Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, six weeks before the anticipated March 2017 due date, at the zoo in Cincinnati. Cincinnati Zoo staffers are providing critical care to the prematurely born baby hippo which is the first Nile hippo born there in 75 years. (S. David Jenike/Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden via AP)



In this photo provided by the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden a zoo employee swaddles a female Nile hippopotamus calf born to 17-year-old mother Bibi and 35-year-old father Henry Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, six weeks before the anticipated March 2017 due date, at the zoo in Cincinnati. Cincinnati Zoo staffers are providing critical care to the prematurely born baby hippo which is the first Nile hippo born there in 75 years. (Michelle Curley/Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden via AP)

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