



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Baby Kangaroos in Wildlife Park

Jacksonville, Texas, July 2005 – Staci Doty, Park Operations Manager at Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari announced two new baby kangaroos were sited in the park this week “It’s a real treat to have two joeys at once.”

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Kangaroos are marsupials, meaning pouched mammals. Baby kangaroos, or joeys, are born partially developed after 30-40 days. “It’s amazing,” Ms. Doty explained. “These hairless, blind babies are born about the size of a bean. Then, somehow, immediately after birth, they manage to crawl up the outside of the mother kangaroo into the pouch to nurse and mature.” A joey stays in the pouch 4-5 months until mature enough to venture out and begin eating grass and other vegetation. The joey may come in and out of the pouch for another 3-4 months. The mother kangaroo is called a doe, flyer, roo or jill. “Mama roo simply will not allow the joey back in the pouch once she decides he’s too big,” says Ms. Doty. A joey will remain near its mother for about a year. Jills and joeys make soft clicking or tutting noises when communicating.

Kangaroos live in the open arid plains and woodlands of central Australia. There are 6 species of large kangaroos. Cherokee Trace Drive Thru Safari has the Red Kangaroo or *Macropus rufus*. A group of roos is called a mob. An adult male is about 5 feet long and has a tail about 42 inches long. With their powerful hind legs, Red Kangaroos can hop up to 40

miles per hour covering over 30 feet in one hop. The male Red Kangaroo, called a buck, boomer or jack, has reddish fur, while the female is bluish-gray. For more information on the Red Kangaroo visit the following websites: www.red-kangaroos.com www.australian-animals.net www.enchantedlearning.com www.thebigzoo.com

You can see the Red Kangaroo joeys at Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari 12 miles east of Jacksonville, Texas. This 300-acre preserve is home to over 200 animals belonging to 18 different species. The animals roam free in an open range habitat. Other animals in the park include several endangered antelope and deer species, such as the Scimitar-horned Oryx and the Lechwi. The park has seasonal hours (extended March – August) and is open most holidays. The park has extended seasonal hours and is open most holidays. Animal food is included with admission. Rates are \$12.00 for adults. \$8.00 for children from 3-12, and \$10.00 for Seniors 65 and up. Group rates are available. The park also features a five-acre picnic area, a gift shop with ice cold drinks and snacks, and Bed & Breakfast cabins (www.cherokeetracebandb.com). Bathrooms are handicapped accessible. For more information visit the website www.cherokeetrace.org or call 903-683-3322.

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