



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Zebra Arrives at Cherokee Trace

Jacksonville, Texas, June 2006 – Staci Doty, Park Operations Manager at Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari announced that the park's most recent arrival is a Grant's Zebra. The 20 month old male arrived at the park on June 21. According to Ms. Doty, the zebra was purchased primarily because of the frequent requests from park guests. "Zebras are very popular because they are so easy to recognize. Almost everyone who comes out to the park asks if we have one. Now, I can say, 'Yes! We do!'"



Zebras, members of the horse family, are native to Africa. There are three species of zebra. The Grant's Zebra is a subspecies of the Plains Zebra. This species survives in abundance in southern and eastern Africa. Grant's Zebras are white with black stripes on the forequarters which become more horizontal near at the rear of the animal. Each animal has it's own unique pattern of stripes that distinguish it from other members of the herd. Why do zebras have stripes? There are three major theories. They may serve as camouflage in tall grass to help protect the animal from predators, such as lions. They may play a role in social interactions within the herd since each has its own unique pattern. They may help protect the animal from blood-sucking tsetse flies by confusing the visual

system of the fly. A zebra can run up to approximately 35 mile per hour. While this speed is slower than a horse, the zebra has much greater stamina than a horse. Zebras graze on grass, including course grasses that are not palatable to other animals. For more information on Grant's Zebra visit the following web sites:

www.honolulu zoo.org/zebra or www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grant's_Zebra or www.oaklandzoo.org

You can see our new Grant's Zebra at Cherokee Trace Drive-Thru Safari 12 miles east of Jacksonville, Texas. This 300-acre preserve is home to over 300 animals from 21 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, Common Eland and 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. Bathrooms are handicapped accessible. For more information visit the website www.cherokeetrace.org or call 903-683-3322.

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