



**Press Contact:**

Chris Martello  
Clemens Public Relations, LLC  
Phone 760.512.0812  
Email [chris@clemenspr.com](mailto:chris@clemenspr.com)

**For Immediate Release**

**Baby Penguin Born at Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa**

*New African Black-Footed Penguin joins wildlife resort residents totaling over 40 exotic birds and hundreds of fish*

**KA'ANAPALI, Maui, Hawaii – January 23, 2008** – Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa is proud to announce the addition of a new baby – an African Black-Footed Penguin born to parents George and Waddles residing among the wildlife at the resort. Baby “Buddha” was born on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and after being cared for by both parents for eight weeks, Buddha has lost his downy feathers and gained new blue feathers. Within a year, he will get his mature and prominent black and white coat.

“Guests, especially children, love learning about and visiting with our wildlife,” said Christina Sagadraca, Head of the Wildlife Department. “One of our most interesting residents are the penguins, since most think they are cold climate animals, and learn that only two of the 17 species of penguins actually live in the Antarctic region.”

The resort’s wildlife habitat is cared for by a full-time staff dedicated to the animals, and also includes East African Crowned Cranes, swans, flamingos, parrots, ducks and Koi fish. Their top priority is the health and well-being of the animals. They accomplish this by creating a safe home for the animals and meeting their needs for food, shelter and safety. In addition, the wildlife staff ensures each habitat has features that stimulate natural behaviors and encourage the animals to be active.

As a result of Hyatt Regency Maui’s commitment to the well-being of all their wildlife, over the years numerous offspring have been born at the resort including one other African Black-Footed Penguin, four Australian Black Swans, two Australian King Parrots, two European Mute Swans, and Popeye, a now 20-year old Scarlet Macaw.

The resort offers visitors complimentary **Wildlife Tours** at 10 a.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. These tours reveal each creature's unique personality. Guests engage in a game of call and response with Spike, an East African Golden Crowned Crane, or listen as R2D2, an African Grey Parrot, imitates his favorite digital sounds such as beeping pagers or two-way radios.

Following are descriptions of some of the animal families at the resort:

**African Black-Footed Penguins:** The resort is home to a family of African Black-footed Penguins that enjoy Maui's warm weather. They live in a custom-designed pond and sand habitat. On average, the four, 8-pound adult penguins eat more than 300 pounds of fish each month. Guests can watch the penguins dive after their breakfast, as smelt is tossed into their pond. Baby Buddha is the newest addition to the family in October 2007.

**Swans:** Australian Black Swans, European Mute Swans, and a Chilean Black Neck Swan can be seen in Swan Court pond or Oriental Gardens.

**Parrots:** Resting on natural perches, displayed in large brass cages and on large brass rings throughout the resort are a variety of parrots including four types of Macaws, as well as an African Grey, Spectacled Amazon, two Australian King parrots, and Salmon-Crested Cockatoo, the resort's most colorful inhabitants. Guests are encouraged to talk to the birds, who often respond in return. Some even say "*aloha*" and "*mahalo*."

**East African Crowned Cranes.:** Named Fluff and Spike for their unique headdresses, these two East African Crowned Cranes reside in their own garden habitat near Napili Tower.

**Koi Fish:** *Nishikigoi*, which translates as "living jewel," are prized Japanese carp that are known for their long life—the oldest on record lived to be 200 years old. Nicknamed Koi, their value is based on their colors and markings. Numerous Koi make their home in a pond located in the lobby. Each day at 9:30 a.m., guests can feed the fish—many of which are more than 40 years old.

**Ducks:** Muscovy and Eyton's Whistling Tree Ducks swim in Swan Court pond or waddle around the grassy areas of Oriental Gardens.

**Flamingos:** Of the six types of flamingos in the world, two reside at the resort—the Chilean Flamingo and the African Lesser Red-Winged Flamingo (the smallest of the six varieties).

**About Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa**

The oceanfront Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa is situated on 40 tropically landscaped acres along a three-mile stretch of the Ka’anapali Beach coastline, which is Maui’s longest crescent beach. The resort features Spa Moana, Maui’s only and Hawaii’s first oceanfront spa, offering the Hawaiian Lomi Lomi and other massages and treatments. The resort boasts an Asian art collection and exotic wildlife throughout the grounds. Guest suites are accentuated with plantation-style wood furniture and Hawaiian elegance, with each room offering a private lanai to enjoy panoramic views.

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa earned the AAA Four Diamond Award for 2008, and has for 20 consecutive years. *Conde Nast Traveler* voted Maui as “Best Island in the World” for 2007, and Hyatt Regency Maui was on *Conde Nast Traveler’s* Gold List for 2006. This year the hotel was also named among *Travel + Leisure’s* 500 Best Hotels in the World and Top 10 Spas in Hawaii for Spa Moana.

For reservations or more information Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa can be reached at (808) 661-1234 or (800) 233-1234, or by visiting [www.maui.hyatt.com](http://www.maui.hyatt.com).

###