

## Taronga Zoo welcomes baby orange monkey

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Gan Ju and mum fall in love

His sister Elke was rejected at birth because their mother didn't quite know what to make of her.

But luckily for Gan Ju, a two-and-a-half-week old Francois Langur monkey born at Taronga Zoo, the second time around was just the ticket as his mother accepted him unconditionally.

### **In pictures: Baby orange monkeys - Gan Ju and his sister Elke**

Born on April 22, the bright orange baby monkey was licked clean and cradled in his mother Saigon's arms after birth.

He is the first male Francois Langur, or leaf-eating monkey, to be born in Australia. As he matures, Gan Ju's colouring will darken like his parents.

Saigon had given birth to his sister in March last year, but zoo staff had to raise her.

As is common amongst Francois Langur first-time mothers, unless they have been exposed to other females giving birth, they often don't have the social skills needed to rear their babies, Taronga's Asian Primates manager Melissa Shipway explains.

"With this arrival, it was such a relief to discover the little orange bundle cradled in Saigon's arms," she said.

"The baby had been licked clean by its mother, was warm, dry and very alert.

"It appears that second time round, Saigon understood what the orange coloured thing was and her mothering instincts kicked in."

Despite being widespread throughout Vietnam and China, there may be as few as 1000 Francois Langurs in the wild because of poaching and a loss of habitat.

"There is a very real risk of extinction for this species, so every birth is vital to ensure these remarkable leaf-eating primates are not lost forever," Ms Shipway said.