

## Sydney zoo welcomes third elephant calf

Updated 23 minutes ago

**Sydney's Taronga Zoo says its third Asian elephant calf was born overnight.**

The zoo keepers say the 120 kilogram female calf was born in the paddock at about 1:12am (AEDT).

They say the healthy youngster has been moved into the elephant barn with its mother Pak Boon, where it has been walking around a suckling without help.

In a statement Zoo Director Cameron Kerr said the elephants were attended to by Dr Thomas Hildebrandt from the Berlin Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research and the Taronga vet team.

"Dr Hildebrandt said this was a record-breaking birth in terms of the speed with the calf was nursing within 90 minutes of birth and standing unassisted within three hours," the statement read.

It is four years to the day since the arrival of the Asian elephant herd from Thailand.

Earlier this year another calf, known affectionately as Mr Shuffles, was born two days after staff at Taronga declared it died in the womb.

Both births are part of the Australia Conservation Management Plan for the endangered species.

Taronga's Exotic Fauna Manager Mandy Everett says the latest arrival is the fifth since the herd arrived in Australia.

"Our program is just going so well," he said.

"We are obviously supporting conservation of the endangered Asian elephant through our breeding program here at the zoo, and in fact in the region we've got other zoos in the region who are part of this program.

"(It's) nice to know that in the four years that we've got five calves on the ground, which is fantastic."

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*The zoo says the new calf was up and walking very quickly. (Taronga Zoo: Bobby-Jo Vial)*

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