

Here's Carson!

Zoo welcomes new red panda, named after Johnny Carson

SEATTLE- Woodland Park Zoo is excited to welcome red panda, Carson, to the zoo. Carson was born at Lincoln Children's Zoo (Lincoln, Neb.) in July 2014 and was named after the famous television host Johnny Carson. He arrived at Woodland Park Zoo in late February and is now on exhibit in the zoo's Wildlife Survival Zone; he is the only red panda on exhibit.



"Carson is much more playful than our previous red pandas," said Jamie Delk, zookeeper at Woodland Park Zoo. "He's likely to be spotted climbing around in the trees of his exhibit and snacking on some of the newly grown leaves and pine cones." Carson has also been observed sleeping high up in the tree, much like the zoo's other male red panda Yukiko, and chasing squirrels. "He's still young and very active; we're excited to have him here."

Currently, the zoo's other male red panda, 10-year-old Yukiko, and Stellar, the zoo's 8-year-old female red panda, live off exhibit where the two can spend time together through the breeding season and beyond. The zoo hopes for a baby red panda in the near future.

[Red pandas](#) share the name of giant pandas, but more closely resemble raccoons. While scientists still debate which family red pandas belong to—raccoons or giant pandas—recent studies suggest that they are equally related to three different groups of animals that include skunks, weasels and raccoons.

In the wild, fewer than 10,000 red pandas remain in their native habitat of bamboo forests in China, the Himalayas and Myanmar, and share part of their range with giant pandas. Their numbers are declining due to deforestation, increased agriculture and cattle grazing, and continuing pressure from growing local populations.

In the wild, red pandas primarily eat bamboo shoots and leaves, grasses, roots, fruits, lichens and acorns. They occasionally eat insects, eggs, young birds and small rodents. At the zoo, red pandas are fed leaf-eater biscuits, bamboo, and various fruits and berries.

Woodland Park Zoo supports the [Red Panda Network](#), whose multi-prong approach aims to conserve this flagship species in Nepal. To help support the

project, adopt a red panda through the zoo's ZooParent Adoption Program:
www.zoo.org/support/zooparent/redpanda.

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