

## **Farewell to Woodland Park Zoo's three juvenile lions** *Lions moving to accredited Oakland Zoo*

SEATTLE-Woodland Park Zoo is preparing to say goodbye to its three young lions. Brothers Tandie, Gandia and Mandla are moving to Oakland Zoo where they will live together as a bachelor group.



Though a departure date has not been set, the three young lions are expected to depart for Oakland Zoo in mid-to-late-May. Visitors are encouraged to come see the brothers one last time before they leave.

The move is based on a recommendation made by the Species Survival Plan (SSP), a conservation breeding program across accredited zoos to increase the genetic diversity and enhance the health of selected wildlife species. "A lion pride typically consists of one adult male but young males often form bachelor groups while they develop the skills to have their own pride," said Martin Ramirez, curator at Woodland Park Zoo. "Oakland Zoo was looking for lions to exhibit as part of their collection and the SSP identified our males as good candidates."

The lions were born on October 24, 2014 and were the first litter between mother, 7-year-old Adia (ah-DEE-uh), and 9-year-old father, Xerxes. They are also Xerxes' first offspring. The adorable triplets quickly captured the hearts of the community when the zoo shared a [video](#) of them at just a few hours old. From their [first steps](#) in their outdoor exhibit, to going full "[Beast Mode](#)" to cheer on the Seahawks Super Bowl run, Tandie, Gandia and Mandla have continued to captivate zoo visitors as they've grown older and developed their own [personalities](#).

"It's been a pleasure to watch these young lions grow up and discover their world," said Ramirez. "Their curious, playful personalities brought a whole new energy to the exhibit that was genuinely fun to watch. We will definitely miss having them here, but we're confident in the decision made by the SSP to move them to Oakland Zoo where they'll continue to live together and capture the hearts of another lucky community."

A Woodland Park Zoo keeper and staff from Oakland Zoo will accompany the trio during their travels to ensure a safe arrival and comfortable adjustment.

Parents, Xerxes and Adia, will remain at Woodland Park Zoo and will be on exhibit full-time following their offsprings' departure. Currently, there is not a plan for the pair to reproduce. The zoo will continue to work with the SSP for future recommendations.

As few as 20,000 African lions are estimated to survive in the wild and their future remains uncertain. The three main threats facing African lions today are killing in defense of human life and livestock, habitat loss, and prey base depletion. Through its Wildlife Survival Fund Program, Woodland Park Zoo supports the [Ruaha Carnivore Project](#) focused on improving local conservation knowledge and attitudes towards wildlife in Tanzania's Ruaha landscape.

Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, award-winning Woodland Park Zoo is famed for pioneering naturalistic exhibits and setting international standards for zoos in animal care, conservation and education programs. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By inspiring people to care and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future. For more information, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org).

###