

Woodland Park Zoo hand raises flamingo chick



WHAT: Woodland Park Zoo celebrated its third Chilean flamingo hatching this year on Monday, August 22, 2016. Abandoned as an egg, the chick is being cared for by a dedicated team of zookeepers and animal health staff who are hand-raising the chick off public exhibit. The press is invited behind the scenes to meet the chick and watch an exercise session, which involves giving it access to an indoor area where it is encouraged to walk and stretch to strengthen its growing legs. See video from one of its recent walks [here](#).

The flamingo chick is currently fed up to five times a day and is learning to follow its zookeepers as they take it on exercise walks. Once the chick is old enough to eat on its own, in about 30-45 days, it will begin to join the rest of the flock in the flamingo exhibit. In addition to the hand-reared chick, two other chicks are currently being parent-reared in the colony.

A total of 14 chicks have hatched since the exhibit opened in 2008. The zoo currently has 38 Chilean flamingos.

Flamingo chicks hatch with a whitish, gray down and can acquire extensive pink feathering that can be mixed with gray-brown contour feathers at about 1 year of age. Juveniles usually have full pink feathering by 2 to 3 years of age. These hardy, social birds of South America stand an impressive 40 to 42 inches tall, and can live as long as 70 years.

WHEN: Friday, September 2, 11:30 a.m.-noon

WHERE: Behind the scenes in hand-rearing facility. **Meet PR staff at the West Entrance** at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Penguin Lot at N. 55th St. & Phinney Ave. N. or Otter Lot off N. 59th St. & Phinney Ave. N.

INFO: [Chilean flamingos](#) have an extensive range throughout much of southern South America in Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. They are extremely hardy birds that can withstand cold, wet climates. They regularly live in lakes at altitudes up to

15,000 feet, as well as at sea level during the winter months. These lakes are usually inhospitable to all living creatures except for algae, diatoms, aquatic invertebrates, flamingos and other birds.

Woodland Park Zoo supports the [Flamingo Research & Conservation in Southern South America](#) project through its Wildlife Survival Fund. The project focuses on research, management, conservation, capacity development, and outreach activities at key sites throughout the flamingo distribution range. Continued monitoring is necessary in order to track conservation status of lowland wetlands, and to determine factors driving flamingo use of these wetlands.

Woodland Park Zoo is open daily except Christmas Day, December 25. Zoo hours May 1 - September 25: 9:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. daily, September 26 - April 30: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily. Zoo admission fees April 1 - September 30: Adult (13-64) \$19.95, Child (3-12) \$12.25; October 1 – March 31: Adult (13-64) \$13.75; Child (3-12) \$9.25; free for children 2 and under year round. Active, retired, and veteran U.S. military and their families, seniors and people with disabilities are eligible to receive a discount and zoo members receive free zoo admission year round. Parking: \$6.

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.

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