

Woodland Park Zoo's flamingo chick is growing up fast

SEATTLE- Woodland Park Zoo is excited to share new footage of its hand raised Chilean flamingo chick. Earlier this month, the flamingo became a media sensation after the zoo shared [footage](#) of the tiny chick during an exercise session with zookeepers. The chick is now 7 weeks old and has graduated from indoor exercise sessions to longer, outdoor ones. **See the new footage [here](#).**



Born in August, the young chick was the third Chilean flamingo hatching of the year. The egg was unattended so keepers pulled it off exhibit and, since it hatched, the chick has been cared for by a dedicated team of zookeepers and animal health staff off public exhibit. Throughout the day, zookeepers hold exercise sessions with the chick to encourage it to walk and stretch to strengthen its growing legs. "The chick is making great progress," said John Samaras, zookeeper at Woodland Park Zoo. "In less than two months it's gone from receiving up to five feedings a day to being fully weaned. The chick now weighs a little over 2 pounds and is big enough to go on longer walks, with keepers, in safe outdoor areas off public view. When it's at an appropriate age and size, we'll begin to introduce the chick to other members of the flock."

Four Chilean flamingo chicks hatched at the zoo this year; two chicks are currently being parent-reared in the colony and another chick is also being hand raised off public exhibit. A total of 15 chicks have hatched since the exhibit opened in 2008. The zoo currently has 42 Chilean flamingos (including the four chicks).

[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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