

PRESS RELEASE

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Pigs to be added to expanded raptor flight program this summer ***Community helps zoo break another attendance record***

SEATTLE—*Has the day finally come when pigs fly? Close, but no.* New mini pot-bellied pigs will join Woodland Park Zoo's raptor flight program, but don't worry, they will remain flightless.

Don't miss this video of the new mini pot-bellied pigs: https://youtu.be/j0_RERugPRM.

Over the years, guests have watched the impressive flying and hunting skills of birds of prey at the zoo's Raptor Center. This summer, a diverse cast of ambassador animals will be added to the up-close, animal experience including pot-bellied pigs Annabelle and Bailey along with a rotating cast of guest appearances by flamingo chicks Paco and Pluma, arctic fox Hudson, raccoon Lucy, a skunk and others. In addition, seating will triple in a newly renovated visitor viewing area, better vistas will be offered and the sound system will be enhanced.

The zoo's expanded Ambassador Animals program was unveiled last year at the new Alvord Broadleaf Theater. This program offers zoo-goers an opportunity to meet a variety of animals including a hornbill, porcupine, and kookaburra through engaging, up-close experiences that incite empathy and the desire to take action for wildlife.

For the second year, butterflies will return in the summer at the popular Molbak's Butterfly Garden. Visitors will stroll among free-flying North American butterflies and encounter a new pollinator garden where they can learn about the important role that the myriad pollinators play in keeping ecosystems growing healthy and how to protect them.

Other animals that will call Woodland Park Zoo their new home this year include a siamang (gibbon species), Rocky Mountain goats, a Grant's gazelle and a Himalayan monal (pheasant).

In 2016, babies, children, tweens and adults came in droves to the zoo—1,350,425 visitors—marking the fourth consecutive year of record-breaking attendance at the zoo and surpassing last year's by 28,276 visitors; July and August attracted more than 404,000 guests. Each visit to the zoo helps support the zoo's exemplary animal care program for its 1,000-plus animals, hands-on environmental learning for all ages, and more than 40 wildlife conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world including anti-poaching efforts to help protect tigers in Malaysia and recovery of Western pond turtles in the state of Washington.

"It's clear our community loves their conservation zoo and we extend our heartfelt thank you for supporting our zoo's mission to save wildlife and protect their future," said Woodland Park Zoo President and CEO Alejandro Grajal, PhD. "In a region that is urbanizing at an unprecedented pace, people seek to connect with nature. The zoo is an amazing place where families can bond and make memories through fun and amazing encounters with animals while discovering how they can take meaningful action to help save animals and habitats in the wild."

The zoo's Community Access Program (CAP) works with 600+ human service agencies serving low-income, at-risk or underserved children, families and individuals. "Woodland Park Zoo should be a place for everyone. It remains our top priority to ensure we are accessible to those who otherwise might not be able to visit," said Grajal. "Our goal this year is to invite more than 100,000 individuals to visit the zoo free through our CAP partners."

Admission fees have increased by \$1.00 in the summer and \$1.20 in the winter for adults, and \$.70 for children year round. The new winter fees through March 31 are: Adult (13-64)



\$14.95 and Child (3-12) \$9.95. Beginning April 1 through September 30, fees are: Adult (13-64) \$20.95 and Child (3-12) \$12.95. Child 2 and under are free year round.

Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the zoo for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco.

Winter hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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.

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