

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Meet the zoo's 60th penguin chick ***Poll kicks off to name the milestone chick***

WHAT: The 60th Humboldt penguin has hatched at Woodland Park Zoo since the zoo's first breeding season in 2010 in the new penguin exhibit.

The press is invited behind the scenes to meet the new chick as keepers weigh and conduct a visual checkup. The chick hatched on March 17.

The sex of the chick is unknown but it needs a name, so the community is invited to vote on one of the following Spanish names:

- Sesenta – means 60
- Diamante – means *diamond* (60th anniversary)
- Amor – means *love*

The naming poll begins **Thursday, March 30 through Monday, April 3**. To vote, visit <https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandParkZooSeattle/>

The chick's parents, 9-year-old dad, Mateo, and 4-year-old mom, Mini, have raised chicks with other mates but the new chick is the first offspring between the pair.

To date, a total of six chicks have been produced in the current breeding season with a couple more chicks anticipated to hatch. The chicks are off exhibit in nesting burrows where they are under the care of the parents. Staff minimizes intervention to allow the parents to raise their chicks and gain parental experience. To ensure the chicks are achieving growth milestones, staff weigh them as they develop.

WHEN: Photo op: Thursday, March 30, 1:00–1:20 p.m.

A maximum of two media reps will be permitted behind the scenes on a rotational basis. To minimize stress levels for the chick and parents, late arrivals can't be accommodated.

Naming poll: Thursday, March 30 through Monday, April 3.

Vote at <https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandParkZooSeattle/>

WHERE: Photo op: behind the scenes at the penguin exhibit. Meet PR staff at the West Entrance on Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Penguin or Otter Lots.

VISUALS: Flash is permitted, but not flood lights

INFO: Before new chicks reach fledging age and go outdoors on exhibit, they are removed from the nest so keepers can condition the birds to approach them for hand feeding and other animal care activities. Chicks also are given round-the-clock access to a shallow pool where they can swim in a more controlled and less crowded environment. New chicks join the colony in the outdoor exhibit sometime in early summer.

People do not usually think of penguins as a desert species. Unlike their ice and snow-dwelling Antarctic cousins, Humboldt penguins inhabit hot, dry



coastlines in Peru and Chile. They live on rocky mainland shores, especially near cliffs, or on coastal islands. Humboldt penguins have a body made to swim. Using their strong wings, they “fly” underwater, usually just below the surface, at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour. They steer with their feet and tail.

A vulnerable species, approximately 30,000 to 40,000 Humboldt penguins survive in their natural range. Woodland Park Zoo is committed to conserving Humboldt penguins by supporting the [Humboldt Penguin Conservation Center](#) at Punta San Juan, Peru, breeding the birds through the [Species Survival Plan](#) and encouraging visitors to choose sustainable seafood options. Punta San Juan is home to 5,000 Humboldt penguins, the largest colony in Peru.

Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily through April 30

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

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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