

PRESS RELEASE

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Zoo's 60th penguin chick is named: meet *Diamante*

SEATTLE—Penguin fans throughout the community have chosen a name for Woodland Park Zoo's new penguin chick: *Diamante* (dee-uh-MAHN-teh), which means *diamond* (60th anniversary) in Spanish. See video of the name reveal at <https://youtu.be/rOUiTNAZwdI>

The top vote getter, *Diamante*, beat the two other names featured in the naming poll: *Sesenta* and *Amor*, which means *60* and *love* in Spanish, respectively.

The Humboldt penguin hatched on March 17 and represents the zoo's 60th chick since the zoo's first breeding season in 2010 in the new penguin exhibit. The sex of the chick is unknown at this young age.

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 at least two more chicks anticipated to hatch. The chicks are off exhibit in nesting burrows where they are under the care of the parents. "Our goal is to allow the parents to raise their chicks and gain parental experience, so we minimize staff intervention," said Mark Myers, bird curator at Woodland Park Zoo. To ensure the chicks are achieving growth milestones, staff weigh them daily as they develop.

New chicks join the colony in the award-winning, outdoor exhibit sometime in early summer. Before new chicks reach fledging age and go outdoors, they are removed from the nest so keepers can condition the birds to approach them for hand feeding and other animal care activities. "We give the chicks round-the-clock access to a shallow pool where they learn to swim in a more controlled and less crowded environment before joining the colony," explained Myers.

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.

Share the oceans with penguins by choosing sustainable seafood: www.seafoodwatch.org

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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