

PRESS RELEASE

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Editor note: For more photos and video, visit the zoo's blog at <http://blog.zoo.org/2017/06/giraffe-gives-birth-to-seattles-tallest.html>.

Seattle's tallest baby has arrived! Giraffe gives birth today to her first baby

SEATTLE — Step aside April and Tajiri, Seattle's tallest baby has arrived! After months of eager anticipation, Woodland Park Zoo is excited to announce 8-year-old giraffe Tufani (too-fawn-ee) gave birth this morning. The calf, whose sex has not yet been determined, was born to the first-time mom in the giraffe barn at approximately 4:03 a.m. (PDT) under the watchful eyes of zookeepers. This marks the second viable birth of a giraffe at the zoo since 2013.

Following the critical 72-hour window after birth, the zoo's giraffe cam will go live, giving the public the opportunity to see Tufani and her baby as they bond in the barn. Viewers can access the giraffe cam once it goes live and see updates by visiting zoo.org/tallestbaby and following #tallestbaby on the zoo's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

The unnamed calf and mother are off view in the barn to allow a quiet environment for maternal bonding and nursing. "Within a week or two, we expect the newborn to follow mom to the outdoor corral where visitors will be able to see them," explained Martin Ramirez, a mammal curator at the zoo. "Viewing is expected to be sporadic since the family also will have access to the off-view barn. It will be a minimum of a few months before the calf is introduced to the African Savanna."

Giraffes give birth while standing, and the calf drops 5 feet from the ground as it is born. According to Ramirez, the calf stood one hour after birth. The calf's first exam will be conducted tomorrow, June 21. At that time, the sex, height and weight will be determined. "The first 24 to 72 hours are critical for giraffe calves," said Ramirez. "So far, mother and calf are bonding. We will continue to keep a close eye on the new family over the next several weeks." When fully grown, giraffes reach a height of 16 feet tall for females and 18 feet tall for males.

The father is 4-year-old Dave, who [arrived at the zoo in June 2014](#). This will be the first baby for both parents who were paired under a breeding recommendation made by the Giraffe Species Survival Plan (SSP), a cooperative, conservation breeding program to ensure genetic diversity and demographic stability in North American zoos. In addition to Tufani, Dave and the calf, the other giraffe at the zoo is Olivia, Tufani's 10-year-old sister.

Now that Tufani's baby has arrived the zoo is also preparing to announce the winning guess from the zoo's giraffe birth pool contest. Nearly 3,000 guesses were submitted which asked participants to accurately guess the birth date and sex of the baby giraffe. The zoo is determining the winner now and will announce it in the coming days.

The new giraffe will be named later this summer. The opportunity to name the baby will be offered as a live auction item at the zoo's signature fundraiser, Jungle Party, held in July at the zoo. Funds raised for the naming will support the zoo's exemplary animal care program, field conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world and hands-on environmental learning for all ages.

Widespread across southern and eastern Africa, with smaller isolated populations in west and central Africa, new population surveys estimate an overall 36 to 40 percent decline in the giraffe population, from approximately 151,702 to 163,452 in 1985, to 97,562 in 2015. Of the



currently recognized subspecies of giraffe, five have decreasing populations, while three are increasing and one is stable.

Giraffe fans can help support conservation efforts by visiting Woodland Park Zoo and supporting Wildlife Survival Fund projects, including the [Giraffe Conservation Foundation](#), which seeks to provide the first long-term ecological monitoring effort of the Angolan giraffe—an important desert-dwelling giraffe subspecies in north-western Namibia. Visit www.zoo.org/conservation to learn more about the zoo's conservation partnerships taking place in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Woodland Park Zoo participates in 108 SSPs, overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Led by experts in husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, behavior, and genetics, SSPs manage populations in North America to maximize their genetic and demographic diversity with the goal of ensuring their long-term survival. SSPs also involve a variety of other collaborative conservation activities such as research, public education, reintroduction and field projects.

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 through more than 40 field projects 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 ecological health and sustainability. Free Wi-Fi is available for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco. For more information, visit www.zoo.org.

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