

Editor note: For more photos and new video, visit the zoo's blog at:
<http://blog.zoo.org/2017/06/its-girl.html>.

Baby giraffe is a girl!

Seattle's tallest baby giraffe receives neonatal exam, birth pool contest winner announced



SEATTLE — Just in time for World Giraffe Day, Woodland Park Zoo is excited to share an update on Seattle's tallest baby. The zoo's giraffe calf, born yesterday, June 20, 2017, to first-time mom, Tufani, 8, received a neonatal examination this morning. The exam revealed that the calf, which stands in at 5 feet 9 inches and weighs 149 pounds, is a girl!

The newborn is the offspring to first time parents Tufani and 4-year-old Dave. This marks the second viable birth of a giraffe at the zoo since 2013.

Now that the baby has arrived and the sex has been determined, the zoo is also excited to announce the winning guess from the zoo's giraffe birth pool contest. The lucky winner, chosen by random draw, is Stephanie Rhea! Nearly 3,000 guesses were submitted to the contest which asked participants to accurately guess the birth date and sex of the baby giraffe. Of those submissions, 61 accurately guessed the birth date with 41 guessing the baby would be a girl. Rhea, the winner, will take home the grand prize: an opportunity for a private meet and greet with the baby giraffe and animal care staff and other prizes.

Currently, the calf and mother are off view in the barn to allow a quiet environment for maternal bonding and nursing. "She's a very mobile calf," explained Martin Ramirez, mammal curator at the zoo. "She's showing early signs of curiosity and adventure. Eventually, she will begin to follow her mom to the outdoor corral where zoo-goers could possibly catch a glimpse of her. But expect sporadic viewing since she can choose to go off view in the barn." It will be at least a few months before the calf is introduced to the African Savanna exhibit.

Blood tests show the calf is nursing normally and the mom is passing on the necessary antibody-rich colostrum to help keep her healthy until she develops her own antibodies, according to Dr. Darin Collins, the zoo's director of animal health. "The first 24 to 72 hours are critical for giraffe calves, but so far she seems to be doing well," said Collins.

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 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.

###