

The baby giraffe has a name! **Woodland Park Zoo announces name of baby giraffe**

SEATTLE –Exactly one month ago, Woodland Park Zoo’s female giraffe, Tufani, gave birth to a little 5 foot 9 inch girl. To celebrate, the zoo is excited to announce that Seattle’s tallest baby has a name: Lulu (rhymes with Boo-Boo), which means “pearl” in the African language, Swahili (SWAH-he-lee).



The opportunity to name the baby giraffe was awarded to Al Buckingham who made a generous donation at the zoo’s Jungle Party fundraiser. The event raised over \$1.5 million to 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.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to name the baby giraffe,” said Buckingham. “I grew up in Seattle and I love the zoo. It’s a wonderful organization. It’s an honor in itself being able to support such a great organization that provides exemplary care to its animals, supports conservation initiatives locally as well as around the world, and offers a place where the community can see and connect with wild animals; it’s an added bonus to be able to name the baby giraffe as well.”

Buckingham shared his top four names with the baby giraffe’s caretakers who then helped select the name. “I’m so happy we all decided on Lulu,” said Buckingham. “Of the four names, it was our favorite choice. It’s cute, simple to remember and has a great meaning, *pearl*.” Pearl is the June birthstone and a fitting symbol of how precious the now 1 month old is to her herd, caretakers and guests.

“We are truly appreciative of not only Mr. Buckingham’s generous donation to the zoo but also for selecting an appropriate name so quickly,” said Martin Ramirez, mammal curator at the zoo. “The name Lulu perfectly suits this rare and precious addition to our giraffe herd.”

Lulu is the offspring of 9-year-old mom Tufani and 4-year-old dad Dave; she is the first baby for both parents. Her birth marked the second viable birth of a giraffe at the zoo since 2013 and the third in 20 years.

Aside from mom Tufani, Lulu has been introduced to the other members of Woodland Park Zoo’s giraffe herd including dad Dave and aunt Olivia. Her introduction sessions took place in the indoor barn and large outdoor corral at the zoo’s African Savanna exhibit.

According to Lead Zookeeper Katie Ahl, Lulu is doing great. “She is now 7 feet tall and weighs 209 pounds. That’s a weight gain of 60 pounds and height gain of over

one foot in just one month, and that's right on target! She is a fun addition to our herd and is doing well with all of our giraffe."

Lulu currently has access to the outdoor west corral with the rest of the herd from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. daily and corral access with Tufani from noon to 3:00 p.m. See updates by visiting zoo.org/tallestbaby and following #tallestbaby on the zoo's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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 northwestern 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.

Zoo summer hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. For information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 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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