

PRESS RELEASE

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Web cam goes live for baby giraffe, Lulu!

SEATTLE—One day ago, Woodland Park Zoo's baby girl giraffe, Lulu, took her first steps onto the vast African Savanna exhibit with mom Tufani (too-faw-nee) and the herd. When the 1½-month-old giraffe is not outdoors but chooses to be in the barn, Lulu's fans can still enjoy Seattle's tallest baby through a live web cam at zoo.org/giraffecam.

The live web cam is inside the barn and gives giraffe enthusiasts opportunities to watch Lulu bonding with mom, nursing and doing what babies do...sleeping. Giraffe fans can get updates by visiting zoo.org/tallestbaby and following #tallestbaby on the zoo's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Lulu's time on the African Savanna is limited for the first week as introductions continue. Currently, guests can see her in the outdoor corrals from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. "Lulu and her mom also have access to the barn, which is not viewable to our guests, so she may choose to go in the barn to nurse or nap," said Katie Ahl, a lead zookeeper at Woodland Park Zoo.

"Before launching the web cam, we wanted to give Tufani some time as she transitioned into the role of a new mom," said Ahl. "She's protective of her baby, which is a very good thing, but she's getting more comfortable as Lulu becomes more mobile and curious. Just like human moms, animal moms move at their own pace and we follow the cues of our animals."

According to Ahl, Lulu is progressing on the mark. "She's confident and lively. During her first time on the savanna, she explored, galloped, and met our gazelle, guinea fowls and a few ducks," said Ahl. "She follows her mom's cues and takes little nibbles of browse, so she's sampling other food items."

Lulu was born June 20 to first-time parents, 9-year-old Tufani and 4-year-old Dave. Born at a height of 5'9", Lulu currently stands at 7'6" tall and weighs 267 pounds. The birth marked the second viable birth of a giraffe at the zoo since 2013 and the third in 20 years.

Dave and Tufani were paired under a breeding recommendation made by the Giraffe Species Survival Plan (SSP), a conservation breeding program across accredited zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of giraffes in North American zoos. The other giraffe at the zoo is 10-year-old Olivia, Tufani's sister.

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](http://www.giraffeconservation.org), 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.

Summer zoo hours: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. For more 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.

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