

## Zoo celebrates orangutan's milestone 50<sup>th</sup> birthday

### *See photos from the birthday bash*

SEATTLE— Woodland Park Zoo's female orangutan, *Chinta* (CHEEN-tuh), is turning the *big 5-0*. To celebrate, the zoo threw a birthday party in honor of the beautiful, red-haired ape on Saturday, February 17. **Photos from the special day can be seen here:** <http://bit.ly/2CtuGkh>.



Chinta is the oldest animal currently living at Woodland Park Zoo and one of the oldest female orangutans in North America. She was born at Woodland Park Zoo in February 1968. Chinta and her late twin brother Towan (toe-WAHN) gained instant celebrity status as the first-known twin orangutans born in a zoo. Towan passed away in 2016.

During the birthday party, the zoo showered Chinta and her fellow orangutans with gift-wrapped presents full of favorite treats, streamers, flowers and, of course, birthday cake! Chef David Van Gelder with Lancer Hospitality, the zoo's food concessionaire, baked a ginger-carrot cake fit for an orangutan and loaded with favorite ape ingredients including carrots, sweet potatoes and ginger.

The day also included special guest Eric Sano, who was 6 years old when he named her and her twin brother in 1968 through a naming contest co-sponsored by The Seattle Times and KVI radio. Sano, who is now a captain with the Seattle Police Department, attended the party to wish Chinta a happy birthday.

Festivities for zoo guests included: complimentary cake pops courtesy of Woodland Park Zoo Board Member Kevin Schofield; a meet 'n' greet with animal care staff; and a free Chinta collectible card. To show love for Chinta and orangutans in the wild, guests also took a palm pledge to choose consumer products that don't have an adverse impact on tropical rain forests and the animals that live there.

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 learn, care, and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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