

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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It's hatching season for penguins at the zoo

WHAT: Two Humboldt penguins have hatched at Woodland Park Zoo. The new chicks are the zoo's 65th and 66th that have successfully hatched since the zoo's first breeding season in 2010 in the new penguin exhibit. The press is invited behind the scenes to a weigh-in and visual checkup session for at least one chick. The sex of the chicks is unknown until DNA testing can be conducted.



The chicks are off exhibit in nesting burrows where they are under the care of the parents. To ensure they are achieving growth milestones, staff weigh them as they develop. Staff minimizes intervention to allow the parents to raise their chicks and gain parental experience.

The first chick hatched February 16 to 2-year-old mom Claudia and 16-year-old dad Cortez, and is the third offspring for the parents. The second chick hatched March 21 to 3-year-old mom Blanca and 5-year-old dad PJ, and is the second offspring for the parents.

WHEN: **Thursday, March 29, 1:00-1:30 p.m.**

A maximum of two media reps will be permitted in the kitchen on a rotational basis. To minimize stress levels for the chick and parents, arrivals after this timeframe can't be accommodated.

WHERE: Behind the scenes at the penguin exhibit. Meet PR staff at the West Entrance on Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Penguin or Otter Lots.

VISUALS: Flash is permitted, but not flood lights

INFO: Before new chicks reach fledging age and go outdoors on exhibit, they are removed from the nest so keepers can condition the birds to approach them for hand feeding and other animal care activities. The chicks also are given round-the-clock access to a shallow pool where they can swim in a more controlled and less crowded environment. New chicks join the colony in the outdoor exhibit sometime in early summer.

People do not usually think of penguins as a desert-dwelling species. Unlike their ice and snow-dwelling Antarctic cousins, Humboldt penguins inhabit hot, dry coastlines in Peru and Chile. They live on rocky mainland shores, especially near cliffs, or on coastal islands. Humboldt penguins have a body made to swim. Using their strong wings, they "fly" underwater, usually just below the surface, at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour. They steer with their feet and tail.

A vulnerable species, approximately 30,000 to 40,000 Humboldt penguins survive in their natural range. Woodland Park Zoo is committed to conserving Humboldt penguins by supporting the [Humboldt Penguin Conservation Center](#) at Punta San Juan, Peru, breeding the birds through the [Species Survival Plan](#) and encouraging visitors to choose sustainable seafood options. Punta San Juan is home to 5,000 Humboldt penguins, the largest colony in Peru.

Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily through April 30

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 saving wildlife and inspiring everyone to make conservation a priority in their lives, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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