

PRESS RELEASE

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Editor note: Visit Woodland Park Zoo's [Facebook](#) for photos.

There's a new kid on the zoo's boardwalk: a mountain goat is born! ***First birth of mountain goat at the zoo in 23 years***

SEATTLE—A 2-year-old mountain goat, Bluebelle, gave birth Saturday, June 16, to a female kid at Woodland Park Zoo. The last birth of a mountain goat at the zoo was in 1995.



The new kid is the first offspring for Bluebelle and dad Albert. Albert moved in April to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs to help increase genetic representation of the species in accredited zoos. The other mountain goat at the zoo is a female named Atlin, who is a half-sister of Bluebelle.

The zoo's animal health staff performed a neonatal exam Sunday on the new goat. According to Dr. Tim Storms, associate veterinarian at Woodland Park Zoo, she weighed in at 10 pounds and appears healthy, with good nutritional body condition and hydration, good vigor and strong suckle reflex. Lab tests indicate that she has been successfully nursing and received colostrum from Bluebelle.

Bluebelle and her unnamed kid are currently off view to zoo guests; they will have access to the public outdoor exhibit starting this week when the boardwalk in front of the goat exhibit reopens after a seven-month closure for construction upgrades. The mountain goats live in high rocky crags and ledges in the zoo's award-winning Northern Trail exhibit along with other animals that have adapted to the cold, rugged regions of the north including grizzlies, snowy owls, wolves, elk and Steller's sea eagles.

"So far we're seeing attentive maternal care by first-time mom Bluebelle. Nursing sessions are regular and mom and her newborn are bonding," said Deanna DeBo, an animal care manager at Woodland Park Zoo.

Rocky Mountain goats naturally range from southern Alaska, Canada, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Transplanted populations now live in Colorado, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, South Dakota and Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Remarkably adapted for life on steep, cold mountain ledges, mountain goats live, sleep, and eat at elevations of 10,000 feet and up. They are especially adept at hanging out in extremely harsh conditions such as snowy slopes with pitches above 60 degrees, winds up to 100 mph, snow drifts of 30–60 feet high and chilly temperatures down to -50 degrees F.

A mountain goat's incredible adaptations allow it to live high above potential predators such as mountain lions, bears or wolverines. The only predator that lives above the timberline is the golden eagle which might attack a newborn or very young goat.

Woodland Park Zoo supports the conservation of mountain goats and other Cascadia wildlife through the [Living Northwest](#) suite.

Summer zoo hours through September 30 are 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.

Founded in 1899, 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. Each year, the zoo engages more than a million visitors of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and walks of life in extraordinary experiences with animals, inspiring them to make conservation a priority in their lives and 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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