

PRESS RELEASE

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Editor note: Visit <https://youtu.be/VbdV5XWKeTQ> for a look back at Lulu moments and her birthday, and visit [Facebook](#) for photos.

Happy 1st birthday to Seattle's tallest baby: giraffe Lulu! ***Lovable Lulu heads for a new home in the fall***



SEATTLE—Last year, Woodland Park Zoo celebrated the much anticipated birth of a giraffe, a female born on June 20. This special giraffe immediately warmed the hearts and minds of zoo fans and the community. A month following her birth, Seattle's tallest baby was named Lulu, which means "pearl" in the African language, Swahili. Today, the lovable Lulu turns a year old.

Lulu's animal keepers presented her with a specially-made giraffe cake: an ice fruit cake adorned with an assortment of her favorite treats, leaves, and leaf eater biscuits with her name carved out of apple slices and the centerpiece #1 carved out of sweet potato. As Lulu celebrates her first birthday, the zoo announces she will depart in early September for a new home at Lincoln Children's Zoo in Lincoln, Neb. The move is under a recommendation made by the Giraffe Species Survival Plan, a conservation breeding program across accredited zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of giraffes.

Lulu will join a herd of young giraffes at her home—a brand new, \$20 million, 10-acre expansion, which will also house Sumatran tigers, black-headed monkeys and several other species. When the exhibit opens in spring 2019, year-round giraffe feeding opportunities will be offered for zoo guests.

Lulu was born to first-time parents, mom Tufani (too-FAW-nee) and dad Dave, who were 8 and 4, respectively, at the time of her birth. The other giraffe at the zoo is Olivia, Tufani's 11-year-old sister.

From the time of her birth, the animal keepers noticed her adventurous and animated personality. "Lulu was always curious about the animal keepers and animal health staff who regularly visited the giraffe barn and she ventured outdoors for the first time at only a week old, which is precocious for a newborn giraffe," said Katie Ahl, a lead animal keeper at the African Savanna where Lulu and the other giraffes live. "She was fearless during introductions to her aunt Olivia and her dad, Dave, and showed her true spunk when introduced to the vast savanna exhibit. She was unstoppable galloping across the savanna."

The giraffe keepers share a very special bond with Lulu. "We've come to love Lulu dearly and we appreciate all the love our zoo guests and community have showered on her during her first year. We'll miss her, of course, but her move to Lincoln Children's Zoo will help benefit the Giraffe Species Survival Plan," said Ahl. "She'll receive the same excellent care from her new animal keepers that we provided her at Woodland Park Zoo. We encourage Lulu's fans to visit her throughout the summer and wish her well on her new adventure."

Giraffes are 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.

World Giraffe Day is June 21, 2018. In honor of Lulu, the zoo asks giraffe fans to stick their necks out and 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 north-western Namibia. Visit <http://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 Species Survival Plans, overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Led by experts in husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, behavior, and genetics, the plans manage populations in North America to maximize their genetic and demographic diversity with the goal of ensuring their long-term survival. The plans also involve a variety of other collaborative conservation activities such as research, public education, reintroduction and field projects.

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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