

Community helps name zoo's red panda cubs *Meet Zeya and her twin sister, Ila!*

The results are in! The community has voted to name one of Woodland Park Zoo's red panda cubs **Zeya** (ZAY-uh), meaning *success* in Burmese. The second red panda cub has been named **Ila** (EE-la), meaning *earth* in Sanskrit.

Zeya's name was chosen by more than 1,600 people that participated in an online vote between three names selected by zookeepers. Ila's name was chosen by the Rosauer family, longtime friends of the zoo.

The red panda cubs, like many of the zoo's other animals, were named to honor the land that they are native to. Red pandas are indigenous to the Himalayan mountain region that includes parts of Nepal, Myanmar, China and northern regions of India. "Zeya" is derived from the Burmese language, which is the official language of Myanmar. "Ila" can be translated as "earth" and comes from the ancient Sanskrit language from which many modern languages spoken in India are derived.

The twin cubs were born in June to 2-year-old first-time mom Hazel and 13-year-old dad Yukiko. It was the first successful birth of red pandas at the zoo in nearly three decades – the last successful birth was in 1989.

Hazel lives in a private, indoor climate-controlled den where she can continue to nurse and bond with her babies in a calm and quiet environment; the den is off view to zoo guests. Yukiko does not yet have contact with his new family, but introductions may be planned in the near future.

The zoo anticipates putting Hazel and her cubs in the outdoor public exhibit in mid-October to late November.

Red pandas share the name of giant pandas, but more closely resemble raccoons. Recent studies suggest they are closely related to skunks, raccoons and weasels. Red pandas are an endangered species native to the bamboo forests of China, the Himalayas and Myanmar. Because of deforestation, increased agriculture and cattle grazing, and continued pressure from growing local populations, fewer than 10,000 red pandas remain in the wild.

Woodland Park Zoo supports the [Red Panda Network](#), whose multi-prong approach aims to conserve this flagship species in Nepal. Help support the project by adopting a red panda through the zoo's [ZooParent Adoption Program](#).

The Endangered Species Act protects endangered animals, like red pandas, and is under threat by proposed changes that would significantly weaken protections for endangered species. These changes are open to public comment. To join Woodland Park Zoo in urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to rescind the proposed rule changes, visit: <https://www.zoo.org/esa>



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 30 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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