

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | September 27, 2019  
Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Meghan Sawyer  
206.548.2550 | [woodlandparkzoo@zoo.org](mailto:woodlandparkzoo@zoo.org)

### Zoo introduces new tiger in town *Meet Bumi!*

SEATTLE—A new Malayan tiger is exploring his digs at Woodland Park Zoo and he looks terrrrific! *Bumi* (boo-mee), a 9-year-old male, arrived in May from Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. Visitors can discover Bumi at the zoo's Banyan Wilds habitat.

For the last several months, the zoo's animal care team has been methodically acclimating the 275-pound tiger behind the scenes where he can become acquainted with his new animal keepers, adapt to his new surroundings and learn various training behaviors such as shifting between different enclosures on cue.

Each animal has its own unique personality and own timeline for adjusting to a new home, explained Carolyn Sellar, an animal keeper at Woodland Park Zoo. "We follow the cues of our animals and take it slowly and steady. Bumi has turned out to be adaptable, curious, relaxed and playful. He's very interactive with us and doing amazingly well. Our guests are going to be in awe of this handsome and wonderful tiger," said Sellar.

In addition to Bumi, the zoo has two other tigers, brothers Olan and Eko, who live in their own separate enclosures. The Malayan tigers arrived in 2015 as the centerpiece of the new Banyan Wilds to inspire zoo-goers to learn how they can help save wildlife and the forest.

Bumi moved to Woodland Park Zoo under a breeding recommendation made by the Malayan Tiger Species Survival Plan. *Does this mean baby tigers are in the future for Woodland Park Zoo?* "Yes, it is our hope to have baby tigers again," said Martin Ramirez, mammal curator at Woodland Park Zoo. "We need to first relocate Eko to another accredited zoo. Our plans are to bring a female here sometime in 2020."

The new female tiger will also be selected through the Tiger Species Survival Plan. "Breeding recommendations through Species Survival Plans are not only based on genetics but also on personalities and compatibility, much like a matchmaking service," said Ramirez. "And just like people, not all matchups work out. It's really up to each animal. Our hope is that Bumi and the selected female are compatible mates and breed successfully. We'd love to have tiger cubs to share with our community again." The last birth of tigers at Woodland Park Zoo was in 2006.

The Malayan Tiger Species Survival Plan is a cooperative, conservation breeding program across accredited zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of tigers. Led by experts in husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, behavior, and genetics, Species Survival Plans also involve a variety of other collaborative conservation activities such as research, public education, reintroduction and field projects.

The Malayan tiger is one of six subspecies of tigers and lives only on the Malay Peninsula and in the southern tip of Thailand. The population for Malayan tigers is dangerously low—fewer than 250 survive in their natural range. They face tremendous pressure from poaching for the illegal wildlife trade and other threats including habitat loss, logging and other human developments.

In an effort to save these iconic big cats from extinction, in 2013 Woodland Park Zoo created a partnership with Panthera and Rimba, an in-country field partner of the zoo, to launch the Malayan Tiger Conservation Project. This project is a 10-year initiative with the Terengganu State Government to protect tigers in and around Taman Negara National Park in peninsular Malaysia.



Visit [www.zoo.org/tigers](http://www.zoo.org/tigers) to help support the Woodland Park Zoo-Panthera Malayan Tiger Conservation Project.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) or call 206.548.2500.

Zoo hours through September 30: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. October 1–April 30: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily.

To support Woodland Park Zoo's outstanding animal care and welfare, please consider joining Woodland Park Zoo for **All for Animals Giving Day on October 2, 2019** to protect wildlife, inspire future generations and support care for animals. Your donation matters, and for the zoo's first-ever Giving Day, eight campaigns give *you* the option of how you want to support your zoo. Visit [givingday.zoo.org](http://givingday.zoo.org) to make your gift and make a difference. Early giving is now open.

Founded in 1899, Woodland Park 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. The zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats in the wild through more than 35 wildlife conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. 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. Visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

###