

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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### Zoo welcomes new trumpeter swans and love on Valentine's Day

**WHAT:** Cupid's arrow strikes as Woodland Park Zoo celebrates Valentine's Day by introducing a new pair of trumpeter swans, Sarah and Cygmond. The press is invited to meet the birds on **Friday, February 14, 11:00 a.m.**

The female swan, Sarah, was injured last summer on Whidbey Island after flying into power lines. Northwest Swan Conservation Association facilitated the rescue with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Puget Sound Energy's Avian Protection Program.

Cygmond, an 8-year-old male trumpeter swan, relocated from Kansas City Zoo to be a companion for Sarah.

Sarah, estimated to be 6 to 7 years old, was rescued and brought to Whatcom Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. A diagnostic exam performed by its veterinary team revealed a malaligned fracture in her wing, which appeared to be an old injury and prevented her from gaining full altitude and distance to fly freely. She was dehydrated and underweight, and testing found low levels of lead in her system.

Pending genetic testing, it is hoped the pair will produce offspring that can potentially be released to suitable habitat in the Midwest where ongoing recovery programs are in place.

**WHEN:** **Friday, February 14, 11:00–11:45 a.m.**

**WHERE:** Temperate Forest at Woodland Park Zoo. Meet PR staff at the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55<sup>th</sup> & N. 56<sup>th</sup> Sts. Park in the Penguin Lot at N. 55<sup>th</sup> St. & Phinney Ave. N. or Otter Lot off N. 59<sup>th</sup> St. & Phinney Ave. N.

**WHO:** Officials from Puget Sound Energy's Avian Protection Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Whatcom Humane Society will join the zoo in introducing the swans and accommodating interview requests.

**INFO:** The collaborative rescue was made possible by Puget Sound Energy's [Avian Protection Program](#), which works with field partners WDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wildlife rehabilitators, and other organizations to help address bird-related utility equipment incidents regionwide, including electrocutions, collisions and problem nests.

Trumpeter swans are the largest native waterfowl in North America and heaviest flying birds, weighing in at more than 25 pounds and reaching 6 feet in length. Trumpeter swans form pair bonds at 3 to 4 years old and stay together throughout the year, moving together in migratory populations. They can be found living in shallow ponds, lakes, rivers, and marshes and feeding in harvested agricultural fields during migration and winter.

Trumpeter swans are annual visitors to Washington state and British Columbia in the winter months. Major threats to the birds are lead poisoning caused by ingesting lead shot and mortality from collisions with power lines.



Visit the [Northwest Swan Conservation Association](#) for information on the Pacific Coast population of trumpeter swans.

In Washington state, waterfowl hunters must use non-toxic ammunition only. Lead shot is not legal for waterfowl hunting. Call 360.466.4345, ext. 266 to report dead, sick, or injured swans in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and other western Washington counties.

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

Winter zoo hours through April 30: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily. Save 30% off summer admission rates now through March 31: [www.zoo.org/visit](http://www.zoo.org/visit).

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