

A bundle of joey! Meet the zoo's precious wallaroo and wallaby babies

SEATTLE — Woodland Park Zoo is jumping for joey! Two adorable joeys, born last fall, are just starting to venture into the world and out of their mamas' pouches. Wallaroo mom Tinga gave birth to a joey last November, and wallaby mom Poppy gave birth to her joey last September.



Each joey starts as a tiny, pink and hairless newborn, only about the size of a lima bean! Even without sight to navigate, these brave babies then crawl their way into their mother's pouch, and as the infants grow, they stay safe and warm in the pouch while getting all the nutrients they need from mom.

At around 5 or 6 months old, the growing joey starts peeking their head out of the pouch. Then at about 7 months old, the joey will hop out entirely — just for a few moments — to get a taste of the outside world before returning to the safety and security of the pouch. Finally, at about 8 months, the joey will leave the pouch for the last time and become fully independent.

"Tinga has been a great mom — she is definitely not a helicopter parent and lets her joeys be really independent once they're at foot permanently," explained animal keeper Amanda Dukart. "Her joey seems very curious, while being a healthy amount of cautious. The joey has come out of the pouch multiple times for short bursts to get the zoomies out, but likes to spend the majority of its time in the pouch."

As for Poppy, Dukart says she is also an amazing mom — protective, but not overly so. She says Poppy is one of the most chummy wallabies in the mob, and loves interacting with keepers — a trait it seems her joey is picking up!

"Poppy's joey is curious and braver than a lot of the previous joeys I have worked with," said Dukart. "It uses his nose to investigate all the good things on the ground, things Poppy is eating, and even keepers."

This is Tinga's third joey and Poppy's first. Both Poppy's and Tinga's joeys were born as part of Woodland Park Zoo's Species Survival Plan (SSP) efforts in conjunction with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Led by experts in husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, behavior, conservation and genetics, AZA-accredited institutions manage each species as one population in North America to maximize genetic diversity, with the goal of ensuring the long-term survival of the population and the health of individual animals.

Walla-who?

What's the difference between a wallaby and a wallaroo? Both are related to kangaroos. The most obvious difference between the two marsupials is their size. Wallabies are the much smaller species, standing between 12 and 20 inches tall and weighing up to 15 pounds. Wallaroos, however, can stand up to 5 feet tall and weigh up to 120 pounds. Like kangaroos, both wallabies and wallaroos use their strong back legs and large feet to hop, jump and leap around.

Where to see the zoo's wallabies and wallaroos

Woodland Park Zoo is temporarily closed. When the zoo reopens, you can find the zoo's wallabies, wallaroos and their joeys in the zoo's Australasia exhibit.

Support your zoo

Open or closed, the zoo's dedicated animal care and veterinary teams work around the clock to provide exemplary care to the zoo's nearly 1,000 animals. Right now there is an urgent need for resources to continue providing this extraordinary care. As a non-profit organization, the zoo is relying on the community now more than ever to help these wonderful animals continue to thrive. Contributions both big and small will help creatures of all sizes.

Please visit [zoo.org/relief](https://www.zoo.org/relief) to help support the animals at Woodland Park Zoo.

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