

A baby sister or brother is on the way for gorilla Yola!

SEATTLE—Nadiri (NAW-dee-ree), the mom of popular gorilla Yola, is eating for two! Woodland Park Zoo is excited to announce that Nadiri has completed the first trimester of pregnancy and is expecting her second baby in late February/early March 2021.

The gestation period for gorillas is eight to nine months, similar to humans.

The new baby sister or brother for Yola, who turns 5 in November, will be the first offspring between 24-year-old Nadiri and 20-year-old Kwame (KWA-may).



At birth, Yola endeared herself to animal fans around the globe because her mom didn't immediately bond with her. Nadiri was partially handraised as an infant and didn't have experience being a mom. Therefore, she didn't show strong maternal skills. Yola spent the first several months of her life under round-the-clock care by gorilla keepers and veterinary staff while having daily interactions with Nadiri. The new mom's maternal instincts eventually kicked in and Yola was reunited with her mom and the other members of her family.

The gorilla care team will prepare for every possible scenario for the birth. "We believe things will be different when Nadiri gives birth to her second infant," said Martin Ramirez, mammal curator at Woodland Park Zoo. "Nadiri has gained valuable experience raising Yola. She has become more confident and has turned out to be an excellent mom to her firstborn."

What's also different since Yola was born is the family dynamics, which changed when the zoo moved female Uzumma from another group at the zoo to Kwame and Nadiri's group a couple years ago. In March during the pandemic, Uzumma gave birth to her first baby, a boy named Kitoko.

Gorillas in the wild typically live in groups of five to 10, composed of a dominant silverback (adult male), several adult females, adolescents, juveniles and babies. Sometimes groups can consist of two to more than 50 family members.

"Babies truly enhance the lives of gorilla groups and adding another baby to our gorilla family is wonderful news," said Ramirez. "In no time at all, these babies will be playing with Yola and being mischievous tots together. Babies and juveniles living among adults presents a natural grouping and will be very enriching for the family. This will also be a dynamic experience for our visitors to learn about gorillas as they get a snapshot of how these majestic animals live in nature."

Nadiri and Kwame were paired under the Gorilla Species Survival Plan, which is a cooperative, conservation breeding program across zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of the species.

Two groups of gorillas currently live at the zoo. Group one: Kwame, Nadiri, Yola, Uzumma, Kitoko and Akenji. Group two: Vip and Jumoke.

How to Help Gorillas

- Every visit to Woodland Park Zoo supports conservation of animals in the wild. Join the zoo by recycling old cell phones and other used handheld electronics through [ECO-CELL](#) to help preserve gorilla habitat. Reclaiming the minerals in electronics and diverting them from landfills help reduce demand for mining in gorilla habitat. Drop off used handheld electronics including cell phones, smartphones, iPods, iPads, tablets, adapters, chargers, MP3 players, handheld gaming systems and their accessories at drop boxes located at

both zoo entrances or the gorilla overlook. Funds generated from ECO-CELL support the Mondika Gorilla Project and Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

Gorillas: the Largest Ape in the World

- Gorillas belong to the family of great apes: gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo and orangutan. Apes are found in Africa and Asia only.
- Gorillas are muscular and very powerful. Adult males weigh between 350 and 600 pounds. Adult females weigh between 150 and 300 pounds.
- Gorillas are primarily vegetarian. They eat leaves, other vegetation and fruits. Occasionally they'll even snack on termites and ants!
- The estimated population of western lowland gorillas in the wild is about 300,000.

Woodland Park Zoo is open—visit now! Go to <https://www.zoo.org/visit> to purchase timed-entry tickets.

Woodland Park Zoo manages the largest number of live animals in Washington state. Each of the nearly 1,000 animals that call Woodland Park Zoo home receive exceptional care from the zoo's expert staff. Every day, animal keepers, veterinary staff, behavioral experts, and welfare specialists carry out science-based wellness plans that cater to the unique nutritional, health, environmental and social needs of 250 species across every stage of life. Join the zoo on October 7 during **All for Animals Giving Day** to fund your zoo. As a nonprofit organization, the zoo thanks you for your support and generosity. If you'd like, you can give early at givingday.zoo.org/campaigns/caring-for-animals

Giving Day: <http://givingday.zoo.org>

###