

PRESS RELEASE

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Media download link for photos:

<https://zoo.resourcespace.com/?c=3489&k=4407c8306f>
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Madagascar comes to life: bouncy baby lemurs born at the zoo! ***First birth of lemurs at the zoo in 16 years***

SEATTLE—After 16 years since the last birth of lemurs at Woodland Park Zoo, the zoo family is celebrating a litter of three red ruffed lemurs born March 29.

The triplets were born to first-time mom Sally. A genetic test may be done later to determine paternity. The sex of each baby lemur has not yet been determined.

Neonatal exams have confirmed the triplets are thriving; the zoo's animal health team will continue to perform exams to closely monitor their weight gains. Currently, they range in weight from 6.7 to 7.8 oz., which is within the norm for this species.

The new mom and her offspring are currently in the off-view dens where they can nurse and bond in quieter surroundings. If the babies continue to stay on a healthy track, they should be outdoors in the public exhibit later this spring.

The red ruffed lemurs live in the outdoor Tropical Rain Forest loop where visitors can watch their nimble skills as they navigate through the trees. A colony of ring-tailed lemurs live in an outdoor habitat adjacent to the red ruffed lemurs.

"We're so excited about this birth of lemurs. This is a significant birth for the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' (AZA) population," said Mark Myers, an animal curator at Woodland Park Zoo. "Our animals help our visitors and community build connections to them as individuals. In turn, people begin to see the link between the individual animals at the zoo—such as lemurs—their wild counterparts and their wild places. These baby lemurs will help further these connections to care about saving the species and other wildlife. Additionally, they will contribute to the genetic and demographic sustainability of the population in [AZA](#) zoos."

The lemur breeding was recommended by the Red Ruffed Lemur Species Survival Plan, which is a cooperative, conservation breeding program across accredited zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of lemurs.

Woodland Park Zoo participates in 111 [Species Survival Plans](#), overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Led by experts in husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, behavior, and genetics, these plans also involve a variety of other collaborative conservation activities such as research, public education, reintroduction and field projects.

About red ruffed lemurs

- All lemur species are native to the African island nation of Madagascar; they appear nowhere else in the wild outside of the island country.
- Red ruffed lemurs live in Northeast Madagascar on the Masoala Peninsula. Their long tails, around 23 inches, help them balance as they move with dexterity through the canopies of the rain forest.
- Red ruffed lemurs are very social and highly vocal. They communicate with each other through their voices and smells.
- In their habitat range, red ruffed lemurs forage for fruits, nectar and pollen, and leaves and seeds in the dry season when fruit is scarce. At the zoo, the red ruffed lemurs enjoy a variety of fruits and veggies plus fresh leafy branches and leaf eater biscuits.



How to help lemurs

Every visit to the zoo supports conservation of animals in the wild, including the [Madagascar Fauna and Floral Group](#) to protect the rich biodiversity of Madagascar. Red ruffed lemurs are critically endangered, largely due to deforestation. Buy wisely: Choose [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC) certified paper and wood products to protect forest habitat and wildlife. By purchasing FSC-certified forest products, consumers help to protect lemur habitat by encouraging sustainable forestry and limiting overharvest of forest products (timber, fuelwood, fruits and honey). Without the FSC label, timber may come from illegal logging and forests that are not responsibly managed.

Become a ZooParent in honor of the baby lemurs!

[ZooParent](#) adoptions are the perfect way to pay tribute to the zoo's newest lemurs.

ZooParent adoptions help the zoo provide exceptional care for all of Woodland Park Zoo's amazing animals and support wildlife conservation efforts in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Woodland Park Zoo offers a safe, outdoor experience for all. Zoo hours through April 30: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily. Go to www.zoo.org/visit to reserve timed entry tickets.

Accessibility admission: The zoo has reserved hours for those with a disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering. Learn more about these [reserved hours and accessibility](#) at the zoo.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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