

PRESS RELEASE

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Moving in! Coatis join the Woodland Park Zoo family for the first time ever

SEATTLE—For the first time in Woodland Park Zoo's 122-year history, coatis (pronounced ko-WAT-tee) are calling the zoo home. Onix and Pearl are white-nosed coatis and the first of their species to live at the zoo. The white-nosed coati is one of several recognized species of coatis. It is a house cat-sized mammal that looks a little like a raccoon, and lives in tropical and sub-tropical forests from Arizona to as far south as northern South America.



Onix and Pearl came to Woodland Park Zoo a couple of months ago from zoological institutions in Mexico. Right now, Onix, a 2-year-old male, is the bolder of the two. He is very curious and the first to investigate new foods or smells. Pearl, a 9-year-old female, is quieter and more reserved. "Pearl is a little shyer at this time, but we expect her to warm up as she gets more comfortable with her new home. Both coatis are eating well and enjoying each other's company," said Erin Sullivan, co-curator at Woodland Park Zoo.

Coatis are primarily active during the day when they search for food, feeding mostly on fruit, bugs, bird eggs, and sometimes preying on rodents, lizards or small snakes. Zoo staff has been feeding Onix and Pearl high-protein kibble, along with various fruits and vegetables. Their favorite treats are bugs (beetle larvae and crickets) and egg yolks.

Onix and Pearl live in the zoo's recently re-opened Tropical Rain Forest building. Coatis are not considered to be endangered in most of their range, but scientists believe their populations are decreasing due to habitat loss and deforestation.

More About Coatis

- Coatis often walk with their tails high up in the air—a great adaptation for balancing while climbing through the trees.
- Coatis have double-jointed ankles that help them quickly climb down from trees headfirst.
- Males tend to be solitary (except during breeding season), but females and youngsters can socialize in larger groups—called bands—with as many as 20 members or more.

Woodland Park Zoo offers a safe, outdoor experience for all. Summer zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. daily. For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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