

The King Has Returned! Male Lion Born at Woodland Park Zoo Returns Home

SEATTLE—He's back! Woodland Park Zoo is thrilled to announce the homecoming of male lion, *Tandie*, who will turn 8 on October 24. He was born at the zoo in 2014 to parents Adia and Xerxes. Tandie, which means "fire," has returned home to Seattle after living at Oakland Zoo since 2016.

Tandie is known for being a thoughtful, smart lion. He is acclimating to his new home and getting to know his animal keepers, and should be viewable to the public soon.

Tandie's arrival at the zoo is particularly exciting because he is the offspring of the zoo's beloved Xerxes who sadly was humanely euthanized in February 2022 due to age-related kidney failure. "We are overjoyed that Tandie is coming home. Xerxes will always have a special place in our hearts and having one of his cubs return to Woodland Park Zoo is truly remarkable. Tandie has such a bright future here and we look forward to getting to know him better," said Martin Ramirez, mammal curator at Woodland Park Zoo.

Tandie will live in the zoo's African Savanna lion habitat, where he'll reside with female Ilanga, 5. Tandie is affectionate and displays calm dominance behaviors. He enjoys eating a variety of meat and blood popsicles.

Currently, there is no breeding recommendation between Tandie and Ilanga, but their pairing will provide each lion with social interaction that is important for this species.

The two lions are a South African lion subspecies, *Panthera leo krugeri*, known as the Transvaal lion. The South African lion subspecies ranges in Southern Sahara to South Africa in grassy plains, savanna and open woodlands, excluding the Congo rain forest belt. These lions range in weight from 260 to more than 400 pounds.

In 2015, two African lion subspecies were listed under the Endangered Species Act due to a dramatic 40% decline in the wild population over the last 20 years. As few as 20,000 to 23,000 African lions are estimated to remain in the wild and their future remains uncertain, particularly as the growth in human population continues to impact lion populations through loss of habitat. There also is retaliatory killing of lions because they pose a threat to humans and livestock.

Woodland Park Zoo partners with and supports the [Lion Landscapes](#) program in and around Ruaha National Park, which is protecting as much as 10% of the remaining population of wild lions in their landscape. The program



continues to add members and focuses on reducing the key threat of human-carnivore conflict in the Ruaha landscape.

Woodland Park Zoo offers a safe, outdoor experience for all. Visit www.zoo.org for information. Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily.

Accessibility: Information about accessibility and resources, one-to-one aides, sighted guides, mobility equipment rentals, and a sensory map and tools can be found at www.zoo.org/access. For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact zooinfo@zoo.org.

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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