

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Media link for photos:

<https://zoo.resourcespace.com/?c=4019&k=1a8e17ad37>

Credit: Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren/Woodland Park Zoo

Zoo introduces new chick on World Penguin Day *Press is invited for a meet cute of new hatchling*

WHAT: As a tribute to penguins large and small and a rallying call to protect these tuxedoed, feathered friends, the press is invited on Thursday, April 25, behind the scenes to meet Woodland Park Zoo's new Humboldt penguin chick of the season.

April 25 is World Penguin Day, held annually around the world to celebrate all 18 species of penguins on the planet!

The chick, a female, hatched March 24 to mom Mini and dad Gomez; she represents the fourth chick between the parents. Incubation for penguins takes 39 to 41 days, with both parents sharing incubation duties in the nest and day-to-day care for their chicks. Most penguins mate for life.

The yet-to-be named chick remains off exhibit in a nesting burrow where she is under the care of mom and dad. Staff routinely weigh her to ensure she's achieving growth milestones with minimal disturbance to the parents. The chick will join the colony in the outdoor habitat in early summer.

WHEN: **World Penguin Day on Thursday, April 25, 11:00–11:45 a.m.**
A maximum of two to three media reps will be permitted in the kitchen on a rotational basis. To minimize stress levels for the chick and parents, press will be accommodated during this timeframe only.

WHERE: Meet PR staff at the West Entrance on Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Penguin or Otter Lots. Press will be escorted behind the scenes to the penguin exhibit.

VISUALS: Flash is permitted, but no flood lights

INFO: Thanks to the expertise and dedication of the penguin care staff, Woodland Park Zoo has one of the most successful Humboldt penguin breeding programs in North America. The new hatchling brings the total number of successful hatchings to 91 since the zoo's first breeding season in 2010, a year after the new penguin habitat opened. With the addition of the new chick, the zoo's colony currently consists of 48 penguins.

Parents Mini and Gomez were paired under a breeding recommendation made by the Humboldt Penguin [Species Survival](#)



[Plan](#), a cooperative, breeding program across accredited zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of penguins.

Before the new chick reaches fledging age and goes outdoors in the habitat, she will be removed from the nest so penguin keepers can condition her to approach them for hand feeding and other animal care activities. She will also be given round-the-clock access to a shallow pool where she can swim in a more controlled and less crowded environment.

Not from a land of ice, but from a desert by the sea

- People do not usually think of penguins as a desert-dwelling species. However, unlike their ice and snow-dwelling Antarctic cousins, Humboldt penguins inhabit hot, dry coastlines in Peru and Chile.
- They live on rocky mainland shores, especially near cliffs, or on coastal islands.
- Humboldt penguins have a body made to swim. Using their strong wings, they “fly” underwater, usually just below the surface, at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour. They steer with their feet and tail.

Support is crucial to safeguard penguins

- A vulnerable species, approximately 23,800 Humboldt penguins survive in their natural range.
- Woodland Park Zoo is committed to conserving Humboldt penguins by supporting the [Center for Conservation of the Humboldt Penguin](#) in Punta San Juan, Peru; breeding the birds through the Species Survival Plan; and encouraging visitors to choose sustainable seafood options as directed by Monterey Bay Aquarium’s [Seafood Watch](#) program. Punta San Juan is home to 5,000 Humboldt penguins, the largest colony in Peru.
- Show love and support for the new penguin chick with a ZooParent adoption! The [ZooParent](#) program supports the zoo’s animal care, education, and wildlife conservation in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Current zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 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](#).

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.

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