

## PHOTO OP: Celebrate International Snow Leopard Day With the Zoo's New Cubs



**WHAT:** The media is invited to a photo opportunity with Woodland Park Zoo's three snow leopard cubs and their mother, Marai, as the zoo celebrates International Snow Leopard Day on October 23. The media will be able to record and photograph the cubs Lenny, Phyllis and Raya from the public viewing area before the zoo opens.

During the photo op the cubs will be enjoying some fall enrichment goodies as the zoo gets ready for Pumpkin Bash on October 26 & 27. The zoo is also raising awareness about International Snow Leopard Day which occurs on October 23.

Snow leopards are listed as a Vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List. The snow leopard is a moderately large cat native to the high mountain ranges of Central Asia and Russia, including in Afghanistan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan. According to the Seattle-based Snow Leopard Trust, the population of these vulnerable big cats in the wild is estimated to be between 4,000 and 6,390.

Woodland Park Zoo has long been a conservation partner with the [Snow Leopard Trust](#) (SLT) and the zoo has been caring for snow leopards since the zoo's first snow leopards arrived in 1972 from the former USSR. The Snow Leopard Trust was created in 1981 by the late Woodland Park Zoo staff member Helen Freeman, the namesake of the zoo's snow leopard Helen.

**WHEN:** **Wednesday, October 23, 2024**  
**8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

**WHERE:** Snow leopard exhibit at Woodland Park Zoo. Meet PR staff at 8:15 a.m. at the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55<sup>th</sup> & N. 56<sup>th</sup> Sts. Park in the Penguin Lot at N. 55<sup>th</sup> St. & Phinney Ave. N. or Otter Lot off N. 59<sup>th</sup> St. & Phinney Ave. N.

**INFO:** Woodland Park Zoo's three snow leopard cubs were born on Memorial Day to mom Marai, 7, and dad Aibek, 6. This is their first litter of cubs after they were paired under the Snow Leopard [Species Survival Plan](#), a cooperative breeding program across

accredited zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population of the species.

Through innovative programs, effective partnerships, and the latest science, the Snow Leopard Trust is working with local and indigenous communities to save these beautiful cats living in Central Asia.

SLT recently completed a comprehensive long-term ecological study revealing that snow leopards utilize significantly larger home ranges than previously understood. Through collaboration with local governments, SLT has secured a commitment to safeguard a quarter of the world's snow leopard habitat and foster coexistence between humans and snow leopards in 23 mountainous landscapes.

To help ensure the future of snow leopards in their native range, the zoo asks the community to support the zoo and partner Snow Leopard Trust, and pledge never to buy or sell illegal animal products on the black market. Learn more about SLT and how to help protect these majestic cats by visiting [zoo.org/snowleopards](https://www.zoo.org/snowleopards).

Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily. For more information or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](https://www.zoo.org) or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#).

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