

Zoo hires new Senior Director of Animal Care
International career spans veterinary and animal care, zoo operations
and executive leadership

SEATTLE—Following a national and international search, Woodland Park Zoo is pleased to welcome Dr. Luis Neves as its new Senior Director of Animal Care, who will oversee animal management and veterinary care for the zoo's nearly 800 animal residents with a team of more than 100 professional animal care and commissary staff.



Neves holds a degree in veterinary medicine from Universidade Técnica de Lisboa in his native Portugal. He has built his international career in Europe and Asia in roles spanning veterinary and animal care, zoological operations and executive leadership. Most recently he served as vice president for Life Sciences at Singapore-based S.E.A. Aquarium. Prior to working at the aquarium, Luis spent 14 years working with Mandai Wildlife Group (formerly Wildlife Reserves Singapore) where he held various positions, ultimately becoming the Vice President of Animal Care across all four of their world-renowned zoological parks (Singapore Zoo, Singapore Zoo Night Safari, River Safari and Jurong Bird Park/Bird Paradise Park). Neves oversaw significant capital and wellbeing improvement projects with Mandai over the past 10 years, including playing an instrumental role in the design, construction management and animal relocation of the \$280-million transformation of the former Jurong Bird Park to the new Bird Paradise Park.

Internationally, Neves is a recognized authority on animal welfare and zoological management, leading innovative long-range planning efforts to create animal, guest and staff experiences rooted in animal wellbeing and naturalistic design to promote conservation outcomes. As Woodland Park Zoo embarks on long-range planning in the coming years, he looks forward to bringing his expansive experiences to help the zoo develop population-level planning for species, individualized care plans for its animal residents, and internal support for staff to develop their leadership and impact on animal care and conservation.

Building his own career at the intersection of animal care and conservation, Neves is committed to advocacy for wildlife and sustainability. He has served as Co-Vice Chair for conservation breeding and reintroduction for the Asian Songbird Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and as a program coordinator for both hornbill and pigeon and dove Taxon Advisory Groups for the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Following a relocation to the Seattle area from Singapore, Neves will begin his role at Woodland Park Zoo in February 2025.

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