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Bid to Name a Giraffe Calf or Donate to Support the Sacramento Zoo

(Sacramento, CA) -- Naming a giraffe calf is a TALL order! The Sacramento Zoo is holding an online auction for the opportunity to select a name for the calf recently born at the zoo.

Shani the giraffe gave birth to a female calf on Sunday, January 22, at 12:28pm, and calf and mother are thriving!

The online auction and donation opportunity is being held to help the nonprofit zoo raise funds to create a new, state-of-the-art zoological park in Elk Grove. All proceeds will go toward the new zoo.

To donate or to bid on naming the calf, visit: [Sac Zoo Online Auction and Fundraiser](#) through February 28. Donors of \$10 or more will receive a custom Sac Zoo giraffe decal and be entered for a chance to win an opportunity to meet the calf and her mother in the Zoo's giraffe barn!

Due to the current colder weather, mom and calf are still spending most of their time in the warm giraffe barn. Stay tuned to the Zoo's social media platforms for information on when the calf might be visible to zoo visitors.

In the meantime, please consider supporting the New Zoo project with a bid or a donation today!



Sacramento Zoo is now home to six giraffes: one post-reproductive female reticulated giraffe, one male Masai giraffe, three female Masai giraffe including Shani, and now the new calf. This is the 21st calf born at the Sacramento Zoo going back to 1954 when giraffes were first housed in Sacramento.

The Masai giraffe is the largest giraffe subspecies and is found in southern Kenya and Tanzania. Gestation is 14 to 15 months. When a calf is born, it can be as tall as six feet and weigh as much as 150 pounds. Within minutes, the calf is able to stand on its own.

Sacramento Zoo is one of 34 institutions managing 131 Masai giraffes in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) population. The Zoo partners with and supports the Wild Nature Institute (WNI), a field research organization that is currently studying Masai giraffe demographics and the African Savanna ecosystem with photo recognition software. The zoo's partnership with WNI is critical to giraffe research and conservation efforts.

Wild giraffes are experiencing a silent extinction as their populations continue to plummet due to poaching and habitat loss. It has been estimated that the mammals' numbers have fallen by more than 40 percent over the last 30 years. Approximately 150,000 wild giraffes existed as recently as 1985, but it is now estimated that there are now fewer than 97,000, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In 2016, the IUCN moved giraffes from "Least Concern" to "Vulnerable" on its Red List of Threatened Species.

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About the Sacramento Zoo

The Sacramento Zoo is home to more than 400 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Zoo inspires conservation awareness and action through exceptional animal care, education and recreation, and it welcomes an average of 500,000 visitors a year. The Sacramento Zoological Society formed in 1958 to support and raise funds for the zoo that was created in 1927 in William Land Park. In 1970, the Sacramento City Council adopted the name "Sacramento Zoo." And in 1997, as city funding continued to decrease, the Sacramento Zoological Society assumed responsibility for the Zoo's management and the majority of its financial support. For additional information visit saczoo.org.

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