

News

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A FINE UPSTANDING ADDITION AT THE ZOO! Adorable baby giraffe born at the Saint Louis Zoo on Saturday



The Saint Louis Zoo's newest addition, a reticulated giraffe just three days old, is standing tall. The little male was born outdoors on Saturday afternoon with a crowd of more than 400 onlookers. He weighs 143 pounds and stands over 6 feet tall.

This is the sixth calf for Jessie and Dexter, who has sired 11 calves altogether. Mom and baby are doing well and can be seen together outdoors at Red Rocks, weather permitting, or inside the Antelope House.

Mother giraffes are very affectionate and protective toward their babies, touching and licking them frequently. Jessie's gestation period was about 15 months.

The giraffe is the tallest living land animal, with females reaching a height of 14 to 16 feet and males towering at 16 to 18 feet.

Reticulated giraffes are threatened in the wild due to habitat loss and hunting, and this rare subspecies is found only in the Horn of Africa. The Saint Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute supports field conservation of reticulated giraffes in northern Kenya through the Northern Rangelands Trust.

Admission to the Saint Louis Zoo is free. The Zoo is open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. during summer months. The Zoo will close at 5 p.m. on June 20, July 23 and August 27.

The Saint. Louis Zoo has been named America's #1 Zoo by Zagat Survey and Parenting Magazine. For more information about the Zoo, visit www.stlzoo.org.

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