

# News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 31, 2007

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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## KING PENGUIN CHICK HATCHED AT ST. LOUIS ZOO

A king penguin chick has waddled onto the scene this winter at the St. Louis Zoo's Penguin & Puffin Coast. Covered in fluffy gray down feathers, the one-month-old chick named "Tut" weighs about seven pounds and is being raised by its parents, Iris and Kaiju. The youngster is just starting to peek out from its parents' protection into public view. The sex of the baby is not yet known.

"The first-time parents are doing a great job of feeding and caring for their new chick," says Michael Macek, curator of birds. "They share responsibilities for incubation and rearing, and are very protective of their baby."

After a female king penguin lays an egg, both parents take turns keeping the egg warm under a flap of belly skin. A chick hatches after about 55 days. Its parents continue to keep it warm for 30-40 days until it grows too large to cover and will continue to share feeding duties for about eight months.

The king penguin is second only to the emperor penguin in size. It's native to the subantarctic islands. At Penguin & Puffin Coast, king penguins share a spacious habitat with gentoos and rockhoppers in the first walk-through subantarctic penguin exhibit in North America.

Admission to both Penguin & Puffin Coast and the St. Louis Zoo is free. The Zoo is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Named America's #1 Zoo by Zagat Survey and Parenting Magazine, the St. Louis Zoo is widely recognized for its innovative approaches to animal management, wildlife conservation, research and education. One of the few free zoos in the nation, it attracts about 3,000,000 visitors a year.

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