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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens Welcomes Newborn Giraffe Calf

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens is thrilled to announce the birth of a six-foot-tall baby giraffe, born to mother Gigi and father Juma.

This exciting arrival is the second giraffe calf born at the Zoo, underscoring the Zoo's commitment to wildlife conservation.

After a 14-month gestation, six-year-old Gigi gave birth to a healthy calf who stands just under six feet tall. The birth is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP) for Reticulated Giraffes, designed to ensure genetic diversity among managed populations in human care.

"We're delighted to welcome this new addition to our Zoo family," said El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens Director Joe Montisano. "Both Gigi and her calf are doing well, and our staff is providing around-the-clock care to ensure their health and well-being. We're eager for our guests to meet the calf once mom and baby have bonded and weather conditions are favorable."

Currently, the calf is being cared for in a private, off-exhibit area. Zoo visitors can stay updated and watch live footage of the calf's first weeks via the giraffe cam at <https://www.EIPasoZoo.org/zoo-cams/giraffe-cam/>. Announcements regarding public viewing opportunities will be shared through the Zoo's website and social media channels.

This birth follows the arrival of Obi, the Zoo's first giraffe calf, born in April 2023. Obi is set to transition to his new home at the Dallas Zoo, where he will join a group of female giraffes with the hope of contributing to the conservation of his endangered subspecies.

The SSP has recommended Obi for breeding to ensure the long-term sustainability of Reticulated Giraffes, which face threats such as habitat loss, poaching, and political instability.

About Reticulated Giraffe

Reticulated giraffes are native to northern and northeastern Kenya, with smaller populations in southern Ethiopia and along Somalia's southeastern border. They are classified as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with habitat destruction and poaching driving their decline.

To learn more about the El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens and its conservation efforts, visit www.EIPasoZoo.org.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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