



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2022

Birmingham Zoo Welcomes New Reticulated Giraffe

BIRMINGHAM, AL – The Birmingham Zoo proudly welcomes three-year-old, female reticulated giraffe Ruby to our Zoo family! Ruby arrived at the Birmingham Zoo last month from the Lincoln Children's Zoo in Lincoln, Nebraska, also accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Ruby moved to your Birmingham Zoo as part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommendation for breeding with our male giraffe, Jalil. The Birmingham Zoo joins the AZA and other zoos in maintaining the SSP Programs, cooperative breeding, and conservation initiatives. According to Annie Kaspar, Zoological Manager of Trails of Africa, "We are hopeful that Ruby and Jalil will pair up and mate. If so, we have a while to wait for the birth of their calf: about 15 months!"

Ruby has completed her health exam and routine quarantine and is now getting acclimated to her new home. She recently joined 16-year-old Jalil, and female giraffes Zuri (12) and Willow (14) on habitat in the Trails of Africa. "She is especially fond of Zuri," says Kaspar, "and Jalil has already been seen gently vying for the attention of his potential mate."

The tallest living land animal, male giraffes can reach a height of 16 to 18 feet while females are somewhat smaller at 14 to 16 feet. Known for their beautiful spotted coats, every giraffe has a unique pattern of spots, much like a human fingerprint. Reticulated giraffes have large brown spots separated by cream-colored lines. Males are typically darker than females, which you will also notice in our herd.

Reticulated giraffes were recently listed as an endangered species as they suffer from two main problems: habitat loss and hunting. The main causes of population decline for reticulated giraffes are poaching, human population growth, habitat loss, and habitat fragmentation and degradation. There are fewer giraffes in Africa than there are elephants.

"Birmingham Zoo is passionate about educating our guests on the importance of giraffes and other endangered species found around the world and here in Alabama," explains Chris Pfeifferkorn, Birmingham Zoo President, and CEO. "We are proud to continue our strong commitment to the AZA Giraffe SSP, for the sustainability of giraffes."

Visitors are invited to see Ruby on habitat outdoors in the Trails of Africa weather permitting.

Zoo Logo, Photos of Ruby the reticulated giraffe by Robin Helser, Relief Animal Care Professional



#

MEDIA CONTACT

Jennifer Ogilvie
Public Relations & Social Media Manager
jogilvie@birminghamzoo.com | 205.397.3874

SOCIAL

facebook.com/BirminghamZoo/
twitter.com/BirminghamZoo
instagram.com/bhamzoo/

ABOUT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

The Birmingham Zoo is not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Our mission: *Inspiring Passion to Conserve the Natural World.*

Approximately 650 animals of 230 species call the Birmingham Zoo home, including sea lions, zebras, elephants, bongos, and endangered species from six continents. The Birmingham Zoo is a non-profit and is open Wednesday-Sunday from 9am to 5pm. All Birmingham Zoo Members and children under two-years-old receive free admission. The Birmingham Zoo is the only AZA-accredited Zoo in the state of Alabama.

www.birminghamzoo.com | 2630 Cahaba Road | Birmingham, AL 35223