

Fort Worth Zoo

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News Release

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**Fort Worth Zoo proudly introduces newborn bonobo monkey**

FORT WORTH, Texas--Today, the Fort Worth Zoo is proud to introduce a new member of its family.

On Sept. 29, the zoo welcomed a beautiful newborn girl bonobo monkey to 20-year- old mother, Lucy and 34-year-old father, Kevin. The unnamed newborn is the first bonobo born in the state of Texas.

“We are very excited about this birth," said Fort Worth Zoo animal collections director Ron Surratt. "The success of the SSP breeding programs ensures the genetic diversity of our captive populations for years to come."

The birth is a huge win for this critically endangered species. The zoo is the only zoo in the state with bonobos and the only zoo in the nation to have at least one representative of all four great ape species-- gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees and bonobos.

The zoo is inviting the public to help celebrate the birth of our rare new addition by helping to find a name for the newborn.

To help find a name for the baby girl, the staff has picked five names that they think represents the newborn. They want the name to reflect part of the bonobos Democratic Republic of Congo heritage. Voting will begin Friday, Oct. 1, online at [www.fortworthzoo.com/namethatbaby](http://www.fortworthzoo.com/namethatbaby) and at the zoo, and will

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be announced Saturday, Oct. 9, in front of the *World of Primates* exhibit, where the newest addition will be introduced to the public.

Bonobos are one of the 43 endangered species currently residing at the zoo. The zoo's bonobos are part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Species Survival Plan, a program that was created to supervise endangered species in all AZA zoos.

The bonobos are housed in the *World of Primates* exhibit, which is a 2.5-acre exhibit both indoor and outdoor, to form an amazing home for the bonobos, and the other primates in the Fort Worth Zoo family.

The Fort Worth Zoo is nationally acclaimed and has been ranked the No. 5 zoo in the nation by USA Travel Guide, and the No. 1 attraction in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. The zoo is home to more than 500 different species and a world-renowned reptile collection living in its premiere Herpetarium, the *Museum of Living Art.* The zoo supports many wildlife conservation projects in around the world. The institution's focus on education and conservation is incontestable, enhancing the lives of more than 1 million visitors a year.

The Fort Worth Zoo is open Monday- Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and open Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The zoo also hosts many private events, including school tours, overnights and birthday parties.

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