

# MARYLAND ZOO

## NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HELP NAME THE MARYLAND ZOO'S BABY CHIMP**

- *Vote now through Thursday, August 8 at midnight* -

BALTIMORE, MD – Help to name the newest baby at The Maryland Zoo – a female chimpanzee born July 5, 2019.

The tiny chimp made her grand debut last week. At nearly three weeks old, she spends all of her time being carried by her mother, 29-year-old Bunny. They typically spend a few hours each day in public view with a small group of chimps in the indoor section of the Chimpanzee Forest.

The baby is one of 13 chimpanzees at the Zoo. She's estimated to weigh about three pounds, and looks much like a miniature version of her mom.

Bunny's name comes from her birthday, which was on Easter, April 15, 1990. With that and other details on the baby's birth in mind, the Chimpanzee Forest animal care team came up with the name options for the contest. The names up for vote are:

- Afia –(pronounced ah-fee-ah) means “born on a Friday,” from the ‘Ewe’ language which is a Niger-Congo language spoken in Benin, Toga and Ghana in Africa. Chimpanzees can be found in Ghana, but the population there, as in most areas, is in rapid decline due to habitat loss and overhunting.
- Kit – in reference to her mother's name. A baby rabbit is called a kit or a kitten.
- Lola – another play on her mother's name. Lola is the name of the female rabbit in Looney Tunes.
- Zalika – (pronounced zah-leek-ah) Swahili for “well born.” Swahili is spoken in multiple East and Central African countries, including Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo where chimpanzees are found.

Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) are classified as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List. One of the greatest threats to the wild chimpanzees is loss of habitat, the African forest, from commercial logging, agriculture and fires. Poaching and disease also put the wild population at risk.

The birth is the result of a recommendation from the Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (SSP) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). SSPs provide breeding recommendations to maximize genetic diversity, with the goal of ensuring the long-term survival of the population and the health of individual animals.

To help select the perfect name, visit our website at [www.marylandzoo.org/ChimpName](http://www.marylandzoo.org/ChimpName). Voting is open now thru midnight on Thursday, August 8. You can vote once per day.

For updates on the baby chimpanzee, please visit [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org) and [www.facebook.com/marylandzoo](https://www.facebook.com/marylandzoo).

### **About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore**

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo's varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland

Wilderness, African Journey and the Children's Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org).

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