

MARYLAND ZOO

NEWS

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MARYLAND ZOO AND SMYTH JEWELERS INTRODUCE RUBY, A GEM OF A PENGUIN

-Name chosen by popular vote in an online naming contest -

BALTIMORE, MD – Introducing Ruby, a rare and precious African penguin chick with an equally precious name! The Maryland Zoo’s first penguin chick to hatch in 2021 has been officially named by popular vote.

Ruby hatched on January 8, 2021. The Zoo has been hatching penguin chicks for more than 50 years, celebrating the arrival, chick number 1000 in 2018 and naming the chicks each year with a new theme. Since African penguins are a rare and endangered species, the Zoo has partnered with Smyth Jewelers to help spread the word about the new chicks. “We are feeling the love! It has been great fun partnering with the Zoo to help them name this year’s rare penguin chicks after equally precious gemstones,” said Ruthann Carroll, director of advertising at Smyth Jewelers. “African penguins are endangered in their native range, and we are happy to help bring more attention to the great work the Zoo does on behalf of the penguins in their care as well as in the wild.”

The Zoo and Smyth Jewelers held a public online naming contest for the first hatchling, which ended February 8. Over 4,400 votes were received, and the name Ruby beat out three other contenders with almost 37% of the votes!

Currently nine chicks have hatched this breeding season and several of those have received their treasured names – Diamond, Pearl, Topaz and Onyx. While Ruby and the other penguin chicks are not viewable to the public, juvenile and adult penguins can be seen at *Penguin Coast*. Penguin Feeding programs are offered twice daily, free with admission, and there are several special experiences where you can get closer than ever to penguins including Penguin Encounters, the Penguin Fish Toss and Penguin Training, which are all offered throughout the year for an additional fee. For more information on Zoo Experiences, visit www.marylandzoo.org/experiences.

To see pictures of the growing penguin chicks, please visit www.marylandzoo.org or our 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.

About Smyth Jewelers

Since 1914, Smyth Jewelers has been the family-owned jeweler where Maryland gets engaged. Smyth’s three Maryland showrooms in Timonium, Annapolis and Ellicott City offer the largest selection of engagement rings, wedding bands, fine jewelry watches and gifts on the East Coast.

It’s not just the merchandise that sets Smyth apart. It’s the experience. Whether you’re shopping in-store or online, every knowledgeable, non-commissioned associate at Smyth makes sure each customer “feels the love.” For more information or to shop online, visit www.smythjewelers.com.

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