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4 jun Zoo Atlanta Resident & APLIVE Star Okra the Sloth Expecting!

By Milena Hamilton

SLOTH WEEK has begun! Tune in Friday, June 20 to Tuesday, June 24 for plenty of fun sloth online content on **Animalist** and **AnimalPlanet.com**. Animal Planet will also air a special mini-marathon of *Meet the Sloths* on June 21st from 8am to 11am ET/PT.

What happens when you mix Cocoa and Okra together? You get a baby sloth apparently!

Zoo Atlanta announced last week that their 19-year-old Hoffmann's two-toed sloth, Okra Mae, is expecting. An ultrasound conducted by the zoo's Animal Management and Veterinary Team was successful and revealed the pregnancy on May 23rd.

Like many things when sloths are involved, this pregnancy is long awaited at the zoo. It is the result of matching done in collaboration with the Species Survival Plan (SSP), which recommended 21-year-old male Cocoa as a viable mate for both of the zoo's female sloths, Okra and Bonnie. Cocoa was introduced into the zoo's sloth exhibit during the summer of 2013, and all signs point to his and Okra Mae's slow-mance beginning not long after his arrival.

With a lengthy gestation period of 11 to 12 months, Okra Mae and Cocoa's baby is predicted to be born in early June or July 2014. He or she will be the first sloth born at Zoo Atlanta, and a welcome sight for viewers of **Animal Planet LIVE's Sloth Cam**, which streams live daily from the sloth exhibit.

As we all wait for the impending birth of Okra Mae and Cocoa's bundle of joy, follow the leisurely upside-down lives of the zoo's sloth trio on **Sloth Cam**, and tune in every other Wednesday at 1:30pm EST for **Sloth Chat** with the staff at Zoo Atlanta.

Update 6/20/14: Zoo Atlanta reported today that while Okra Mae did go into labor, the baby did not survive. In a press release, Zoo Atlanta's President and CEO Raymond B. King stated, "We're disappointed about Okra Mae's baby. This would have been a first for the Zoo, and we're looking forward to the birth with great excitement. Since this birth had a sad outcome, we're encouraged by the success of our sloth program so far and are optimistic that Okra Mae will produce other offspring in the future."

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Zoo Atlanta at this time.

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PROUD PARENTS: Okra Mae & Cocoa

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Audubon Aquarium Penguins Welcome A New Bundle of Feathery Joy

By: Milena Hamilton



African blackfooted penguins Puddles and Millicent with their baby Chicky. Photo Credit: Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

Congratulations are in order for a pair of African blackfooted penguins at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans. New parents Millicent and Puddles welcome their first chick, Chicky, on April 23, 2015.

While many of the current residents of the Aquarium's penguin exhibit have been here for many years, Millicent and Puddles will take on full parenting responsibilities when it comes to raising their little one. Chicky's gender will not be released for a few more weeks until genetic testing is complete, but what is known is that the chick is healthy, and Millicent and Puddles are taking to parenthood just fine.

According to Senior Aviculturist Darvin Long, "The chick is already beginning to venture out of its nestbox as it begins to explore the world around it. Soon the parents will be feeding it outside of the nestbox. The chick will look like a big brown fuzzy penguin for the next 4-5 weeks, but will take on a more blue-gray appearance by July."



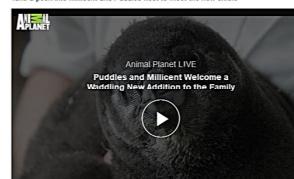
Chicky was born on April 23. Photo Credit: Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

This exciting baby news comes as the Audubon Aquarium celebrates 25 years since it first opened in 1990. Since then, the Aquarium's successful penguin breeding program has hatched 52 chicks including a record of 11 hatched in 2013 under their Species Survival Plan.

Chicky's birth also marks a triumph for the African blackfooted penguin species, which was categorized as endangered in 2010 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The IUCN estimated in 2013 that only 52,000 mature African blackfooted penguins exist in their native habitats in Namibia and South Africa. These numbers are in decline due to natural and anthropogenic factors such as habitat loss, overfishing, and oil spills. However, zoos, aquariums, and wildlife centers worldwide are the forefront of conservation efforts seeking to protect these animals and guarantee that they will continue to exist in the wild and at zoos for generations to come.

Chicky joins a colony of forty African blackfooted and three South American Rockhopper penguins, which can be seen 24/7 on Animal Planet's Penguin Cam. On AP Live, visitors can watch the daily penguin feedings at 11:30AM and 4PM ET. Penguin Chats with the Audubon Aquarium's aquarists are also hosted on Thursdays during the afternoon feeding.

Take a peek into Millicent and Puddles nest to meet the new chick!



Live video by Animal Planet Live

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Celebrating the Mother of all Mother's Days with Giraffe Birth

By [Milaena Hamilton](#)

Kids just grow up way too fast! One day a baby is small and wobbly, seeing the world for the first time with their adorable, wide infant eyes. One month later, that same little princess is 6-feet tall, weighs 205 pounds, and enjoys running in figure eights outside! Well, at least that's the case for the reticulated giraffe calf, born at the Dallas Zoo on Friday, April 10.



Photo Credit: Dallas Zoo

Millions watched Animal Planet's Giraffe Birth LIVE on television and online as 7-year old giraffe, Katie, delivered her healthy daughter, Kipenzi. Many fans continued to follow mom and baby for the next two weeks over the live stream, but what have Katie and Kipenzi been up to since leaving the spotlight on AP LIVE?



On May 1, Kipenzi made her public debut in the Dallas Zoo's award-winning Giants of the Savanna exhibit. In a video shared by the Zoo, Kipenzi zooms around her new home, accompanied by Katie and her favorite adoptive uncle, Augie. Since then the precocious 10-month-old calf has met many visitors, including her mom's best gal pal, Jade. Ever curious, Kipenzi also starts to expand her diet palette. She recently tried out hay and will start to eat more grains soon. However, the calf still gets her main meals by nursing of mom's rich and nutritious milk.

Mama Katie is also enjoying life away from the cameras' lenses. She keeps a very watchful and protective eye on her calf when they're outdoors, but she also makes frequent stops to the feeding platform to get yummy treats from zoo visitors.

This Sunday, both mom and baby have a lot to celebrate. It's Mother's Day for Katie and a special Mother's Day for animals of the world. Plus, her calf will be exactly one month old! Celebrate this remarkable family and the baby giraffe's first milestones by reliving the birth of Kipenzi. Animal Planet will air the Giraffe Birth LIVE: Mother's Day Special on Sunday morning at 9/8c!



Tune in to Animal Planet on Sunday morning at 9/8c for the airing of the *Giraffe Birth: Mother's Day Special!* Then check out more highlights [here](#).

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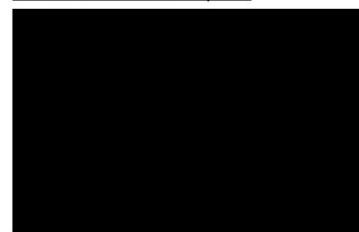
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Giant Tarantula Takes Over Small Town on Animal Planet's Latest Live Cam

By: Milana Hamilton



Eight Legs. Two venomous fangs. One hairy body...as big as a house?!! An arachnophobes worst nightmare just came true!

With less than two weeks left until **Monster Week**, Animal Planet LIVE is taking its online viewers to a very small town, where one unexpected, creepy-crawly visitor runs rampant, leaving a web of destruction in her wake.Streaming now at [apl.tv/tarantula](#), a freshly-spun layer of silk drapes cars, roads, and mailboxes, while the colossal culprit bides her time by upending flower beds and scaling the roofs of abandoned houses. Identified by experts at the **Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium** as a female Brazilian black tarantula, it is currently unknown how or why the massive creature settled down in these peaceful suburbs, but one thing is certain: it's her town now![Watch Animal Planet's Tarantula Cam if you dare!](#)**Monster Week** kicks off with 9 days of bone chilling programming on Sunday, May 17 at 9/8c![COMMENTS \(0\)](#)[REBLOG](#) [SHARE THIS](#)Tags: [Animal Planet Live](#) , [Monster Week](#) , [Monsters](#)

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29 sep #NothingButOctober: Feline All-Stars Show their #Catitude on the Animal Planet LIVE Kitten Cam!

By: Milana Hamilton



Photo: Joseph Schaefer

Last night, the Washington Nationals finished their regular season in historic style with their first ever no-hitter. Delighting fans and pets alike, the Nats' win made the biggest impression on five feline fans who are now showing their support for the hometown team via the Animal Planet LIVE Kitten Cam!

Streaming LIVE 24/7 from the Washington Animal Rescue League, Kitten Cam underwent a spirited baseball transformation and introduced a new team of fury players who are ready to showcase their #Catitude and rally their team to victory in the postseason. At press time, they're running laps around their room, sleeping in player's helmets, and cuddling up with two plush versions of their favorite Nationals teammates!



Meet the players on the APLIVE Kitten Cam

Now who may you ask are the five fantastic felines in the APLIVE starting line-up? We have the dynamic & adoptable team of Bryce Harper, Kitten Strasburg, Jordan Zimmermann, Adam LaRoche, and Whiskers West. And if those names look slightly familiar, you need not look any further than the National's team roster for their human counterparts!

So this fall, step up to bat and hit a home run with the cutest players around! Watch the baseball-lovin' kittens of the Washington Animal Rescue League bring their A-game and #Catitude straight to a screen near you on the APLIVE Kitten Cam.

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Reindeer Get Ready for Take-Off on APLIVE's Holiday Live Stream

By: Milena Hamilton

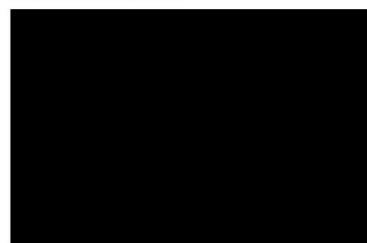


With a jingle, a jangle, and the clippity-clop of hooves, Animal Planet is off to a fantastic start of the holiday season thanks to the return of our favorite winter spectacle: **Reindeer Cam!**

While Santa Claus and his elves are busy putting the final touches on this year's toy shipment at the North Pole, members of his reindeer crew are getting into tip-top, flying shape at the **Como Park Zoo & Conservatory** in Saint Paul, Minnesota. You're invited to watch all of their pre-flight preparations on **Animal Planet LIVE**, the web's top destination for some of the very best live animal cameras around.

Get into the holiday spirit with festive tunes, a rustic Christmas countdown, and the whimsical reindeer themselves who are more than happy to have viewers peek in on their reindeer games. If you've been good this year, you might get the chance to see Mr. Claus, too! He's expected to visit his loyal flight team on December 19, 22, and 23 before embarking on his sleigh ride through the night's skies.

With easy 24/7 access on www.apl.tv, Roku, Xbox, Samsung, and Amazon Fire TV, **Reindeer Cam** is one experience you'll want to share with friends and family at your next holiday party. Happy Holidays!



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Sonic Who? Watch Peanut the Hedgehog Speeding onto APLIVE

By Milaena Hamilton

Look out, Sonic! There's a new guy on the scene and he's aiming to dethrone you as the world's speediest hedgehog of all time! Weighing in at a healthy 375 grams, 2-year old Peanut has his racing paws on and is allowing Animal Planet LIVE to follow his bold quest on Hedgehog Cam!

Being a pint-sized athlete isn't easy, but Peanut sure doesn't let it show. By day, he's like any other nocturnal critter. He spends his days sleeping and burrowing deep into his bed at Tru Chance Hedgehog Rescue & Rehab. But as the sun goes down and the lights go off, Peanut is raring to go. His nightly regimen consists of runs on the wheel, bulking up on mealworms, keeping hydrated, and then showing off for the camera!

You can watch Peanut's training sessions each night thanks to our partners at Tru Chance Hedgehog Rescue & Rehab, who have approved to camera the hedgehog as he runs across their door, please come in living new homes, permanently housing those who are not able to be adopted due to medical or temperament issues, and teaching others how to responsibly care for these often misunderstood exotic animals. They are currently the home to 14 hedgehogs including the dynamic and speedy Peanut!

[Meet Peanut the Hedgehog after dark on APLIVE >>](#)

Not quite dark yet? Learn more about Hedgehogs by watching this clip from [Pets 101](#):



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Watch the 2014 Polar Bear Migration Live Stream on APLIVE!

By: Meagan Hamilton

Feeling that crisp fall breeze in the air? Shivering just knowing that the first snowflakes will be blanketing your lawn soon? While some of us might be wishing for a time machine to send us back into the warmth of summer, there's no doubt that this is the time of year where many cold-loving animals are rejoicing. Winter is coming...



Katherine Billings@katherinebillings.org

In the small Canadian town of Churchill, Manitoba, the 2014 polar bear migration has begun, marking a period between late October and mid-to-late November where the world's southern-most population of polar bears can be seen making their annual trek to the icy shorelines of the Arctic. For tourists, biologists, climatologists, and more, this is the best time of year to observe wild polar bears firsthand before they make their way onto the ice for hunting season.

For those of us who want to see the polar bears on the move, but aren't willing to brave a trip to one of the coldest places on earth, there's another fantastic alternative. Take part in this year's migration watch on **Polar Bear Cam**, streaming now on Animal Planet LIVE.



A polar bear walks in the snow on explore.org's Polar Bear Cam.

Returning for another year on APLIVE, this polar bear migration cam comes courtesy of [explore.org](#). **Polar Bears International and Frontiers North Adventures**. With cameras attached to roving vehicles, these cameras are allowing us to see the polar bears have never been seen before: as they play, sleep and socialize while they ride the time until the bay freezes over for the winter and seal hunting season commences.

For best viewing hours, tune into the live stream between 8:30am and 5:30pm EST. Then enjoy Animal Planet's [Top Polar Bear Video Playlist](#) in the off hours!



Polar Bear : Spy on the Ice: Polar Bear Spy Cameras

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And will watching this remind anyone that the Polar Bear as a species is in serious distress as their home territories melt and succumb to warming and that their population is facing serious problems with food supply right now due to warming conditions. Why are we following them around with "Roving Vehicles" That seems like it would be stressful to them.

Posted by: Vlad | 11/29/2014 at 08:51 PM



Thanks for article you are always at the summit I wish you more and more success

Posted by: jah-1-2 at 03:01 PM

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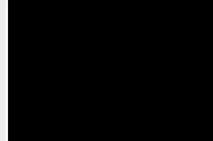
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