

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 30, 2026

CONTACT

Lauren Delgado, Senior Communications Manager
321-254-9453, ext. 236
ldelgado@brevardzoo.org



Baby Giraffe Makes Debut at Brevard Zoo

MELBOURNE, Fla., Sept. 30, 2026 — Gail, a two-week-old giraffe calf born at Brevard Zoo, made her first appearance at the Zoo's guest-facing giraffe habitat on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Born on Sept. 14, Gail spent the first few weeks of her life bonding with her 12-year-old mother, Kumi, and meeting the Zoo's other five giraffe residents. Gail is the first giraffe calf born at the Zoo in six years. The last calf born at the Zoo was her father, 6-year-old Mapenzi.

Gail's first visit in front of guests included investigating every aspect of the habitat, from its trees and boulders to fellow animal residents like ostriches and impala.

Kumi and Gail will now regularly receive access to the main guest-facing giraffe habitat in the Zoo's Expedition Africa area.

"Offering our animal residents choice and control over how and where they spend their days is important to us, so you may see Gail and Kumi enjoying what we call the 'veldt' - or they may decide to have a quiet morning in the Zoo's Africa Barn," said Lauren Hinson, director of animal programs.

Kumi and Mapenzi were paired up according to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan for Masai giraffes. This program ensures there is a healthy, genetically diverse safeguard population in AZA-accredited organizations.

Gail's arrival is good news for the Masai giraffe subspecies, which is considered endangered and is threatened by habitat loss, poaching, disease and more in Tanzania and Kenya. A second giraffe at the Zoo, Tisa, is also pregnant and expected to give birth later this year.

Please visit [this Dropbox link](#) for photos and videos of Gail.

###

Brevard Zoo is home to more than 700 animals representing 170 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at BrevardZoo.org.