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## **New Additions to the Penguins at the Zoo**

August 28, 2017 – *Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is pleased to announce the addition of two chicks and three adults to the Magellanic penguin group.

The first of the two chicks hatched on July 30<sup>th</sup> to parents Troy and Victoria. The chick, whose gender is still unknown, is thriving in the care of its parents. The second chick hatched on August 7 and is also being parent-raised by Austin and Lola, making this chick a full sibling to Sharky who hatched in June of 2016. The Zoo is excited to see the parents excelling at rearing the chicks as the last two chicks hatched at the Zoo have both needed to be hand-reared by keepers.

Zoo officials are hopeful for at least one more chick by the end of the season. Two eggs are being closely monitored for viability.

Joining the rapidly-growing penguin family is three adults from the San Francisco Zoo. Two males and a female went on exhibit for the first time Thursday, August 24 and are thriving in their new environment. The penguins came to the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens on a breeding recommendation by the Magellanic penguin SSP, the species survival plan program that cooperatively manages and oversees the population and breeding of animal populations in AZA institutions.

Since their addition to the group, the penguins who had been spending time in the holding area of the Tuxedo Coast penguin exhibit to wrap up nesting season are now back out enjoying the big pool and viewable to the guests. The chicks will not go out on exhibit until they are around three months-old.

Magellanic penguins are native to the southern coasts of Argentina and Chile. They are listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List with population decline resulting from overfishing of their hunting grounds and oil pollution.

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports penguin conservation efforts, contributing to organizations such as SANCCOB and AZA's Invest in the Nest program.

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### **About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens**

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. **The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the over 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world, and here in NE Florida.** JZG is proud to be an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org).