



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

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County Executive

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Media Release

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County Executive Ryan McMahon Announces Naming Contest for Amur Leopard Cubs at Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Votes will be accepted through Friday, August 23rd

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon invites the public to help name the new Amur leopard cubs born at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo on June 19, 2019 via an online naming contest.

The cubs came out of their den into public view for the first time Wednesday and can now be seen daily by the public.

The new cubs are a male and female born to mother Amur leopard Tria and father Rafferty as part of the Species Survival Plan for Amur leopards overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).

Amur leopards are the world's most endangered big cats, with fewer than 85 remaining in the wild in their native habitat, the Amur River Basin in Far East Russia.

The zoo's animal care team suggested four names for each cub, all in keeping with the zoo's "I Love New York" theme for naming new arrivals in 2019.

The names up for vote are:

Male:

Female:

Baxter – mountain in Essex County

Ava – town in Oneida County

Campbell – town in Steuben County

Marcy – town in Oneida County

Milo – town in Yates County

Mina – town in Chautauqua County

Moose – river in the Adirondacks

Rose – town in Wayne County

Please vote for one name for each cub via the online ballot by clicking here: [Naming Contest](#). The zoo will accept votes through Friday, August 23rd. The County Executive will announce the names once the votes are tallied.

The zoo acquired new Amur leopard parents Tria and Rafferty last year from the Greenville, SC. and San Diego zoos respectively as part of the Species Survival Plan for this critically endangered species. The SSP overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) is working to breed a genetically strong population of Amur leopards in human care.

Rosamond Gifford Zoo joined the SSP last fall with the intent to build an Amur leopard habitat to accommodate a breeding pair and their cubs, Fox said. The zoo will begin construction to renovate the former African lion exhibit into the Amur Leopard Woodland this fall. The Friends of the Zoo is holding a fundraising campaign for the project. Donations can be made at rosamondgiffordzoo.org/donate or by calling Friends of the Zoo Development Director Steve Bergonzi at (315) 435-8511 x8626.

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The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is Syracuse's accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the gold standard for animal care, wildlife conservation and guest experience. Visit the zoo's website at www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org and the Friends of the Zoo events site at www.syracusezooevents.org.

The Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is the non-profit organization that supports the zoo and its conservation missions. Learn more about the Friends at www.syracusezooevents.org/our-story.

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www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

County Executive Ryan McMahon • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

