

Transcript

[Giraffes... Duke and His Family Tree](#)

LeShea Upchurch: Another keeper and myself drew this up. We thought it would be super fun to show everybody how all of our calves and all of our giraffe tie into each other. We thought it was really cool that we still have Spock here, who is descended from our first female giraffe. Just showing all of the calves that Duke has fathered, as well as all the females.

Duke has mated with three females. Zawadi, Luna, and Naomi, and they have had 16 offspring. We've had 39 calves born at the zoo here and all of the ones in purple are the offspring. You can see of his 16 we go all the way to the most recent, which is Forrest. We have Forrest and Fiji, currently. They are a little over six months old. Fiji is about seven months old. Those are Luna and Naomi's calves. We have both Luna and Naomi here at the zoo here still.

Duke is my favorite. Don't tell the other giraffe. He is our adult male giraffe. He's the only giraffe that we have breeding. Duke is very on top of the mating here. If a female is cycling, he tries to mate with her. The females cycle about every three weeks or so. If a female is cycling we know it because Duke will try to breed with them. Duke has fathered 16 of our 39 giraffe that we've had born at the zoo.

That's kind of how all this got started, because we've had so many calves and it's so difficult to keep them all straight in your head. We thought it would be super fun to just show everybody how it all falls in together.

