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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Zoo invites public to help name giraffe

ABILENE, Texas – The Abilene Zoo invites everyone to help name the new giraffe calf that recently joined the herd. One winner from the naming contest will receive a private meet-and-greet with the baby.

The zoo staff selected three names for consideration; each one is in Swahili to reflect the animal's native heritage.

Giraffe fans who want to participate should select their favorite name from the three choices and drop an entry in the ballot box in the zoo's gift shop – or email their pick to [Abilene.zoo@abilenetx.com](mailto:Abilene.zoo@abilenetx.com).



One contest winner will be drawn from the pile of ballots for the top name picked, and that lucky person will get to meet the new giraffe. The contest ends March 20.

Name selections:

- **Enzi** –(EHNZiy) means “powerful.”
- **Jumoke** – (J-ooM-OH-k-eh) means “E veryone loves the child.”
- **Kito** (KIY-TOW) is a child's name that means “precious gem.”

The young male giraffe came to the Abilene Zoo at the end of January from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, where he was born Dec. 27, 2015. The Abilene Zoo staff has been bottle-feeding the youngster, while one of the females in the herd has been “aunting” the calf.

The public should get to see him in the new Giraffe Safari area that will open April 23.

**About the Abilene Zoo:** The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 1000 animals of 250 different species. The zoo is open 7 days a week (closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last admittance is 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4.50 for children ages 3-12, \$6 for seniors aged 60 and older. Members are admitted free. [www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org). 325-676-6085.

**Mission Statement:** The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.