

## **PARADISE PARK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY in Hayle, Cornwall. PRESS RELEASE**

Download images/video

here <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/09zif5un43fn1ho31yne1/ACDbdAbsltyaaoDz7469GJM?rlkey=lj02n67a4b13iswcjqvofs19h&st=f7hj7167&dl=0>

### **‘Spneb’ celebrates 37th Birthday today - believed to be the oldest ‘Humboldt’s Penguin in the world!’**

*Below: Spneb's with her Ice cake topped with fluffy toy, by Keeper Archie*

According to records kept by zoos around the world, staff at Paradise Park Wildlife Sanctuary in Hayle, Cornwall, believe ‘Spneb’ is the oldest Humboldt’s Penguin at the grand old age of 37.

Keeper Becky Waite comments “She will be celebrating her 37th Birthday on 16th April 2025 and is doing amazing well for her age. We have a colony of 24 Humboldt’s penguins including two chicks, and although she’s an elderly penguin, she continues to have a good appetite. She likes to keep an eye all the youngsters while looking out of her box and her favourite companion is one of the older males.”

Keeper Archie has made an amazing ice cake to celebrate the occasion. It features her favourite fish, which are sprats, and he used his creative flair including the use of food grade blue dye to set the nautical scene.”

**Video clip from 2024 - shows Spneb watching another penguin getting a fish from a bucket and then almost managing to steal it for herself > <https://youtu.be/-5YwhJtIK9Y>**

Spneb’s name is a difficult one to pronounce, it is a fusion of the two types of medication she was on during some intense treatment back in 2007 when she developed a fungal disease called Aspergillosis (her name consists of a drug ‘Sp’ and a nebuliser ‘neb’). It took 4 months to treat, but apart from some minor scarring to her lungs she recovered well.

**Companion Prince can be seen in this video collecting stones for the nest hut**

> <https://youtu.be/7u533-nVDk8>

**PENGUIN WEBCAM** Watch the Paradise Park LIVE penguin pool webcam available on their website <https://paradisepark.org.uk/events-and-news/penguin-webcam/>

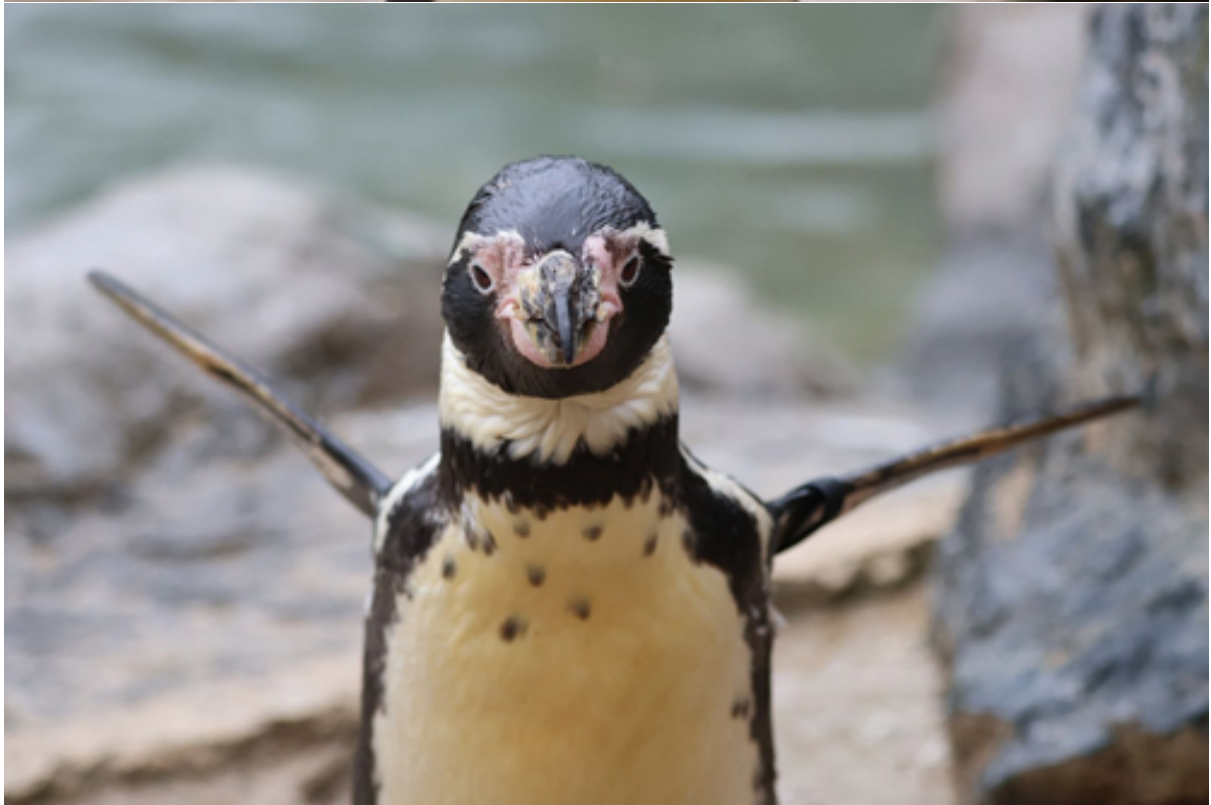
There are 17 species of penguin, all ideally adapted to life in water. They have streamlined bodies, tightly packed waterproof feathers and special digestion. They also have heavy bones to help them dive, and a layer of blubber for warmth. Flightless and ungainly on land, they reach great speeds underwater. Their tongues are covered in spines to grip slippery fish.

Some penguins make a small nest of sticks, others use burrows. The Humboldt’s carefully choose and arrange pebbles of just the right size before laying two white eggs. This species is endangered in the wild due to human interference & pollution.

The Humboldt’s Penguin lives along the coasts of Chile and Peru where it can be very warm. They have a bare patch of skin on their faces which can blush red, helping them to cool down.









*ABOVE: Spneb with companion Prince.*



**BELOW** a photo of one of the two chicks recently hatched at the Park (photo by Keeper Ollly). And link to a video of the two chicks being weighed <https://youtube.com/shorts/z2ga0lbWSHw?si=8FshhR5W7ei5Gqnz>



**BELOW:** Is the 'Meet the penguin colony' information sign, with info about each character in the colony, hatch dates, fascinating facts and more!



**Additional Information**