



News from Newquay Zoo

For Immediate Release: Friday 20 June

PAWS FOR CELEBRATION AS NEWQUAY ZOO'S LYNX FAMILY GETS BIGGER



Newquay Zoo has welcomed another litter of adorable Carpathian lynx kittens, with proud parents Kicsi and Onyx expanding their family for the second time. The arrival of these fluffy newcomers marks another success story for the zoo's breeding programme, continuing the legacy of what has become one of Cornwall's most celebrated animal families.

Kicsi and Onyx have proven themselves to be devoted parents, and their latest additions represent hope for one of Europe's most magnificent wildcats. With fewer than 2,300 Carpathian lynx remaining in the wild across the continent, every birth at Newquay Zoo contributes to the survival of these stunning predators.

The new arrivals come at an exciting time for the lynx family, as their older sister has recently made headlines across Europe. Originally selected for the ambitious Linking Lynx rewilding programme, the young female has found her calling in a different but equally important role - as a future breeding mum at Zoo Karlsruhe in Germany.

After months of careful assessment, researchers discovered that her strengths lie in raising the next generation rather than hunting in the wild. Far from being disappointed, conservation experts are celebrating this outcome as it provides invaluable insights for future programmes.

John Meek, Curator at Newquay Zoo, commented:

"This has given us crucial knowledge that will help us better prepare other lynx for release. Modern conservation is about recognising that every animal has a role to play. While direct release wasn't right for this particular lynx, she's contributing to conservation in an equally vital way."

The experience has helped scientists develop better methods for identifying which lynx have the best chances of thriving in the wild, knowledge that's already being applied to improve preparation for future candidates across Europe.

For Newquay Zoo, this success highlights how important local breeding programmes are to conservation efforts. The zoo's commitment to maintaining genetically diverse populations means that whether kittens are destined for the wild or for breeding programmes, they're all contributing to the species' recovery.

John continued:

"Every visitor to Newquay Zoo is supporting this important work. Our community plays a crucial role in protecting these magnificent cats and helping restore wild populations across Europe."

The Carpathian lynx - Europe's largest wild cat - disappeared from much of its former territory but is slowly making a comeback through carefully managed programmes. Newquay Zoo's breeding success demonstrates how local institutions can make a global difference in conservation.

Each new kitten born at the zoo represents hope for the future of these elusive predators, whether they're destined for life in the wild or for the equally important role of ensuring the species continues to thrive for generations to come.

To book your visit to Newquay Zoo and see the adorable kittens for yourself, go to newquayzoo.org.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For full statement on lynx rewilding project update, please visit: [Statement from Wild Planet Trust - Newquay Zoo](#)

Media Resources: High-resolution images and b-roll available upon request. All media visits must be pre-arranged with the Press Office. For media enquiries or interview requests, please contact: Press.office@wildplanettrust.org.uk

About Newquay Zoo

Wild Planet Trust is a conservation charity encompassing Paignton Zoo, Newquay Zoo and three nature reserves - Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve, Primley Park and Clennon Gorge.

Newquay Zoo, established in 1969, is Cornwall's leading wildlife attraction, set within 13 acres of lush, landscaped grounds. The zoo attracts over 140,000 visitors annually and is home to more than 1,000 animals representing over 120 species from around the world. With a focus on conservation and education, Newquay Zoo is actively involved in breeding programmes for endangered species and plays a vital role in the protection of wildlife both locally and globally. The zoo also boasts a range of exciting animal

encounters and experiences that allow visitors to learn about the vital work being done to safeguard endangered species.

The Trust leads vital conservation and research projects in the UK and internationally, focusing on animal behaviour, nutrition, enrichment and ecology. Our mission is to Help Halt Species Decline by protecting endangered species and preserving biodiversity for future generations.

Both Paignton and Newquay Zoos are accredited members of the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA), a prestigious network of over 100 leading zoos and aquariums committed to conservation, education and scientific research. Paignton Zoo is also a member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), participating in vital European breeding programmes.

Registered charity numbers: Wild Planet Trust 306622, Paignton Zoo and Newquay Zoo 300923

Registered offices: Paignton Zoo, Totnes Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ4 7EU. Newquay Zoo, Trenance Gardens, Newquay, Cornwall, TR7 2NL.

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