



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Lucas Meers ▪ 904.757.4463, ext. 211 ▪ cell: 636-328-2036 ▪ [meersl@jacksonvillezoo.org](mailto:meersl@jacksonvillezoo.org)  
Lyndsay Plemmons ▪ 904.757.4463, ext. 208 ▪ cell: 904-728-0618 ▪ [plemmons@jacksonvillezoo.org](mailto:plemmons@jacksonvillezoo.org)

## **IT'S A BOY! THE GENDER OF THE JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS' FIRST-EVER PENGUIN CHICK ANNOUNCED TODAY**

*November 21, 2015 - Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) is proud to announce the gender of their first-ever penguin chick.

C.J., as the male Magellanic penguin is now known, is named after the two grandsons of long-time zoo volunteer and penguin advocate, Peggy Wilchek. She and her husband John have traveled the world to see all 18 species of penguins in the wild.

"We are ecstatic to finally know the gender of our beloved penguin. After he hatched 93 days ago, we've been on eggshells just waiting for the announcement," said Gen Darnell, Supervisor of Birds at JZG.

The reveal happened at 10:15 this morning with many guests dressed in blue and pink depending on what they thought the gender was. Zoo staff got in on the fun by wearing shirts that said "Waddle it Be?" Penguin paintings made by the penguin celebrity were sold to guests with the funds being donated to SANCCOB, an organization that rescues and rehabilitates wild African penguins.

Right before the announcement, keepers surprised guests by bringing C.J. out in front of the exhibit to have up-close encounters and great photo opportunities.

**Photo Credits: Brittney Hendricks**  
**High Resolution photos are available by request.**

---

---

### **About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens**

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org).