

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brevard Zoo welcomes new female jaguar

MELBOURNE, Fla., June 2, 2025 — Brevard Zoo recently welcomed its newest Zoo resident, Lua the jaguar, to the Zoo's Rainforest Revealed loop. This five-year-old female journeyed from Zoo de Granby in Quebec, Canada, as part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP) for jaguars. This program pairs animals in organizations accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums with one another to ensure a genetically diverse safeguard population.

"It's incredible that we are once again going to be contributing to the Jaguar SSP," said Curator of Animals Sidnee Helton.

As part of that program, the Zoo will also be receiving a male jaguar in the coming months. With this new pair, the Zoo will continue its legacy of helping conserve this incredible species.

The Zoo's 21-year-old resident jaguar, Masaya, remains at the Zoo. While Masaya made incredible contributions to her species over the years, welcoming six cubs under the Zoo's care and becoming a great-grandmother in 2024, she's now past breeding age. The Zoo's animal care team will continue to care for Masaya in her golden years and ensure she's living her best life every day.

Lua has already won over the hearts of the Zoo's animal care team. She's been slowly coming out of her shell since her arrival, showing off her curious side while still being cautious.

"She is acclimating to her new space well and getting to know her keepers," said Helton.

"She is readily accepting reinforcement from us and even doing training behaviors!"

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Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 170 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.

