

Autumn the giraffe gives birth at Greenville Zoo

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GREENVILLE, SC (FOX Carolina) - The giraffe family at the Greenville Zoo is now a family of three.

Autumn the giraffe gave birth at 6:15 a.m. Tuesday.

The zoo's live camera of the giraffe barn provided a live feed of the birth. Click here to watch live footage from EarthCam.

The baby made its way to its feet and took its first steps just after 7 a.m.

The giraffe's father, Walter, looked on from the neighboring stall.

Greenville Zoo officials announced that mother and child are doing well and staff are watching the calf to ensure that it meets important benchmarks, such as standing and nursing successfully. ?

Greenville Zoo Director Jeff Bullock said the newborn calf appeared healthy and was expected to start nursing Tuesday.

"The birth went off without a hitch and the Greenville Zoo was once again able to share this special event with EarthCam viewers around the world. We hope that this exposure will help people connect with giraffes, want to learn more about them and help us support giraffe conservation efforts in the wild and in accredited zoos across the nation," Bullock said in a statement.

Zookeepers will perform a physical exam to determine the calf's sex. Over the next 24 to 48 hours, they'll also perform a routine neonatal exam on the calf to determine its height, weight and sex.

The Greenville Zoo Foundation is offering people the chance to make a donation and suggest a name for the new giraffe. The name will be picked later in the week.

The calf is the third for Autumn and Walter.

More than 1 million people watched in 2012 as Autumn gave birth to her first calf Kiko.

Kiko is now residing at the Toronto Zoo.

Autumn's second calf was a stillborn in 2014.