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CUBS, CUBS, CUBS AND MORE CUBS

Visitors have a last chance to view clouded leopard quadruplets together this weekend before two leave Tacoma and Sumatran tiger triplets celebrate their first birthday with a special party at Point Defiance Zoo

TACOMA, Wash. – It's a lucky cub weekend at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Seven. Count 'em. Seven endangered cubs will be on exhibit Saturday and Sunday during Cubs, Cubs and More Cubs, a special event to celebrate two momentous occasions.



It's the last weekend visitors to the zoo will be able to see the clouded leopard quadruplets that were born May 12 wrestle, chase and climb together in the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater Exercise Yard. Two of the cubs, brothers Kapok and Teak, will leave Tacoma in early October to meet their future mates at another zoo.

Banyan, the third male of the litter, and Orchid, the female, will remain at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Weather permitting, the clouded leopard quadruplets will be running, leaping, climbing, wrestling and playing in the Exercise Yard from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

And there will be a triple-the-fun birthday party on Saturday for Sumatran tiger cubs Dari, Indah and Kirana, who turn 1-year-old next week. The no-longer-tiny tigers, who each weigh around 150 pounds, will receive special treats during the 12:30 p.m. keeper talk. There will be "Cub Cakes" for visitors while supplies last and a giant birthday card for guests to sign.

Clouded leopard cubs climb high on logs in the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater Exercise Yard at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is a recognized leader in Species Survival Plan® managed breeding programs for clouded leopards and Sumatran tigers.

It's not known how many of the elusive clouded leopards remain in the wild, but scientists do know they face increasing pressure from habitat loss.

Sumatran tigers are critically endangered. Only an estimated 300 remain in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. It's a number so small that it's fewer than the seating capacity of many large movie theaters. Sumatran tigers' numbers are declining due to poaching and human-animal conflict, which includes destruction of their habitat for palm oil production.

For more information about Sumatran tigers, clouded leopards, and this weekend's events, visit www.pdza.org.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).