



Help Name Zoo's Giant Pacific Octopus

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TACOMA, Wash.—Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is inviting the community to help name the new female giant Pacific octopus inside the Pacific Seas Aquarium. The zoo's aquarists have chosen six names and are asking the public to vote for their favorite.

Those names are:

- **Gertie:** referring to the Tacoma legend that the largest octopus in the world inhabits the underwater ruins of the collapsed Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed Galloping Gertie.
- **Narrows:** referring to the two Tacoma Narrows Bridges that connect Tacoma to Gig Harbor.
- **Ceph:** short for cephalopod, meaning any member of the molluscan class of Cephalopoda such as squid, octopus or cuttlefish.
- **Octavia:** of Latin origin meaning "eighth."
- **Ms. 8:** referring to octopuses' eight tentacles.
- **Ophelia:** a character in "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare.

Fans can vote on their favorite name until midnight August 23. Results will be announced August 24. You can vote on the Zoo's website [here](#).

"She's a very cautious octopus but she's curious and brave, too," said aquarist Mikiko. "And she's very strong yet gentle with her tentacles."

Fun facts: A giant Pacific octopus has two rows of suction cups on each of its eight tentacles – up to 2,240 suckers in a female- which it uses to explore its environment through smell and taste, each arm working independently of the brain. Octopuses are very intelligent creatures who can solve puzzles, open jars and manipulate their environment, as well as interact with the humans who care for them. Given the chance, they'll explore anything around them.

Guests can see the octopus in the Pacific Seas Aquarium any day of the week.

For more information, visit pdza.org.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, practices and 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).

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