

**Betty White (the Giraffe) Gives Birth to an
Adorable Six-Foot-Tall Girl.**

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**Longneck Manor is over the moon to announce the arrival of a beautiful baby giraffe; the very first calf to be born at the newest open-range conservation park in the USA, located just outside the charming town of Fredericksburg, in the Texas Hill Country.**

*Fredericksburg, TX* – After a 15 month wait, Longneck Manor is delighted to welcome the newest addition to its precious wildlife family; a female reticulated giraffe calf.

Arriving at 12:12 pm on Oct. 18, and weighing 140 pounds, Betty's not-so-little baby girl has the distinctive gold and caramel reticulated coat pattern unique to this rare subspecies of giraffe. Both mom and baby appear to be doing well.

The birth took place inside the 10,000-square-foot state-of-the-art giraffe barn at Longneck Manor. The labor and birth were constantly monitored by the animal care team and an attending exotic wildlife veterinarian. Some birth video and still images of the calf will be made available upon request for approved media use.

It was a family affair, with the other giraffe staying close by to protect Betty during labor, and to welcome their new family member, just as they would in the wild.

The calf stood up on her long, wobbly legs within one hour of birth and started nursing shortly after. A brief veterinary examination was performed to ensure the calf was alert and appeared healthy. She is currently nursing and receiving lots of gentle nuzzles from her attentive mom.

Betty and her calf will remain inside their comfortable barn for a few weeks, so that the Longneck Manor animal care team can allow mom time to bond with her baby girl, and until she is strong enough to run and play in the large outdoor pastures with the rest of Longneck Manor's growing giraffe family.

**Betty White the Giraffe**

Mom, Betty, shares the same Jan. 17 birthday as her Hollywood legend namesake, Betty White; a celebrated wildlife conservation champion and a longtime friend of Longneck Manor's founder, Rick Barongi. "Betty White was overjoyed to have a golden giraffe goddess named in her honor. We've all missed her every day since she passed, late last year. A baby giraffe is very special at any time, but doubly so when this happy news gives us yet another reason to smile whenever we hear Betty's name”, said Rick.

Betty who is 7 and half years old came to Longneck Manor from the Dallas Zoo. In 2019, Betty gave birth to Tana, who also resides at Longneck Manor.

The calf’s sire is Kafele, a six-and-a-half-year-old male who came to Longneck Manor from the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

**Quote by Longneck Manor Founder, Rick Barongi**

“We are sky high over this first giraffe birth at Longneck Manor and thrilled to introduce our newest, and cutest, animal ambassador to all our guests. If there is a more adorable baby on the planet, I haven't seen it. Best of all, I know she will inspire everyone who sees her to care and conserve giraffes in the wild; a vital mission that is at the heart of everything we do here,” stated Rick Barongi, Founder and Director of the non-profit Longneck Manor Conservation Foundation.

**Quote from veterinarian, Dr. Brittni East**

"Mom and baby both are doing great", said Dr. Brittni East, the attending exotic wildlife veterinarian from Exotic Wildlife Veterinarian Services. "Giraffe births are quite unique, in that the mother remains standing throughout delivery, causing the newborn baby to fall six feet or more to the ground. Incredible as it may seem, this drop doesn't hurt the baby, but in fact helps the calf to detach the umbilical cord and break free from the amniotic sac. The sudden impact also ensures the infant clears their lungs and starts breathing properly. Giraffes are truly majestic animals, and to be able to see a healthy calf up close is one of life's greatest joys.”

**Conservation Status**

Reticulated giraffes are native to northern Kenya and southern Somalia, where the climate is quite similar to Central Texas. Classified as endangered since 2018, the wild population has decreased by 50% over the last 30 years, and today there are less than 16,000 reticulated giraffes left in the wild, according to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. Only 400 reticulated giraffes are in accredited zoos in the United States. Longneck Manor's mother and calf are on permanent loan from the Dallas Zoo, as part of a carefully managed Species Survival Plan (SSP).

**A Texas Tourism Success Story**

Longneck Manor opened to the public for wildlife tours and overnight stays in Sept. 2021. The luxury giraffe suite apartment, located inside the state-of-the-art giraffe barn, is one of the most sought-after destination experiences in the USA, drawing guests from around the country and throughout the world. Thanks to a viral TikTok video, there is currently an 18-month waiting list to stay in the giraffe suite, however exclusive rhino and giraffe feeding tours are still available daily. Construction has recently begun on luxury cottages overlooking the open-range pastures, with unrestricted views of free-roaming giraffes and rhinos.

**Visiting Longneck Manor**

An easy, scenic drive from Austin, San Antonio, Houston and Dallas, Longneck Manor provides exclusive tours and overnight experiences like no other facility in the United States. Longneck Manor is located just five miles from the idyllic town of Fredericksburg, known for its unique charm, fine dining, wineries, live music and wonderful hospitality. Longneck Manor is the perfect getaway and conservation retreat for all animal lovers. Longneck Manor is not open to the general public but is by reservation only. Daily tours can be booked online at longneckmanor.com.

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