



**ADAM J. BELLO**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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## **IT'S ANOTHER BOY — SENECA PARK ZOO'S SECOND MASAI GIRAFFE CALF IS MALE — RECEIVING VETERINARY CARE**

**July 13, 2022** – Monroe County Executive Adam Bello and Seneca Park Zoo today announced that the Masai giraffe calf born earlier this week is a male and is receiving veterinary care for a leg tendon issue. With the assistance of animal care staff, Zoo Veterinarian Chris McKinney placed a splint on the calf's leg due to laxity in the tendons of his left front fetlock, causing the joint to bend outward and forward.

"The laxity is something that he was born with, and is also seen in horses and cattle," said **Dr. Chris McKinney**. "We placed a splint on the leg, which is kept in place with a bandage and keeps the joint in the proper position to provide support while he gains more strength in the leg."

According to Dr. McKinney, the joint should gain strength over the next few days so the splint can be removed. The giraffe calf was also found to have an umbilical hernia, which is a congenital abnormality.

"Umbilical hernias occur when the muscle of the body wall does not close fully where the umbilical cord enters the body," said **Dr. McKinney**. "This is not painful and at this time is causing him no harm but can worsen as he grows. Once he has had more time to nurse and bond with mom, we will plan to surgically close the hernia to ensure he continues to be healthy."

"Despite the leg issue and hernia, the calf is otherwise healthy," said **County Executive Adam Bello**. "He is nursing and has integrated well with the rest of the giraffe herd. But, we do know that baby giraffes have high mortality rates and the first few days and weeks are critical to the success of the birth. Zoo staff will continue monitoring baby and mom 24/7 to watch out for any unforeseen challenges."

The Zoo's Animals of the Savanna will remain closed past the rhino overlook until at least Friday, so that the giraffes are not disturbed. Tram service is temporarily suspended, as are giraffe feedings.

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Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.