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**FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO WELCOMES MASAI GIRAFFE**

*Fresno, CA* – Fresno Chaffee Zoo officials are excited to announce the addition of female Masai giraffe, Betty Lou, to the giraffe herd!

Betty Lou, 10, came to Fresno from the Santa Barbara Zoo. She is the first Masai giraffe to reside in Fresno since 1994.

“There are two main giraffe programs in the giraffe Species Survival Plan (SSP),” said Vernon Presley, curator at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. “There’s the Masai program and the generic program. We’ve always been a participant of the generic program, which includes the Reticulated giraffe. We decided that we wanted to help both programs, and the addition of Betty Lou allows us to do that.”

The Zoo is currently home to one Masai giraffe and four Reticulated giraffes: Uzuri (female, 24), Baba (female, 23), Jabari (male, 7) and Kazi (male, 4).

“Having both Reticulated and Masai giraffes gives us the unique opportunity to educate our guests about this magnificent animal,” said Lyn Myers, general curator at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. “Betty Lou looks very different from the rest of our giraffe herd and we are excited for the public to meet her.”

There are four species of giraffe; Northern (with three sub species), Southern (with two sub species), Masai, and Reticulated.

*"Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation."*

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