

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

19/12/2025

## **Just in Time for Christmas: Banham Zoo Celebrates the Arrival of Two Critically Endangered African Black-footed Penguin Chicks**

Image File: [Penguin Chicks 2025](#)



Banham Zoo is delighted to share some heart-warming festive news with the announcement of two newly hatched African black-footed penguin chicks, a joyful milestone for this endangered species.

Earlier this summer, in June, Banham Zoo proudly welcomed a group of African black-footed penguins from Hertfordshire Zoo, adding to our already established colony of African black-footed penguins as part of the international breeding programme dedicated to safeguarding the future of the species. We are thrilled to report that the penguins have settled in exceptionally well and are already playing a valuable role in conservation efforts.

Maneno and Jozini have successfully hatched chicks: Pumpkin, born on 31st October, and Spice, who followed shortly after on 3rd November. Keepers report that both chicks, along with their attentive parents, are doing extremely well.

With African Black-footed penguin populations continuing to decline and fewer than 10,000 breeding pairs remaining worldwide, every successful hatching represents a vital step forward. Alongside its breeding efforts, Banham Zoo is proud to support the vital conservation work of SANCCOB (the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds), whose teams work tirelessly in South Africa to rescue, rehabilitate and release African penguins affected by oil spills, climate change and food shortages.

Sophie Imhof, Team Leader of the Bird team at Banham Zoo said,

‘We couldn’t be happier to welcome Pumpkin and Spice, especially at such a magical time of year. Seeing Maneno and Jozini settle in so quickly and successfully raise two healthy chicks has been wonderful for the whole team. With African black-footed penguins under so much pressure in the wild, every new chick really does matter and these two are a lovely reminder of why conservation work like this is so important.’

To celebrate the arrival of Pumpkin and Spice, Banham Zoo has launched new penguin adoption packs, offering supporters a meaningful way to help protect this endangered species. Adopters will be able to follow the penguins’ story as they grow, while directly supporting conservation efforts both at the zoo and in the wild, making it a truly special gift this Christmas.

Find out more here: <https://www.banhamzoo.co.uk/adoptions/adopt-a-penguin>

Just to note - As a precautionary measure due to current bird flu restrictions, visitors are not able to enter the penguin habitat at this time. However, there are several designated viewing areas around the habitat, offering guests the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the penguins and observe the family from a safe distance.

<https://www.banhamzoo.co.uk/>

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**Image File:** [Penguin Chicks 2025](#)

**Notes to editors**

Interviews available on request

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**About Zoological Society of East Anglia (Registered Charity No 1150158)**

The Zoological Society of East Anglia (ZSEA) is the conservation and education charity that leads Africa Alive and Banham Zoo. For over 50 years, the zoos have sought to amaze and inspire guests who visit, providing wonderful, memorable days out and sharing unique experiences with their families, friends and loved ones. [www.zsea.org](http://www.zsea.org)