

# Tonja's start to the week

## News from the polar bear den in a snow-covered Tierpark Berlin

Yesterday, it wasn't only the polar bears' birthing den that resembled their natural Arctic habitat – the world outside was also glistening and white. "Mother and cub are both still doing well," reports polar bear curator Dr Florian Sicks. "After three days of not taking her eyes off her baby for a second, Tonja left the birthing den for the first time on Monday morning to have a drink in the adjacent area."

The cub is just four days old and has not yet reached the end of the critical first ten days, but mother Tonja is providing her little one with plenty of loving care. As soon as Tonja stands up to adjust her position, the young bear protests with loud cries – which stop as soon as it feels its mother's warm fur and knows everything is right with the world again. Meanwhile, father Wolodja has been enjoying the first proper snow of the winter in the bears' outdoor habitat.

"Tonja built up plenty of fat reserves before the autumn and now weighs almost 300 kilos," explains Zoo and Tierpark Director Dr Andreas Knieriem. "Her cub, on the other hand, currently weighs about 600 grams."

**Polar bear mother and cub are not currently visible to Tierpark visitors. Much like in the bears' natural habitat, the mother will not emerge from the birthing den with her cub until spring.**

Polar bears at Tierpark Berlin:

**Tonja** was born in Moscow Zoo on 14 November 2009 and gave birth to her second cub on 7 December 2017.

**Wolodja** was born on 27 November 2011 and originates from the other Moscow Zoo breeding group.

*An up-to-date video is available to download via the following link:*

<https://cloud.zoo-berlin.de/index.php/s/3n640SauKeJuQQs>