

Secretary bird at German park gets new leg from 3-D printer

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In this April 4, 2017 photo keeper German Alonso straps a leg prosthesis to on the left leg of secretarybird Soeckchen (*Sagittarius seprentarius*) at the bird park in Walsrode, northern Germany. The prosthesis was made in a 3D-printer after his left leg was amputated. (Philipp Schulze/dpa via AP)

Soeckchen the secretary bird is now strutting around her home in northern Germany with an artificial leg produced using a 3-D printer.

Keepers at the Weltvogelpark bird park in Walsrode found two-year-old

Soeckchen (Little Socks) in her aviary with a broken left leg. Her lower leg had to be amputated.

Zookeepers turned to Lars Thalmann of e-Nable, which makes free prosthetic hands for children. The dpa news agency says it was the first time the organization had made a [prosthesis](#) for an animal.

Park spokeswoman Janina Buse says it took two attempts to get it right. A first prosthesis, which mimicked the leg's form, turned out too heavy.

Buse says Thalmann built a second leg without talons—"it looks much simpler, but the bird is managing brilliantly with it."



In this April 4, 2017 photo secretarybird Soeckchen (*Sagittarius seppentarius*) walks across a meadow wearing a leg prosthesis at the bird park in Walsrode, northern Germany. The prosthesis was made in a 3D-printer after his left leg was amputated. (Philipp Schulze/dpa via AP)

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