

# Gay penguins adopt egg after trying to hatch stone

August 16 2019

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Skipper, right, and his male partner Ping, left, have begun taking care of a real egg at their enclosure in Berlin Zoo

A pair of gay penguins in Germany who tried earnestly to hatch a stone now have the chance to become real parents.

Staff at Berlin Zoo recently presented the amorous male couple with an egg, which they swiftly began to incubate.

The egg came from another pair who in recent years "have not got along 100 percent and who have therefore often damaged their eggs", said zookeeper Norbert Zahmel.

Ten-year-old Royal penguins Skipper and Ping were an "excellent" choice as adoptive parents, he added.

Zookeepers don't know for certain if the egg is fertilised, but if it does hatch it would be the first birth of a penguin at the zoo in more than 20 years.

Same-sex love among penguins is nothing new, with homosexual behaviour among the species reported in zoos and in the wild.

During gay Pride week, London Zoo mounted a banner above its penguin beach, declaring: "Some penguins are gay. Get over it," in a nod to a human campaign against homophobia.

## Know your penguins

Introducing eleven of the world's 18 species



**Magellanic**  
*Spheniscus magellanicus*  
**Native of:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay  
**Spotted in:** Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand  
**Status:** **Near threatened**



**Tawaki / Fjordland crested**  
*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*  
New Zealand  
Australia  
**Vulnerable**



**Humboldt**  
*Spheniscus humboldti*  
Chile, Peru  
Colombia, Ecuador  
**Vulnerable**



**Emperor**  
*Aptenodytes forsteri*  
Antarctica  
Argentina, Chile, New Zealand  
**Near threatened**



**Adelie**  
*Pygoscelis adeliae*  
Antarctica  
Argentina, Australia, New Zealand  
**Least concern**



**Gentoo**  
*Pygoscelis papua*  
Antarctica, Argentina, Australia (Macquarie Is.), Chile  
New Zealand  
**Least concern**



**Northern rockhopper**  
*Eudyptes moseleyi*  
Islands in South Atlantic and Indian Ocean  
Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Africa  
**Endangered**



**African**  
*Spheniscus aemorsus*  
Angola, Namibia, South Africa  
Congo, Gabon  
**Endangered**



**Chinstrap**  
*Pygoscelis antarcticus*  
Antarctica, Argentina, Chile  
Australia, New Zealand, South Africa  
**Least concern**



**King**  
*Aptenodytes patagonicus*  
Argentina, Chile, South Africa  
Antarctica, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Uruguay  
**Least concern**



**Fairy**  
*Eudyptula minor*  
Australia, New Zealand  
**Least concern**

Source: AFP Photos/INFLN

Graphic introducing eleven of the world's penguin species, including the King penguin (also known as the Royal penguin)

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