

The heart-warming (but decidedly wobbly) first steps taken by a baby giraffe in a South Carolina zoo

By Matt Hunter For Mailonline

Published: 12:23 EST, 5 February 2016 | Updated: 16:18 EST, 5 February 2016

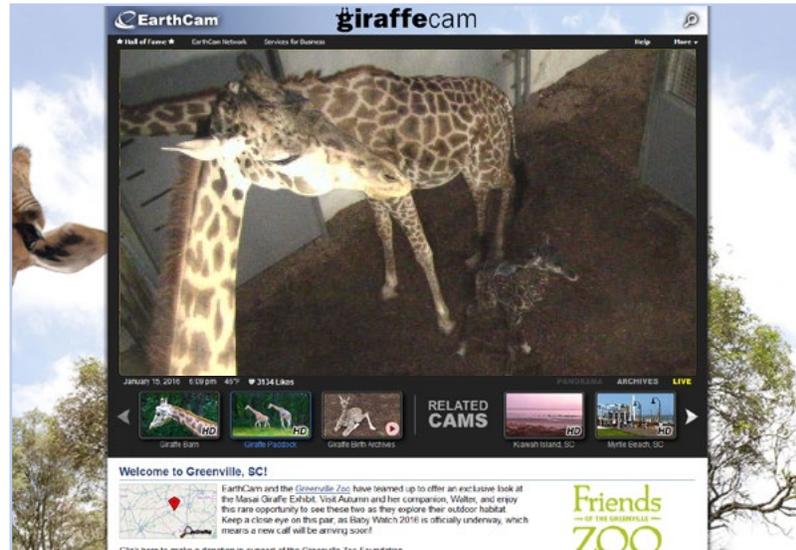
- The little animal was born on Wednesday in South Carolina
- Its arrival was witnessed by hundreds of people via stream on EarthCam
- Mother Autumn is seen nudging her little one as it wakes up for first time
- Cute footage also shows moment giraffe's legs get shaky when getting up

Taking your first steps in the world can be tricky - as it proved for this baby giraffe.

Born on Wednesday morning in Greenville Zoo, South Carolina, the little animal's arrival was witnessed by hundreds of people as it was streamed live on [EarthCam](#).

In the video, nine-year-old mother Autumn gives birth before turning round to nudge her small offspring as it opens its eyes for the first time.

The animal eventually gets up on all four legs but things become unsteady fast and he slips over.



Undeterred the giraffe, which hasn't had a test yet to identify its sex, has another go and, albeit a little bit wobbly, manages to regain his composure.

The Masai giraffe's parents, Autumn and Walter, welcomed their newest calf at 6.16am.

A spokesman for the zoo said in a statement: 'Both Autumn and the calf are doing well, and the zoo's medical staff has been monitoring the calf to ensure that it is meeting important benchmarks, such as standing and nursing successfully.

'In the next 24 to 48 hours, the staff will perform a routine neonatal exam on the calf, which will include determining the calf's height, weight and sex.

'Blood tests will also be used to determine whether the calf is receiving important antibodies from Autumn's milk.'

The statement revealed that father Walter wouldn't be allowed in to bond with his offspring until the little giraffe is a little stronger in a few weeks' time.

And the cute animal still doesn't have a name - with people able to put forward suggestions to the zoo until February 11.

Zoo administrator Jeff Bullock said: 'The birth went off without a hitch and the Greenville Zoo was once again able to share this special event with [EarthCam](#) viewers around the world.

'We hope that this exposure will help people connect with giraffes, want to learn more about them and help us support giraffe conservation efforts in the wild and in accredited zoos across the nation.'

Once the contest closes, zookeepers will select a favourite from the submitted names.

Zoo officials are planning to hold a news conference on February 12 to introduce the calf, and announce its name, as well as its sex and vital statistics.

In the meantime, the public can follow the calf's progress via the Giraffe Cam and the zoo's website and Facebook page.