

Three cheers for birthdays, hatchdays and spawning seasons!



Birthdays are a great opportunity to hype up our favorite traits about an animal and give them gifts that they would enjoy.

But not all animals have *birthdays*! That's because not all animals give live birth. That's why at the Seattle Aquarium, we also celebrate *hatchdays* for our friends who entered this world by hatching from an egg.

Also, there are many animals whose *exact* birthday or hatchday we don't know. All of us can still celebrate how wonderful they are! For birds and mammals who have been rescued, animals who have a regular spawning season, or animals who are microscopic when they hatch, we can estimate how old they are and pick a day to celebrate them.

No matter when we choose to celebrate, we're happy to acknowledge these animals and make the day special for them.

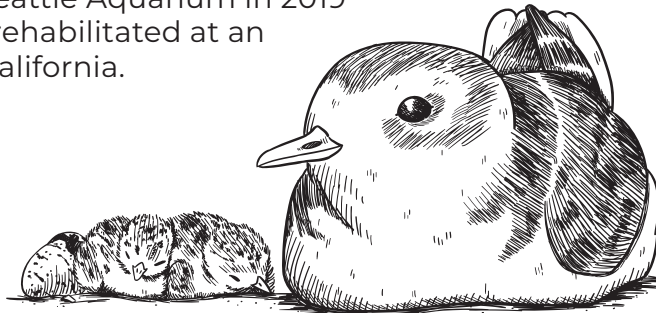
Here are three different ways animals can enter this world:

Oviparity (oh-vip-AIR-uh-dee)

Animals who are oviparous lay eggs, which the offspring hatch from. The babies develop within the egg, getting all of their nutrients from the egg's yolk.

Examples at the Aquarium:

- Cuttlefish hatch in late spring.
- Urchins spawn from January to March.
- Chinook salmon have separate groups that spawn during different seasons.
- Snowy plovers hatch March through September. Crush the snowy plover came to the Seattle Aquarium in 2019 after she was rehabilitated at an aquarium in California.



Viviparity (viv-uh-PAIR-uh-dee)

Animals who are viviparous give birth to live young. The offspring develops inside the parent's uterus, with the parent's body providing all of the necessary nutrients.

Examples at the Aquarium:

- Sea otters like Sekiu (born January 14, 2012) and Mishka (born around June 2014)
- Northern fur seals like Flaherty (born July 11, 2012)

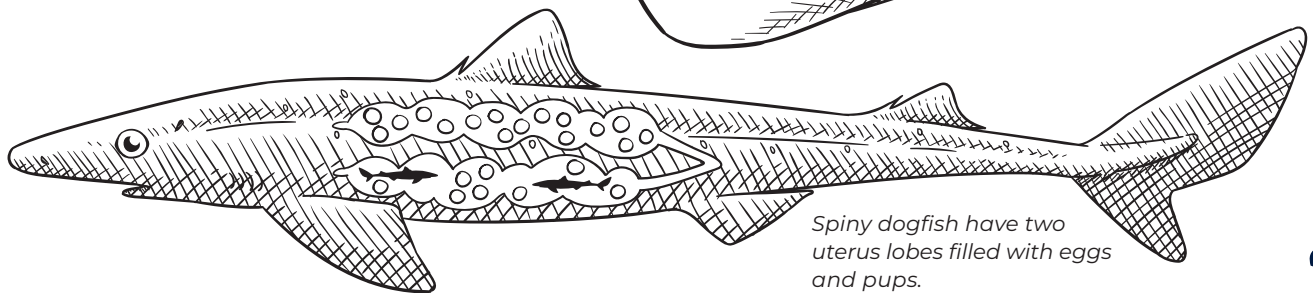


Ovoviviparity (oh-voh-viv-uh-PAIR-uh-dee)

Animals who are ovoviviparous produce eggs that develop inside the parent and then usually hatch within the parent's body. This can appear as live birth, since the offspring are often already hatched when they exit the parent's body, but the developing offspring gets all of their nutrients from the egg's yolk. Would you call this a birthday or a hatchday?

Examples at the Aquarium:

- Spiny dogfish pups are born in the fall.
- The Aquarium's blue-spotted rays were born in January 2022 and April 2022.



Spiny dogfish have two uterus lobes filled with eggs and pups.

