# Newborn Pere David’s deer takes first steps at Knowsley Safari Park, signalling hope for extinct-in-the-wild species



At Knowsley Safari Park in Prescot, UK, a significant moment was observed as a newborn Pere David's deer took its first steps. This species, also known as Elaphurus davidianus, has been classified as extinct in the wild by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The recent event highlights the ongoing efforts in wildlife conservation and species reintroduction.

Pere David's deer, originally native to China, faced extinction due to habitat loss and overhunting during the 19th century. However, due to international cooperation and targeted breeding programmes, several individuals are being successfully maintained in captivity. These programmes, including those at Knowsley, are vital for the revival of this species, allowing for genetic diversity and the potential for future reintroduction to its native habitat.

Experts involved in these breeding initiatives emphasise the importance of such facilities in safeguarding endangered species. The successful birth of this fawn not only marks a milestone for Knowsley Safari Park but also serves as a hopeful reminder of the advancements being made in conservation efforts globally.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.britannica.com/animal/Pere-Davids-deer> - This article confirms that Père David's deer is classified as extinct in the wild by the IUCN.
* <https://www.zoobrno.cz/en/our-animals/animals-kept/mammals/elaphurus-davidianus> - This source details the history of Père David's deer, including their extinction in the wild and subsequent reintroduction efforts.
* <https://www.whiteoakwildlife.org/wildlife/p%D1%90re-davids-deer/> - This article discusses the conservation status of Père David's deer, highlighting their extinction in the wild and the role of breeding programs in their revival.
* <https://www.whipsnadezoo.org/whats-here/animals/pere-davids-deer> - This page provides information on the conservation efforts for Père David's deer, including breeding programs and reintroduction to the wild.
* <https://www.knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk/our-safari/animals/pere-davids-deer> - This source details the history of Père David's deer at Knowsley Safari Park, including their successful breeding and reintroduction efforts.
* <https://phys.org/news/2021-10-asian-deer-comeback-rare-china.html> - This article discusses the reintroduction of Père David's deer to China and the challenges faced in their conservation.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2025/may/02/week-in-wildlife-a-leopard-cat-a-vulture-puppet-and-a-hare-playing-hide-and-seek> - Please view link - unable to able to access data