

Seneca Park Zoo, 2222 St. Paul St., Rochester

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Zoo announces death of male Amur leopard

Rochester, NY – June 29, 2009 — Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo regrettably announces the passing of Dimitri, the 18-year-old male Amur leopard who came to the Zoo from the Pittsburgh Zoo on June 1, 2002. Dimitri was one of only 10 Amur leopards in captivity to live to be 18. The oldest on record is 20.

According to Dr. Jeff Wyatt, the Zoo’s Director of Animal Health & Conservation, the leopard suffered from terminal kidney failure.

“I have never seen such elevated blood values for BUN and creatinine,” Wyatt said. “There is no supportive care or treatment to reverse this age-related organ failure commonly seen in geriatric cats of all sizes. The kindest and most humane action was to euthanize Dimitri.”

Dimitri was born on June 3, 1991 at St. Louis Zoo. He has been exhibited adjacent to his 17-year-old sister, Nikita. She will remain at the Zoo.

“Dimitri’s long life is a testament to the high quality of care the animals here at the Zoo receive,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “He will be missed by our staff and our many visitors.”

Seneca Park Zoo is owned and operated by Monroe County. The Seneca Park Zoo Society is a not-for-profit organization which has, since 1957, provided education, fundraising, special events and public relations support to Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo. The Society offers various levels of membership to the Seneca Park Zoo, which includes discounted and/or free admission to more than 170 zoos and aquariums across the country. For additional information, check us out on the Web at: www.senecaparkzoo.org.