

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

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Zoo announces passing of male cougar

Rochester, NY – Feb. 6, 2009 — Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo regrettably announces the passing of Monty, the 14-year-old male cougar who came to the Zoo in 2005 with his sister, Anna. Cougars typically live to be 8 to 12 years old.

According to Dr. Jeff Wyatt, the Zoo’s Director of Animal Health & Conservation, the cause of death is undetermined pending further test results. The final necropsy report (the veterinary term for autopsy) will be available within four to six weeks.

Monty and Anna came to the Zoo from Utah’s Hogle Zoo. Their exhibit here at the Seneca Park Zoo was designed with a glass viewing area to give visitors a nose-to-nose experience with the beautiful felines, similar to the polar bear and sea lion underwater viewing area in the Rocky Coasts and the river otters in the Kodak E.C.O. Center.

“It was always great to walk by and see the many kids interacting with Monty,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “I’m sure he enjoyed it as much as they did. He will be missed by our staff and our many visitors.”

“The death of an animal, such as the male cougar, is always a sad occasion but the reality is that we have a great many animals in our collection at Seneca Park Zoo, which are in the upper end of their life expectancy,” said Larry Staub, Director of the Monroe County Parks Department. “This is a true testament to the fine care and quality of life these animals receive here, with Monty’s long life being no exception.”

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.