

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

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Zoo announces death of female hyena

Rochester, NY – January 31, 2012 — Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo regrettably announces the passing of Drek, the 27-year-old female spotted hyena. She was born at the North Carolina Zoological Park in Asheboro on Nov 24, 1984.

Drek and her son, Lou, who is 19, have lived at the Seneca Park Zoo since 1999. Lou still resides here at the Zoo. The average lifespan for hyenas in the wild is about 12 and in conservation care hyenas can live into their 20s.

According to Dr. Jeff Wyatt, Director of Animal Health & Conservation at the Seneca Park Zoo, the Zoo’s geriatric spotted hyena was euthanized due to severe degenerative joint disease which the Zoo was unable to medically manage. Final necropsy results will be available in about six weeks.

“For the past few years, the Zoo’s hyenas have been part of a behavioral training program which Drek seemed to really enjoy,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “Our zoo keepers loved working with her and the interaction gave our visitors a new perspective on hyenas. She will be missed by all the zoo’s employees and supporters.”

According Sorel, the Zoo has not determined if they will bring in another female hyena to the Zoo.

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, visit www.senecaparkzoo.org.