

Sacramento Zoo Reports the Death of Grevy's Zebra

**WHAT'S
HAPPENING:
WHEN:**

The Sacramento Zoo is mourning the loss of Mara, an endangered female Grevy's Zebra.

Mara was humanely euthanized the evening of Sunday, May 22nd.



After a rapid decline in health over the last few weeks Mara, a 20-year-old Grevy's Zebra was humanely euthanized the evening of Sunday, May 22. A full necropsy will be performed at UC Davis.

Over the past three weeks zookeepers and veterinarians had been closely monitoring Mara as she progressively became lethargic, had a severe lack of appetite, lost weight and had diarrhea. She was receiving supportive care such as antibiotics, pain medications and gut protectants. Tests were inconclusive as to a root cause. During her last 24-hour she quit eating, drinking and urinating. Due to her serious decline and concerns for her quality of life, the decision was made to euthanize during a medical examination.

"Mara was a quiet and dependable zebra who was happy to follow along with the herd," said Melissa McCartney, Primary Ungulate Zookeeper at the Sacramento Zoo. "At mealtime she had learned to knock on the shift door to let keepers know she was ready for breakfast and wanted to be let in first."

Mara came to the Sacramento Zoo in 2000 from the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The Sacramento Zoo has been home to Grevy's Zebras since 1973.

The Sacramento Zoo participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Grevy's Zebra Species Survival Plan[®]. The main focus of this plan is captive breeding and educational awareness to prevent the extinction of this species. From 1978 to 1999 the Zoo had 22 foals born. In 2000 the Sacramento

Zoo made the decision to participate in the SSP[®] in a different way, to give females who are past breeding age or have never conceived with a proven stallion, a home. The non-breeding females that live at the Sacramento Zoo are animal ambassadors for their species and serve an important role in educating the public.

This species of zebra lives in a dry, nutrient-poor habitat in Africa. Their social organization is very different from that of other zebras. Intense competition among females for limited resources prevents long-lasting bonds from being formed. Life on the African plains is also full of danger and predators are a constant threat to the zebras' survival. Because Grevy's Zebras are more solitary, they do not have the safety of a large herd to protect them and instead rely on excellent hearing, with large ears that can rotate in any direction. The wild population of Grevy's Zebras has been drastically reduced in the past few decades. Although protected by law, their beautiful pelts continue to demand a good price on the black market. Loss of habitat and competition from cattle are also threats to their survival. The Sacramento Zoo has been a longtime supporter of the Grevy's Zebra Trust, a program founded to address the urgent need to conserve Grevy's Zebra in the rangelands of Kenya and Ethiopia by incorporating human and wildlife interests into all of their programs.

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Sacramento Zoo – Wildly Inspiring!

Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to more than 500 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park, the Zoo is wholly managed by the non-profit Sacramento Zoological Society. This Sacramento treasure inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. Daily admission is 9 am to 4 pm, Zoo grounds are open until 5 pm. General admission is \$11.75; children ages 2-11 are \$7.75 and one and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus #6. For information, call 916.808.5888 or visit saczoo.org.

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