

Sacramento Zoo Grieves the Death of Plain-colored Amazon Parrot, Jasper

WHAT'S HAPPENING: The Sacramento Zoo is mourning the loss of Jasper, a male Plain-colored Amazon Parrot.

WHEN: After battling heart disease for the last two years, Jasper was humanely euthanized yesterday afternoon.



Jasper the Plain-colored Amazon Parrot was diagnosed with a severe heart condition in 2014 for which he received ongoing medications and treatments to help manage. Jasper was humanely euthanized the afternoon of December 19th after an exam revealed significant worsening of his cardiac disease and development of liver disease. The treatments and care that Jasper received for his cardiac condition were able to control many of his symptoms, giving him several extra years of good quality life that he likely never would have had otherwise. A full necropsy (animal autopsy) will be performed at UC Davis.

Jasper hatched at the Phoenix Zoo June 7, 1989 and a year later he moved to his permanent home at the Sacramento Zoo. Jasper was well-known for his loud vocalizations and his knack for chatting away with guests. "Hello!" or "Here, Kitty, Kitty", and "Meow" were some of his favorite conversation pieces. He certainly was a character, and incredibly important to staff and as an ambassador for his species. Zookeepers and veterinary staff worked hard on providing Jasper a high quality of life with supportive care by catering to his needs and his illness.

Plain-colored Amazon parrots are one of the largest Amazon parrot species. These birds are found in the wild in the Amazon rainforests and foothills of South America as well as parts of Central America and Mexico. Like many parrots, they have a wide variety of vocalizations such as chirps, tweets and squawks as well as the ability to imitate sounds including human speech. Because of their somewhat gentle temperament, Plain-colored Amazons tend to be very social with birds from other species as well as their own.

While these birds are not endangered in the wild, they are considered a vulnerable species. Deforestation in the Amazon is causing a rapid decline in suitable habitat and the pet trade, both legal and illegal, has removed many birds from their natural environment. Although parrots can make great pets, the Sacramento Zoo recommends that prospective parrot owners make well-informed choices and purchase only captive-bred birds.

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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 10 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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