

Sacramento Zoo's Red Panda Beckie Dies at 16

WHAT'S HAPPENING: The Sacramento Zoo is saddened to announce the death of Beckie, the Red Panda. At the age of 16, Beckie was the third oldest Red Panda in an Association of Zoos and Aquariums facility.

Beckie was a wonderful ambassador for her species who captivated the hearts of many. She will be missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

WHERE: Sacramento Zoo, at the corner of Land Park Dr. and Sutterville Rd. in William Land Park.

WHEN: After discussing her quality of life zookeepers and veterinary staff made the difficult decision to humanely euthanize Beckie yesterday, May 19th.



The Sacramento Zoo is saddened to announce the death of Beckie, the Red Panda. At the age of 16 she was the third oldest Red Panda in an Association of Zoos and Aquariums facility and was just two weeks shy of her 17th birthday. In zoos, the median life expectancy for a Red Panda is 10.4 years.

"While the loss of Beckie is difficult, her life is one that should be celebrated," said Primary Carnivore Zookeeper Amanda Watters "She was well loved by staff and considered our supermodel Red Panda."

Veterinarians had been treating Beckie for liver disease for over two years. During the past six weeks her condition worsened as she became anemic. An ultrasound exam showed that both her liver and spleen was affected likely causing her reluctance to eat. In the early afternoon on May 19th, after discussing her quality of life, the difficult decision was made to humanly euthanize Beckie.

“Beckie was very old for a Red Panda and the zookeepers and veterinarians took excellent and special care with all her geriatric needs,” said Leslie Field, Supervisor of Mammals at the Sacramento Zoo. “She was a sweet Red Panda and lived her last years with other, older Red Pandas.”

Beckie was born June 8, 1999 at the National Zoo. She had lived at the Sacramento Zoo since 2006.

Red Pandas are native to Eastern Asia, including Nepal, Burma, Tibet and south-central China. They are mostly solitary, small carnivores, whose markings mimic the reddish-brown tree trunks of their habitats. Also known as a “fire fox” or “bamboo cat”, Red Pandas are endangered in the wild. The Sacramento Zoo supports the Red Panda Network, an organization committed to the conservation of wild Red Pandas and their habitat throughout the education and empowerment of local communities. The Sacramento Zoo also participates in Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan (SSP®) program that cooperatively manages specific populations with the goal of sustaining a healthy, genetically diverse, and demographically varied species well into the future.

###

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. Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm with last admission at 4 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.

###