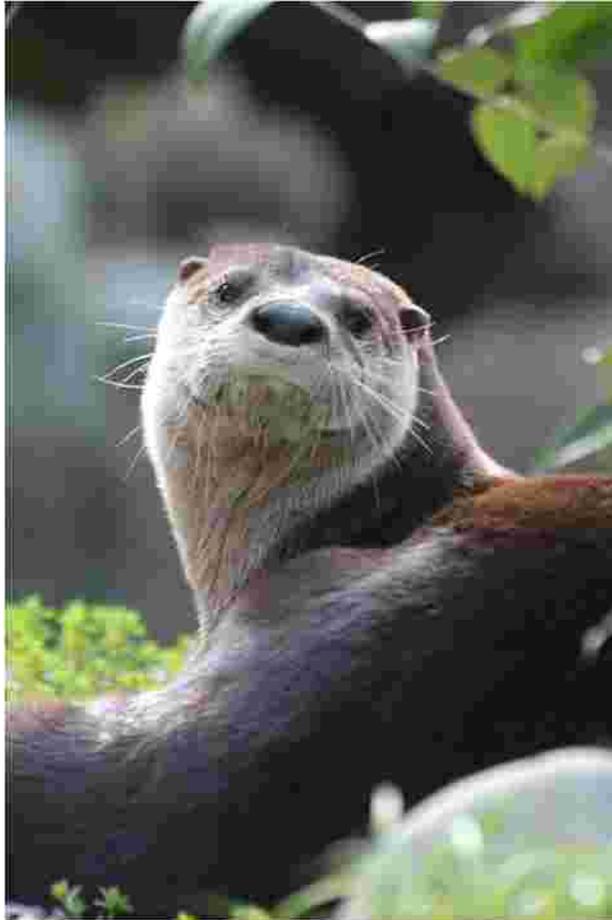


Zoo Announces the Death of "Percy" the North American River Otter

WHAT'S HAPPENING: The Sacramento Zoo is saddened to announce the loss of Percy, a female North American River Otter.

WHEN: Percy was humanely euthanized the morning of December 22, 2016.



Percy, North American River Otter. Photo by Erik Bowker

The Sacramento Zoo is saddened by the death of Percy, the Zoo's North American River Otter. The decision was made to humanely euthanize her the morning of Thursday, December 22. A full necropsy will be performed at UC Davis.

In early July, Percy, began to have difficulty with her mobility. An examination by the zoo's veterinarians revealed a disorder of the nervous system that affected her ability to walk. Percy was immediately treated with pain and anti-inflammatory medications as well as decreased activity. After a few weeks of treatment and rest in the Murray E. Fowler Veterinary Hospital, she regained her ability to walk and was medically cleared to return home to her exhibit. Earlier this week, Percy's difficulty with mobility recurred and evaluation by the veterinary team indicated progression of her neurologic disease. Due to the severity of Percy's condition and a poor prognosis for recovery, the difficult decision was made to humanely euthanize Percy.

In addition to treatment and monitoring for her nervous system disorder, she was also being treated for arthritis in her hips as well as renal disease as a part of her comprehensive medical management. At almost 17 years of age, Percy was a geriatric otter. She received special care by keeper staff daily including modifications to her exhibit and den areas to allow her to

continue to swim and play in her more advanced years. In the wild North American River Otters can live up to 10 years, with care in a zoo a setting, North American River Otters can live up to 20 years.

“Otters each display unique personalities and Percy is no exception, making her a favorite among visitors and staff,” said Matt McKim, Animal Collection Director. “This loss is very tough for the staff who have cared for and loved Percy for many years. We are extremely grateful for everyone’s hard work in the general care of Percy, as well as the exceptional care given during her recent health situation.”

Percy was wild born in Florida in early 1999. Shortly after birth she was orphaned and had to be hand-reared. Due to the hand-rearing she was considered non-releasable by authorities. She came to the Sacramento Zoo in December of 1999.

North American River Otters are native to the freshwater rivers and streams in the United States. The largest concentration of otters in California is the Suisun Marsh, about 40 miles from Sacramento. They can also be found in the Yolo Basin, and the American River range, even stretching to the foothills.

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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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