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Media Release

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Jillian the Sumatran Tiger Moving Back to S.F. Zoo: Doing what's best for Jillian



Jillian the Sumatran tiger has moved back to the San Francisco Zoo. The Sacramento Zoo and the San Francisco Zoo worked together to move her back to familiar territory in San Francisco where she was born. Sometimes the comfort of familiarity is what is best. In the case of Jillian the Sumatran tiger, she has had difficulty adjusting to her new surroundings since moving to the Sacramento Zoo last year.

4-year-old Jillian was born at the San Francisco Zoo where she lived until last February when she moved to the Sacramento Zoo based on a recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Sumatran Tiger Species Survival Plan® (SSP). Just like people, animals including Jillian, go through a period of transition after a move. Some settle in very quickly and in rare instances, they may have a more challenging time adjusting to their new surroundings. Over the last year all of Jillian's needs have been met. Her caretakers have worked diligently to feed her favorite treats, supply her with ample toys and enrichment, and help her settle in but she has not thrived as we would like to see.

While Jillian has been well cared for, she has never quite settled in as we would expect and want. As it became clear that Jillian was having a more difficult time, one of the biggest indicators of her unease was her inconsistency with shifting from one area to another. Shifting is important because it helps keepers care for an animal. When an animal voluntarily goes inside, outside or moves from one space to another, zookeepers can clean their exhibits, provide enriching changes to their environments, perform noninvasive healthcare checks, and safely care for the animal.

Sacramento Zoo staff has coordinated site visits with staff from the San Francisco Zoo to evaluate and adjust care plans for Jillian. Zoo staff have also been utilizing consultation services with a veterinarian behaviorist from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. The zoo has



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included recommendations from the behaviorist in Jillian's care including the unusual length of prescribing Jillian an anti-anxiety medication. Along with these efforts, Sacramento Zoo staff has also been in consultation with the Sumatran Tiger SSP coordinator, and with other tiger keepers and curators throughout AZA for input on best care plans.

At the Sacramento Zoo animal care and the needs of individual animals is top priority. While this is not the outcome we expected, the Sacramento Zoo will continue to participate in the Sumatran tiger SSP and will work with the AZA Sumatran tiger SSP coordinator to be a home for tigers in the future.

"The SSP is supportive of the move because we believe it is in the best interest of the individual animal and we will work with both facilities to meet their needs and the needs of the Sumatran tiger population," said Sumatran Tiger Species Survival Plan Vice Chair, Karen Goodrowe Beck, Ph.D.

Sumatran tigers are critically endangered and found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra off the Malaysian Peninsula. Fewer than 500 Sumatran tigers are believed to exist in the wild and approximately 320 live in zoos around the world. The Sacramento Zoo participates in the Sumatran Tiger Species Survival Plan®, coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. SSPs are cooperative conservation programs designed to maintain genetically viable populations of animals in human care, and to organize zoo and aquarium-based efforts to preserve the species.

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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 a.m. to 4 p.m., zoo grounds are open until 5 p.m. General admission is \$14.95; children ages 2-11 are \$9.95 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.