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Seneca Park Zoo announces death of Amur tiger

September 22, 2017 — Seneca Park Zoo announces the death of Anastasia, the Zoo's 12-year old female Amur tiger, following weeks of illness. Anastasia was born at Seneca Park Zoo in 2005.

Anastasia first exhibited signs of illness six weeks ago. Veterinary staff performed a series of medical evaluations and tests but were unable to obtain a definitive diagnosis. Despite extraordinary care, her condition continued to decline, and the decision was made to euthanize the tiger.

Dr. Jeff Wyatt, D.V.M., the Zoo's Director of Animal Health and Conservation, performed a necropsy. Results revealed that Anastasia had metastatic lymphatic cancer in her trachea and lungs.

The Zoo is also home to Anastasia's sister, Katya, also born at Seneca Park Zoo in 2005. "Amur tigers are by nature, solitary animals," said **Larry Sorel**, Zoo Director. "Anastasia and Katya have lived separately for many years, with zoo keepers alternating which tiger had access to the main habitat twice daily. We don't expect Katya to display any reaction to the absence of Anastasia."

Amur tigers are native to Russia, China and northern Korea. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists Amur tigers as Red List status: Endangered. There are only 540 Amur tigers remaining in their natural range.

"The loss of Anastasia impacts us all deeply," said **Pamela Reed Sanchez**, Executive Director of Seneca Park Zoo Society. "She was born here, so the Zoo staff and community have, in a sense, grown up with her. She was a magnificent animal that inspired Zoo guests to care about wildlife in general, and about Amur tigers in particular."

***Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.