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ELDERLY RED WOLF DIES FOLLOWING SUDDEN ILLNESS AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

TACOMA, Wash. - An 11-year-old female red wolf died at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium this morning following a sudden illness.

Veterinarians evaluated Havana last week for gastrointestinal problems, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Head Veterinarian Dr. Karen Wolf said.

On Monday evening, zookeepers noted Havana was lethargic, and she was provided supportive treatment. Tests showed her kidneys were compromised, Dr. Wolf said. Her condition worsened today, and she was taken to the zoo's animal health care facility for further evaluation and treatment.

She died at the animal hospital. The cause of her death is not known. Results of a necropsy are pending.

Red wolves, native to the Southeastern United States, are critically endangered.

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is a recognized leader in the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan® and has worked for four decades to save the species from extinction.

Four red wolves currently live at the zoo. Three are brothers born here three years ago.

Only about 75 to 100 red wolves remain in the wild. There are 190 in approved SSP zoos and breeding facilities in the United States.

The median life expectancy for a red wolf is about 10 years.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).