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ENDANGERED SUMATRAN TIGER DIES OF APPARENT LIVER DISEASE AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM



TACOMA, Wash. – An endangered Sumatran tiger died at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium on Sunday after a brief illness.

Veterinarians performed a necropsy on 5-year-old Bima Sunday evening, but the results are pending and the exact cause of his death has not been determined.

“He had markedly elevated liver enzymes consistent with hepatitis,” head veterinarian Dr. Karen Wolf said.

Tissue samples are being analyzed and will help to determine cause of death, she added. “We are doing everything possible to identify the cause of his illness as it was sudden and unexpected.”

He received intensive care and treatment for several days before he died, Wolf said.

Bima was born in May 2010 at Point Defiance Zoo.

“Our entire zoo family is saddened by the loss of this magnificent tiger,” said General Curator Karen Goodrowe Beck, who is vice

chair of the Sumatran tiger Species Survival Plan® in North America.

“Bima grew up here at the zoo and was a wonderful ambassador for his species. We know our visitors learned a great deal about Sumatran tigers and the perils they face in the wild because of Bima’s presence in Tacoma.”

Sumatran tigers are endangered. Only about 300 remain in the wild on their native island of Sumatra. There are just 75 in North American zoos.

Seven other tigers, including Bima’s mother, Jaya, live at Point Defiance Zoo. None of the zoo’s other tigers is showing signs of illness, Wolf said.

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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).

