



*For Immediate Release*

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Keisha Hines-Davis – Director of Public Relations and Communications  
404.624.5980 – office  
404.309.2238 – cell  
[khines-davis@zooatlanta.org](mailto:khines-davis@zooatlanta.org)

Simone Griffin – Public Relations Coordinator  
404.624.2809  
[sgriffin@zooatlanta.org](mailto:sgriffin@zooatlanta.org)

**OLDEST MALE BONGO ANTELOPE IN NORTH AMERICA PASSES AT ZOO ATLANTA**

*Bingo was among the oldest of his species in the world*

**ATLANTA – May 27, 2009** – Zoo Atlanta President and CEO Dennis Kelly announced today that Bingo, a male eastern bongo antelope, was euthanized on Sunday, May 24. At 17, Bingo was the oldest male bongo living in an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institution. He was also the fourth oldest bongo in captivity worldwide. Zoo Atlanta's Animal Management and Veterinary Team based the decision to euthanize Bingo after his health began to decline suddenly on Saturday. Born May 5, 1992 at Miami Metrozoo, Bingo had lived at Zoo Atlanta since 2002.

"We are saddened by the passing of Bingo, who was a special part of the Zoo Atlanta family and an important representative of this endangered species," said Kelly. "The fact that he was one of the world's oldest bongos is evidence of the superior care he received throughout his life."

A necropsy was performed at the University of Georgia through Zoo Atlanta's partnership with the Department of Pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and results will be available in several weeks.

Eastern bongos are among the Zoo's most endangered mammals, with fewer than 500 believed to remain in the wild. Zoo Atlanta participates in AZA's Bongo Species Survival Plan, which seeks to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically diverse population within North American zoos and has reintroduced bongos to eastern Africa.

Zoo Atlanta's female eastern bongo, Mzima, 19, is the oldest bongo living in an AZA institution and the second oldest of her species in captivity in the world.

[About Zoo Atlanta](#)

An accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta inspires value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family fun. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with more than 1,000 animals from around the world. The Zoo's newest attraction, Boundless Budgies: A Parakeet Adventure, opened in April 2009. The interactive new experience is the largest of its kind in the Southeast. Zoo Atlanta is also the proud home of Xi Lan, the only giant panda cub born in the U.S. in 2008. Other highlights include one of the nation's most recognized collections of great apes and a global center of excellence for the care and reproduction of vanishing amphibians and reptiles. Zoo Atlanta is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, call 404.624.WILD or go to [zooatlanta.org](http://zooatlanta.org).

###