



*For Immediate Release*

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**ZOO ATLANTA MOURNS PASSING OF SUMATRAN TIGER**  
*Geriatric cat was a valuable ambassador for a critically endangered species*

**ATLANTA – June 3, 2010** – Zoo Atlanta President and CEO Raymond King announced today that Jalal, a male Sumatran tiger, was euthanized on June 3. Jalal would have been 17 in two weeks, making him one of the oldest males currently in a zoo. The Animal Management and Veterinary Teams based the decision to euthanize the geriatric cat on a recent decline in his health.

"We are saddened by the passing of Jalal, who was special to us not just for his beauty and popularity, but for his role as an ambassador for a critically endangered species," said King. "The fact that he enjoyed so many long and active years is a significant tribute to the diligent care and enrichment he received throughout his life."

Born June 14, 1993 at Smithsonian's National Zoo, Jalal arrived at Zoo Atlanta in April 1998. He is survived by one offspring, Bahagia, born at Zoo Atlanta in November 2000 and now a resident of the Sacramento Zoo.

Sumatran tigers are one of the world's rarest tiger species, with fewer than 400 believed to remain in the wild. The critically endangered species is threatened primarily by habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and poaching for traditional medicines.

As is the case with all animal deaths, regardless of age, a necropsy will be 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.

Zoo Atlanta is also home to a younger pair of Sumatran tigers, female Chelsea, 6, and male Kavi, 9, who are set to make their long-awaited return to a brand-new habitat with the opening of Trader's Alley: Wildlife's Fading Footprints on Friday, June 11. In addition to breathtaking new views of the charismatic big cats, as

well as the exciting debut of new sun bears and tanuki, Trader's Alley will feature a thought-provoking series of educational exhibits devoted to the global issue of the wildlife trade. Stay tuned to [zooatlanta.org](http://zooatlanta.org) for details.

#### **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. An all-new carnivore complex, featuring the exciting debut of two new sun bears, is scheduled to open in June 2010. Zoo Atlanta is also the proud home of Xi Lan, the only giant panda cub born in the U.S. in 2008, and the popular Boundless Budgies: A Parakeet Adventure, the largest interactive experience of its kind in the Southeast. Other highlights include the nation's largest collection 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 visit [zooatlanta.org](http://zooatlanta.org).

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