



For Immediate Release

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ZOO ATLANTA ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY NECROPSY RESULTS

ATLANTA – July 13, 2010 – Officials at Zoo Atlanta were saddened to announce that Sandar, a 3-month-old male Bornean orangutan, was euthanized on July 1, 2010, following multiple health complications since birth. Preliminary observations from a necropsy conducted by The University of Georgia’s Department of Pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine on July 2, 2010, indicate that Sandar’s deteriorating health resulted from an enlarged heart and abnormal lungs among other issues. Final necropsy results are expected in several weeks after a histopathological review of various tissue samples.

“Zoo Atlanta is grateful for the outstanding work, dedication and professionalism of our colleagues at the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine,” said Raymond King, President and CEO. “We are extremely grateful to the nurses from Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, as well as to the specialists who devoted such energy and empathy to trying to help Sandar survive. I would also like to thank everyone for their kind words and condolences.”

Zoo Atlanta houses the nation’s largest zoological collection of orangutans, now with 10 individuals living in separate family groups. Lori Perkins, Director of Animal Programs, chairs the Orangutan Species Survival Plan (SSP).

Native to the island of Borneo in Indonesia, Bornean orangutans are endangered because of habitat conversion to palm oil plantations, over-harvesting of timber and human encroachment. Bornean orangutans are more numerous than their critically endangered Sumatran counterparts, also represented at Zoo Atlanta, but experts predict that both could become extinct without targeted conservation efforts.

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, Trader’s Alley: Wildlife’s Fading Footprints, featuring the debut of two new sun bears, opened in June 2010. Other highlights include the nation’s largest collection of western lowland gorillas, the nation’s largest zoological collection of orangutans and a global center of excellence. Zoo Atlanta is also proud to be one of only four zoos in the U.S. that giant pandas call home. The

Zoo 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.

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