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Toledo Zoo Chimpanzee Dies

Toledo, OH- Fifi, a 49-year-old female chimpanzee died late Friday afternoon at The Toledo Zoo. A necropsy performed by the Zoo's veterinary staff Saturday revealed possible blood vessel abnormalities in the brain, but further tests are pending. Fifi was one of the oldest females in the North American zoo population.

On Thursday morning, Fifi's keepers noticed that she seemed stiff and tired. The Zoo's Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Chris Hanley, did a visual examination and started her on medication. Animal care staff monitored her closely. By Friday morning her condition was improving; she was moving better and was more active. She appeared disoriented in the afternoon. Later that afternoon she deteriorated very rapidly and died shortly thereafter.

Fifi came to the Zoo in 1963 at the age of three and was readily identifiable in the Kingdom of the Apes exhibit by the small white toy alligator she carried with her for 9½ years. The Toledo Zoo houses one other chimpanzee, a 50-year-old male named Harvey. The Zoo will work with the chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (a cooperative breeding and conservation plan established by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums) to determine the best social situation for Harvey while he remains at The Toledo Zoo.

The Toledo Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit www.toledozoo.org or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement.

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