



TOLEDO
ZOO[®]

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Gorilla Dies at Toledo Zoo

Toledo, Ohio—Malaika, a 38-year-old female gorilla, died early Tuesday afternoon at The Toledo Zoo. She had developed an intermittent cough over the past ten days that had not responded to treatment. On Tuesday Malaika was immobilized for a complete examination, and a cardiac evaluation showed that she was in congestive heart failure. During recovery from the anesthesia, she went into full cardiopulmonary arrest and could not be resuscitated. A necropsy performed late Tuesday afternoon supported congestive heart failure as well as some kidney abnormalities.

Malaika was born at The Toledo Zoo in 1971 and remained at the Zoo throughout her life. She had three offspring, and two of her grandchildren, male Bwenzi and female Dara, continue to live in the Zoo's Kingdom of the Apes. The Toledo Zoo is also home to female gorillas Johari (Malaika's daughter), Kitani and Nia Lewa and male gorillas Juba and silverback Kwisha.

Executive Director Dr. Anne Baker expressed sadness on behalf of The Toledo Zoo staff, and celebrated the life and contributions of this beloved great ape. "By bringing three offspring into the zoo gorilla population," Dr. Baker stated, "Malaika played an important part of the preservation of the species during her long life. Even as we miss her, we take comfort in the legacy that she left behind." The life expectancy for gorillas in zoo settings is about 31 years.

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 committed to inspiring others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.

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