



TOLEDO
ZOO[®]

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Zebra Dies at Toledo Zoo

Toledo, Ohio—The Toledo Zoo reports the death of a 9-year-old zebra early Wednesday morning. The zebra, a male named Meru, suffered a suspected reaction to haldoperidol, a mild sedative. This medication was administered to facilitate the zebra's introduction into *Africa!*, a multispecies exhibit that is open during the warmer months. The Zoo's other zebra, a 10-year-old male named Tsavo, also experienced a reaction to the medication, but he is expected to make a full recovery. After presenting with symptoms on Tuesday, both zebras received treatment throughout the night.

According to Dr. Anne Baker, the Toledo Zoo's Executive Director, the animals exhibited in *Africa!* often have a lot of pent-up energy in the Spring, much like children do when warm weather arrives. The haloperidol calms the animals and facilitates a safer introduction into the exhibit." The Zoo's two zebras arrived in March 2004, and had received haloperidol each year since their arrival. Doses administered this year had been administered in prior years with no ill effects. It is unclear what caused both animals to have a reaction to the medication this year; further tests are pending.

The introduction of animals into *Africa!* is continuing according to schedule, and the exhibit will be fully open in the coming weeks. Tsavo the zebra will continue to be monitored and is expected to be introduced into *Africa!* soon.

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.toledo zoo.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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