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Zoo Mourns Death of Cheetah

June 22, 2017 – *Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) is mourning the death of male cheetah, Roho, due to ongoing health complications. Roho passed in veterinary care on June 20th during an in-depth examination.

Recently, keepers noticed intermitted lethargy and decreased appetite in the five-year-old cheetah. Roho, a diabetic with a history of gastro-intestinal issues, was scheduled for a full examination in the Animal Health Center.

Roho came to the Jacksonville Zoo in Gardens in 2014 with his companion Steve from the WILDS, an extension of Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. While Steve and Roho are not litter-mates, they do have the same father, and formed a bond referred to as a “coalition,” in which male cheetahs live together.

Roho will be greatly missed by his keepers, who formed a particularly close bond with him through the extra care needed to manage his insulin care, the guests, especially those used to seeing him as they pass by on train, and by his brother Steve.

Initial findings are consistent with necrotizing pancreatitis, an infection within the pancreas that can be challenging to treat. Further examination will be performed to determine if there are any additional health factors that may have contributed to his death.

Photo Credit: Rob Bixby and John Reed

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About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the over 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world, and here in NE Florida. JZG is proud to be an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit jacksonvillezoo.org.

