

Seneca Park Zoo, 2222 St. Paul St., Rochester

www.senecaparkzoo.org

Contact: Pam Cowan, Public Relations and Marketing Director
(585) 336-7201 or pcowan@senecazoo.org



Zoo announces death of male Arctic wolf

Rochester, NY – July 15, 2010 — Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo regretfully announces the passing of Nikko, the 14-year-old male Arctic wolf. Nikko was born on May 3, 1996, and came to the Zoo from Jungle Cat World in Ontario, Canada, on July 30, 1996.

Dr. Jeff Wyatt, Director of Animal Health & Conservation at the Seneca Park Zoo, said the preliminary diagnosis is progressive heart failure and pneumonia related to his advanced age. Final necropsy results will be available in about six weeks.

“Nikko loved to eat chicken gizzards and fresh produce and would always howl when hearing a siren in the distance,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “He has lived at the Zoo since he was 12-weeks-old and his long life was truly a testament to the high quality of care from his keepers. He will be dearly missed by our staff and many visitors.”

The Seneca Park Zoo is the only zoo in the U.S. that houses this subspecies (*Canis lupus albus*) of Arctic wolves. Nikko’s sister, Luna, still lives at the Zoo.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Arctic wolf is not considered threatened. In the wild, they live far away from humans in the high arctic tundra most of the year and are not endangered through hunting or habitat destruction.

Seneca Park Zoo is owned and operated by Monroe County. The Seneca Park Zoo Society is a not-for-profit organization which has, since 1957, provided education, fundraising, special events and public relations support to Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo. The Society offers various levels of membership to the Seneca Park Zoo, which includes discounted and/or free admission to more than 170 zoos and aquariums across the country. For additional information, check us out on the Web at: www.senecaparkzoo.org.