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Seneca Park Zoo announces death of sea lion
In an unrelated incident, orangutan injured

Rochester, NY – September 16, 2016 – Monroe County's Seneca Park Zoo sadly announces the death of Marina, the Zoo's seven-year-old California sea lion and mother to Sunny, born earlier this summer.

"Yesterday was a tragic day at Seneca Park Zoo," said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. "Marina was a beloved animal to all Zoo guests and a wonderful mother to Sunny and to PJ in 2013. She will be very sadly missed."

Marina appeared to have a seizure while on exhibit, but the cause of the unexpected death will not be known until the results of a full necropsy are available. Zoo staff will be working very closely with Sunny to care for her after this loss.

In an unrelated incident yesterday, Bella, the 3-year-old female Bornean orangutan, sustained injuries and will be off-exhibit for the coming weeks. Bella was injured in her habitat during off-hours. She has undergone surgery and is being monitored by veterinary staff. The team is cautiously optimistic about her recovery.

"This is heart-breaking for Seneca Park Zoo" Pamela Reed Sanchez, Executive Director of the Zoo Society, commented. "Zoo staff, and especially our amazing team of zoo keepers and veterinary staff worked heroically on behalf of both Bella and Marina. Please keep our zoo keepers in your thoughts during this difficult time."

Grief counselors were at the Zoo to help staff. Zoo officials will be available for questions on Zoo grounds from 11-12 today.

Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction