



August 15, 2023

SENECA PARK ZOO MASAI GIRAFFE POST-PROCEDURE UPDATE

Seneca Park Zoo's Masai giraffe Kipenzi was anesthetized today to biopsy and x-ray a growth in her jaw. The procedure is complete and Kipenzi is now awake and walking.

ROCHESTER, NY — Seneca Park Zoo's female Masai giraffe, known to the public as Kipenzi, was anesthetized this morning to biopsy and radiograph a growth on her jaw. The growth was observed by staff in late spring 2023 and has been monitored closely by Animal Health and Animal Care teams. The procedure went well and the team was able to remove samples of the growth for testing and take x-rays. Kipenzi is now awake and walking and will continue to be monitored closely.

"It was inspirational to see this amazing group of professionals come together to care for her," **said Seneca Park Zoo Superintendent Steve Lacy**. "We are grateful to the surgeons and specialists from Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Genesee Valley Equine Clinic, Pittsford Animal Hospital, and Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Services who worked seamlessly together to provide world-class care for Kipenzi. We also thank the public for their overwhelming support."

Dr. Chris McKinney, Veterinarian at Seneca Park Zoo, lead the team and was joined onsite at the Seneca Park Zoo by Dr. Priya Bapodra-Villaverde, Senior Veterinarian at the Columbus Zoo and AZA Giraffe SSP co-veterinary advisor; Dr. Sarah Pell, Veterinarian at Genesee Valley Equine Clinic; Dr. Sara Heslop, Veterinarian at Seneca Park Zoo and Pittsford Animal Hospital and; Dr. Lindsay St. Germaine from Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Services; Dr. Laurissa Coombs, Veterinarian at ARK Animal Hospital; Seneca Park Zoo Animal Care and Animal Health teams; and professionals from other zoological organizations.

"We are grateful for the extraordinary efforts the team at Seneca Park Zoo have put into caring for Kipenzi, and for all of the experts who traveled from across the country to participate in today's procedure," **said Monroe County Executive Adam Bello**. "Our thoughts are with them, the zoo staff and with Kipenzi as they continue to care for her in the coming days."

Kipenzi, who turned six this year, arrived at the Seneca Park Zoo in August 2018. She was the first giraffe to join the Zoo's "Animals of the Savanna" exhibit.

Zoo officials will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

The Animals of the Savanna barn will be closed today, August 15th to accommodate our Animal Health and Care teams. We ask the public for their understanding while the barn is closed. The Zoo will reopen the barn as soon as is safe for the giraffes.

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.

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