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## **Amur Tiger at Seneca Park Zoo Responding Well to Treatment for Nonmalignant Tumor**

**ROCHESTER, NY** — The veterinary team at Seneca Park Zoo confirmed today that female Amur tiger, known to the public as Katya, is undergoing treatment for a noncancerous tumor on her bladder wall.

"We discovered the mass during a routine physical evaluation about a year ago," said Seneca Park Zoo Veterinarian Dr. Chris McKinney. "Given her advanced age, and because testing indicates it is likely a noncancerous tumor, surgery is not an option. We began a protocol of Immunocidin, the same medication we used to slow the growth of Masai giraffe Kipenzi's malignant tumor."

On March 20, 2025, Katya was sedated for treatment of an ingrown nail, common in geriatric big cats, and for an ultrasound of her bladder to check the tumor. The ultrasound shows that the bladder tumor has reduced in size about one-third since February 2024.

"Clearly, the medication is helping, and Katya has not shown any symptoms related to her tumor," Dr. McKinney continues. "Her blood work also looks very good. She does have some arthritis which is very common at her age. She receives weekly laser therapy for her hips and shoulders, as well as medications to reduce inflammation to help alleviate arthritic symptoms."

At nearly 20 years old, Katya is presently the oldest Amur tiger in any zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Median life expectancy of Amur tigers is 14.3-16 years in human care.

"Katya's advanced age is a testament to the care she receives from our Animal Health and Animal Care teams," said Seneca Park Zoo Director Bob Lee. "Our teams will continue to monitor Katya closely for any changes in health."

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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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