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SENECA PARK ZOO'S 20-YEAR-OLD AMUR TIGER KATYA DIAGNOSED WITH EARLY-STAGE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Rochester, N.Y. — September 12 — Seneca Park Zoo today announced that Katya, the Zoo's 20-year-old female Amur tiger, has been diagnosed with early-stage chronic kidney disease (CKD). Katya is the oldest Amur tiger in AZA zoos.

CKD is common in aging cats of all species, including domestic cats, and is one of the most frequently diagnosed conditions in older felines. The disease involves a progressive loss of kidney function over time. Kidneys play a vital role in filtering waste products from the bloodstream and producing urine, while also helping to regulate blood pressure.

"The good news is that Katya's condition was identified very early thanks to routine screening bloodwork," said Zoo Veterinarian, Dr. Chris McKinney. "At this stage, she's not showing any outward signs of illness and continues to be active, alert, and cooperative with her care."

As part of her treatment plan, Katya is receiving increased monitoring of her blood values and regular subcutaneous fluids to support hydration and help her kidneys flush metabolic waste products. Zoo staff are also working with Katya to measure her blood pressure using her tail, an important factor in managing CKD.

The course of chronic kidney disease varies significantly among cats. In some, the disease progresses quickly, while in others it advances slowly over several years. Because Katya's CKD was detected early, the Zoo's veterinary team is hopeful that her disease will progress gradually, allowing her to maintain a good quality of life for the foreseeable future.

“Katya is a beloved member of our Zoo family and an important ambassador for her species,” said Bob Lee, Director of Seneca Park Zoo. “Our dedicated and expert staff are committed to providing her with the specialized care she needs as she progresses through her senior years.”

Amur tigers are a critically endangered species with fewer than 500 individuals remaining in their natural range. Katya has played a vital role in educating guests about tiger conservation and the challenges facing big cats around the globe.

For more information about Seneca Park Zoo and its commitment to animal care and conservation, please visit www.senecaparkzoo.org.

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