

MARYLAND ZOO

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARYLAND ZOO SAYS GOODBYE TO BOSS THE AFRICAN PENGUIN

--Beloved penguin was one of the oldest in the U.S. --

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Zoo is saddened to announce that Boss, the Zoo’s oldest African penguin, was humanely euthanized today. He was 34 years old.

“Boss became lethargic a few weeks ago, and was being closely monitored by the *Penguin Coast* care team and Zoo veterinary staff. At such an old age, his health was in gradual decline,” said Jen Kottyan, avian collection and conservation manager.

Boss was the second oldest male penguin in the North American African penguin population according to the African Penguin Species Survival Plan (SSP) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The median life expectancy for male African penguins in human care is 22 years, which is a tribute to both the daily care and veterinary attention he received at the Zoo. During his life he produced 30 offspring, and was a grandfather and great-grandfather to many more penguins, including Zoo Animal Ambassador Sally and a recently hatched chick.

Boss hatched on October 12, 1985, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He came to The Maryland Zoo in 1990 and lived in the *Rock Island* habitat until 2014 when the Zoo opened *Penguin Coast*. The Zoo is currently home to more than 90 African penguins, including eight new chicks.

About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo’s varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the Children’s Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit www.marylandzoo.org.

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