



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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Female Rhino Dies at Age 42

Zoo saddened by loss of one of its oldest residents

JACKSON, MS 7/18/11

Having arrived at the Jackson Zoo in 1974, our female White Rhino had been born in the wild. "She was 42 years old, one of the older rhinos in captivity" said Dave Wetzel, deputy director.

Although she had been paired with a male (who passed last summer) for most of her stay here, she never produced any young. She was recently introduced to another older male for companionship before her death on Saturday.

Knicknamed, 'Longhorn' due to her elongated horn as seen in the picture below. White Rhinos are the largest of five species of rhino, weighing between 4,000-6,000 pounds. They are found in long and short grass savannahs and woodlands of southern and central Africa.



New male 'Ronnie' on left checking out female 'Longhorn' on the right.

The White Rhino is an endangered species due primarily to habitat loss and hunting. White rhino horn is used in the ceremonial dagger handles worn by men in Yemen as a status symbol. It is also sold illegally to Asian countries, especially China, the region of Taiwan and South Korea for use in traditional medicines.

Zoo admission is **\$9.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children ages 2-12**, and \$8.10 for senior citizens (65 and over). Children under the age of 2 and Friends of the Zoo members are admitted free of charge.

The Jackson Zoo is located at 2918 West Capitol Street in Jackson and is **open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Visit www.jacksonzoo.org to check out exciting special events, animal updates, one-of-a-kind education programs, membership and adoption packages, and so much more. The Jackson Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA is America's leading accrediting organization that sets rigorous, professional standards for zoos and aquariums. The AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement by engaging and inspiring the 143 million annual visitors to its member institutions and their communities to care about and take action to help protect wildlife.