

## **ZOO STAFF SADLY ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF FEMALE SUMATRAN TIGER**

**Toronto – December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** Despite the heroic effort by Zoo staff to save "Brytne", a 13 year old female Sumatran tiger, the Zoo sadly announces that the tiger has died from wounds inflicted by a 3 year old male tiger "Harimau Kayu". Upon seeing the conflict erupt between the two tigers, Keepers immediately intervened with emergency measures and separated the animals. Zoo Veterinarians have confirmed the death was the result of a crushed larynx..

Sumatran tigers are listed by the IUCN as critically endangered. Estimates are that only 300-500 animals exist in the wild. The North American captive population consists of 71 animals. The Toronto Zoo has been participating in the Species Survival Program (SSP) for Sumatran tigers since 1994. Harimau Kayu arrived in June from the San Diego Wild Animal Park on a SSP breeding recommendation. Brytne has contributed in the past to the global captive population of these rare animals, giving birth to two litters with another male "Rengat".

Over the past 6 months, Zoo staff has been working carefully on the introduction of these two animals to reside in the same exhibit habitat. Since October, the pair have been together off and on with positive behaviours such as nuzzling and chuffing being frequently observed. On rare occasions, in both the wild and captivity, tigers will fight and react instinctively. Zoo staff is devastated by the loss of this beautiful and loved animal of the Zoo community.

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### **About the Toronto Zoo:**

The Toronto Zoo is Canada's premier zoo and a leader in animal preservation and environmental protection. More than a tourist attraction, the Toronto Zoo boasts a number of leading programs for helping animals and their natural habitats – from species reintroduction to reproductive research. A world-class educational center for people of all ages, the Toronto Zoo is open every day except Christmas, and attracts approximately 1.3 million visitors each year.

Follow the Toronto Zoo on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TheTorontoZoo>

### **TO MEDIA:**

**A briefing with Maria Franke, Curator of Mammals, Toronto Zoo will be at 2:30pm today. Please arrive at the Zoo Front entrance.**

### **Contact:**

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