

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2011

Farewell to Homer

MIDLAND--- Midland Zoo announced the death of Homer, a 16-year-old polar bear, on Monday morning.

Homer was found afloat in the pool after his feeding with cause of death unknown.

This incident will undergo a full investigation to find the cause of death.

“We will do everything in our power to determine how this bear died,” zoo director Chris Teacon said “Animal welfare and the preservation of species are our primary goals here at the zoo.”

Polar bears have thrived at the zoo since 1985. Their unique exhibit allows the bears to engage in natural behaviors, playing in manufactured snow, digging in gravel and hunting trout in the chilled pool.

The bears are ambassadors for their wild relatives, educating zoo visitors about these threatened animals.

Out of the three bears, Homer was the oldest one at the zoo. The other two bears, a 9-year-old male named Yukon and a 10-year-old female named McKinzie, were removed from the exhibit and are being monitored by veterinary staff.

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“Homer was a very curious and playful polar bear and we will miss him terribly,” zookeeper Louise Getty said.

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Source: Louise Getty, Dr. Shirley Lear, & Chris Teacon
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