

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2009

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS AID IN TREATMENT OF TIGER

FRESNO, Ca. – Fresno Chaffee Zoo’s beloved female Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*) is currently recovering from medical treatment provided by Zoo medical staff, Dr. Lisa Ferretti, Dr. Stephen Davis, and St. Agnes Hospital. The 9-year old tiger, known as “Kiri”, recently began showing a decline in health. According to Zookeepers, Kiri began to demonstrate signs of lethargy and was unable to keep fluids down. After performing numerous procedures and tests to find the source of her illness, it was revealed there was a blockage in her esophagus. With the assistance of Zoo Veterinarian Dr. Lewis Wright, Dr. Davis and Endoscopy Technician Apple Ramirez attempted to remove the foreign body by performing an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy with equipment on loan from St. Agnes Medical Center. After unsuccessfully removing the foreign body, Kiri was transported to U.C Davis School of Veterinary Medicine where surgery was performed to remove the blockage.

A post-operative repeat of a GI endoscopy showed the presence of an esophageal stricture. It was determined by Drs. Wright & Davis that Kiri would need an additional procedure to dilate (stretch) the stricture in a couple of weeks.

On Friday April 18, Dr.’s performed another GI endoscopy on Kiri, where a balloon was inserted into her esophagus and expanded to dilate (stretch) her stricture. Kiri has since been placed on medication and a modified diet. With a stricture such as this, Kiri may require additional esophageal dilations. While Kiri is recovering she will be kept off exhibit.

Kiri came to Fresno in September 2000 on loan from the Cincinnati Zoo and quickly became one of the Zoo’s most popular animals. February 2005, Kiri became a permanent resident of Fresno Chaffee Zoo after a generous donation from the Cincinnati Zoo.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission during regular Zoo hours is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children 2-11 and seniors 62+, and children under 2 and Fresno Chaffee Zoo members are free. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to provide a fun, unique and up-close experience that strengthens the bond between people and wildlife. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

###