

Seneca Park Zoo, 2222 St. Paul St., Rochester
www.senecaparkzoo.org
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Rochester, NY – February 13, 2014 — Statement by the Seneca Park Zoo:

We have been asked by a number of our constituents how we deal with “surplus animals.” These questions have been posed in reaction to the euthanasia of a two-year-old giraffe at the Copenhagen Zoo. The Zoo has publically stated they euthanized the giraffe to prevent inbreeding.

Seneca Park Zoo, a partner and advocate for wildlife, is dedicated to ensuring that each of our animals receives the highest standards of care for the duration of their life. Seneca Park Zoo does not practice euthanasia of healthy animals as a breeding management tool.

North American Zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) participate in Species Survival Plans (SSPs). As part of these plans, animals are recommended to breed, or not breed, based upon population dynamics, available housing and family lineage. Animals in SSP programs are recommended to breed when sustainable housing for their offspring can be assured. When animals are not recommended to breed, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, including the Seneca Park Zoo, use birth control methods. Although our population management techniques do not include euthanasia, Seneca Park Zoo does limit the number of eggs that hatch from amphibians, birds and reptiles.

The Seneca Park Zoo is accredited by the AZA. There are more than 2,500 licensed animal facilities in North American but only about 220 are accredited by the AZA, which demands higher standards of animal care.

The Seneca Park Zoo Society is a not-for-profit organization which has, since 1957, provided education, fundraising, special events and public relations support to Monroe County, who owns and operates the Seneca Park Zoo. For additional information, visit www.senecaparkzoo.org.