

PRESS RELEASE

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North America's oldest pudu is euthanized

SEATTLE—A 16-year-old, male pudu (pronounced POO-doo) was euthanized yesterday, June 15, at Woodland Park Zoo after he sustained a leg fracture due to age-related arthritis. Named Englebert, the deer was the oldest living pudu ever recorded in the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' North American population.

Pudus are the smallest deer species in the world and are native to South America. The median life expectancy for pudus in zoos is 8 years old; pudus can live 8 to 10 years old in the wild.

Regular medical evaluations indicated the geriatric pudu was at risk for an injury due to his age-related condition, and the zoo's veterinary staff had been treating him with medication for pain and arthritis.

"During his advanced years, he did exceptionally well on pain relief and joint support medications, physical rehabilitation and husbandry support. He maintained a very active geriatric lifestyle, including breeding activity up until he fractured his leg," said Dr. Kelly Helmick, Woodland Park Zoo's associate veterinarian. "While it's always a difficult decision to humanely euthanize an animal patient, we are pleased with both the quality and length of life we were able to provide this very geriatric pudu."

As a standard procedure, the zoo's animal health team performed a necropsy (an animal autopsy). Preliminary findings confirmed age-related arthritis as well as age-related heart and kidney disease.

Englebert lived at Woodland Park Zoo since 2001 and successfully sired six offspring. "Due to the high level of care and support our keepers and veterinary staff provided Englebert, especially in his more advanced years, he lived a long and active lifestyle," said Mark Myers, a curator at Woodland Park Zoo. "Our zoo family and pudu fans will miss him."

A 4-year-old, female pudu remains at the zoo and can be seen in an exhibit next to the flamingos. Myers said the zoo is seeking a new male to join her.

The southern pudu ranges throughout the lower Andes of Chile and southwest Argentina and lives in dense vegetation and bamboo thickets. The small deer reaches only 14 to 18 inches high at the shoulder and weighs 14 to 30 pounds. Classified as a vulnerable species, the southern pudu faces destruction of its temperate forest habitat for cattle ranching, exotic tree plantations, logging and other human developments. The tiny, compact deer also has to escape feral or unleashed dogs that are often released into the countryside to hunt them. It is believed that fewer than 10,000 remain in the wild.

Woodland Park Zoo supports more than 35 field conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world, with a focus on the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats.

For more information about Woodland Park Zoo or to become a member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

Founded in 1924, the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](http://www.aaz.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science, and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and



aquariums in the United States and eight other countries. AZA is a leader in saving species and your link to helping animals all over the world.

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