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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO  
REGRETS TO ANNOUNCE DEATH OF JAGUAR, PAT**

MILWAUKEE, WI -- The Milwaukee County Zoo regrets to announce the death of one of its beloved residents, male jaguar, Pat. Due to kidney failure and subsequent quality of life concerns, the ~19-year-old jaguar was humanely euthanized Monday, Aug. 7. A wild-born animal, Pat arrived at the Zoo in 2008 from the Belize Zoo's Jaguar Rescue Center

Pat became a visitor favorite, as his unique backstory in the rainforests of Belize, Central America, touched so many. The rescue center in Belize accepted Pat after he became known to kill domestic livestock in the farming areas which encroach into jaguar habitats. The Belize Zoo rehabilitated Pat (and other wild jaguars that preyed on livestock), acclimated him to people and found an appropriate home for him at MCZ. He transferred here in March 2008.

Because Pat was born in the wild, and is unrelated to any captive jaguars, he added much needed genetic diversity to the captive jaguar population in U.S. zoos. Funding from generous donors allowed MCZ to modify Pat's den and outdoor exhibit to safely accommodate his preference to perch in trees. During his time here, he sired four offspring.

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Jaguar Pat - Milwaukee County Zoo  
Add one

Pat was the subject of the 2011 book “Pat the Great Cat,” a project initiated by SHARP Literacy, in conjunction with children of Belize and children of Milwaukee. The book, featuring text in both English and Spanish, relays Pat’s remarkable story, the wild world of jaguars and the need to save this “last great cat of the Americas.”

Additional necropsy results will be forthcoming in the next few weeks to months.

Pat served as an ambassador for his wild counterparts, and will be greatly missed by both visitors and staff.

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