

Photo available upon request



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8 March 2012

CONTACT: Jane Ballentine
O: 443-552-5275
C: 301/332-1742

MARYLAND ZOO ANNOUNCES THE DEATH OF SNOWY OWL

BALTIMORE -- The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is sad to announce the death of Sophie, a 4-year-old snowy owl, who died Saturday, March 3 during surgery.

“Sophie had reoccurring medical issues, and with intensive treatment and supportive care from animal and medical staff, she was able to recover from these problems in the past,” stated Mike McClure, general curator at the Zoo. “Unfortunately this time, after two weeks of intensive treatment, she did not respond. We are very sad to lose this struggle and she will be very missed by staff and guests.”

“A necropsy (animal autopsy) has been performed,” McClure continued. “Final results will be back in a few weeks, and we should learn more from these tests.”

The Maryland Zoo’s male snowy owl, a 13-year-old male, died of multiple medical issues in November. “Snowy owls are not easy to obtain,” explained McClure. “We are committed to this important species and will be making some exhibit changes before bringing them back.”

About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo’s varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the award-winning Children’s Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit www.marylandzoo.org.

###