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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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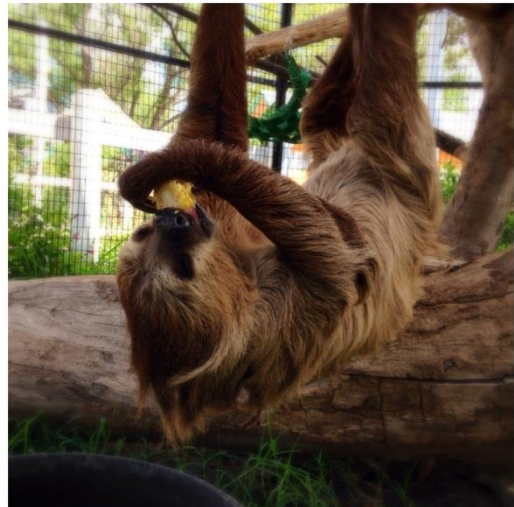
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**Abilene Zoo reports death of two-toed sloth**

ABILENE, TEXAS – The Abilene Zoo has lost a member of its animal family.

“Mocco,” a Linne’s Two-Toed Sloth that delighted guests in the zoo’s Caribbean Cove section, died Saturday of a gastrointestinal infection.

“Mocco became sick last week, and a bacterial gastrointestinal infection that had spread to the bloodstream (septicemia) was suspected,” explained Abilene Zoo Veterinarian Dr. Stephanie Carle. “Despite around the clock treatment with IV fluids and antibiotics, the animal passed away very early Saturday morning. Further tests are pending to try to determine the exact cause of death.”



Mocco was five years old and came to Abilene in 2012 from the Ellen Trout Zoo in Lufkin, where she was born. The zoo plans to acquire another sloth.

**About the Abilene Zoo:**

The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 900 animals of 250 different species. The zoo is open 7 days a week (closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last admittance is 4 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 3-12, \$5 for seniors aged 60+. Members are admitted free. Memberships start at \$30.

[www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org). 325-676-6085. Each summer, the zoo remains open every Thursday until 9 p.m.

**Mission Statement:** *The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.*