



In Memoriam
Erica, Bengal Tiger
1996-2011

(age is approximate)

Erica was one of the most beautiful, and one of the largest, of the Colton tigers who arrived at ARK 2000 in 2004. She was in Ravi and Ray Charles' group, the first eight tigers to arrive.

Erica has enjoyed good health and the company of Ravi, Ray, Amelia and Sunita for the past seven years in their spacious, grassy habitat, until her health began to decline this past month. An examination by PAWS' veterinarian, Dr. Jackie Gai, revealed kidney failure and other complications related to advanced age.

Our dedicated tiger keepers were carefully monitoring her condition, and the night keeper, Kayla, noticed a change in her breathing around 8:30 Saturday evening. Kayla immediately alerted PAWS' directors Pat Derby and Ed Stewart and Dr. Gai, who traveled back to San Andreas with her veterinary technician Tammy.

Pat, Ed, Dr. Gai and her assistant were joined by elephant supervisor, Brian Busta, and elephant consultant, Margaret Whittaker, who came to assist Dr. Gai and the devoted tiger keepers. Tiger supervisor Renae Smith also returned to ARK 2000 to be with Erica.

The dedication of PAWS' incredible staff and their devotion to the animals in their care is a striking example of the sanctuary philosophy. Sadly, there was little that could be done for Erica who was in renal failure. Erica was euthanized at 11:30 p.m. that evening with Dr. Gai and the PAWS' crew beside her.

Thank you to Kayla, tiger keeper, whose quick action and good judgment allowed us to provide Erica with the best of care in her final hours, and to Dr. Gai, Tammy, Margaret, Renae and all the tiger keepers who loved and cared for Erica. Happily, Erica enjoyed many years of peace and dignity with her tiger companions at ARK 2000.

Rest in peace, beautiful Erica.