

# Captive Giraffes— Premature Deaths in the U.S.

According to the *2011 Giraffe Studbook: North American Regional/Global*, the oldest captive giraffe in a U.S. zoo was approximately 40 years old when she died and the oldest to give birth was 31. The following is a partial listing of giraffes who died before 25 years of age or under unusual circumstances since 2000. Sources are available upon request.

**October 3, 2021/Dallas, Texas:** Marekani, a 3-month-old calf, was euthanized at the Dallas Zoo. On October 2, staff noticed her limping with no other signs of injury. By the next day, her lameness had increased. The veterinary team sedated her to find that she was suffering from a dislocated right elbow and fractures in the radius, ulna, and growth plate. The zoo euthanized her as the “catastrophic” injuries would not heal properly and would lead to painful long-term complications. Dallas Zoo said it was unsure how the injury occurred.

**September 23, 2021/Powell, Ohio:** Enzi, an 11-year-old Masai giraffe at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, was euthanized. During a routine foot radiograph, Enzi was found to have three toe fractures. He was fitted for a supportive shoe to aid the healing process but it was later determined that he had a deficiency that affected his skeletal and muscular strength. Experts believe the deficiency to have been from an intestinal condition that kept him from absorbing nutrients properly. As his health was declining, the zoo decided to euthanize him.

**September 15, 2021/Max Meadows, Virginia:** Cheeto, a 4-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized after staff members at Fort Chiswell Animal Park found him lying with his neck on the ground, unable to stand. Intravenous fluids were administered, but his condition continued to decline, and he was later euthanized.

**September 8, 2021/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** Burreaux, a 20-month-old reticulated giraffe, died at Baton Rouge Zoo after a sudden onset of symptoms including a severe cough and overall agitation. A necropsy report determined the cause of death to be anaphylactic shock.

**June 17, 2021/Cleveland, Ohio:** Bo, a 17-year-old Masai giraffe at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, was euthanized because of a rapid decline in health over several weeks after battling a “long-term illness.”

**June 17, 2021/Lufkin, Texas:** Kamili, a 17-year-old Masai giraffe at the Ellen Trout Zoo, died during labor. Her unborn calf also died. Kamili started labor on June 16, 2021. It did not progress throughout the night, and she died along with her calf the next day.

**May 4, 2021/Schnecksville, Pennsylvania:** Murphy, a 20-year-old Masai giraffe at the Lehigh Valley Zoo, was euthanized. The zoo stated that Murphy had been suffering from “age-related health ailments” and “had a limited response to ongoing treatment efforts.”

**April 2, 2021/Nashville, Tennessee:** Congo, a 16-year-old Masai giraffe, died from anesthesia complications during a medical procedure at the Nashville Zoo. The procedure was intended to treat a hoof abnormality that caused him pain and decreased mobility after other treatments had failed to improve his condition.

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### **April 2, 2021/Harpursville, New York:**

April, a 20-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Animal Adventure Park. According to the facility, after a year of declining mobility, veterinarians determined that her arthritis was worsening and that euthanasia was the “humane and appropriate course of action.” Her youngest son, Azizi, who was born in 2019, died when he was 18 months old. (See the October 27, 2020, entry below.)

### **January 21, 2021/Battle Creek, Michigan:**

Makena, a 21-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized after falling at the Binder Park Zoo. She had been suffering from arthritis and was undergoing treatment.

### **January 16, 2021/Nashville, Tennessee:**

A newborn Masai giraffe died shortly after being born. The Nashville Zoo announced that the calf’s mother, Nasha, accidentally stepped on the calf.

### **January 14, 2021/Providence, Rhode**

**Island:** Tufani, a 9-year-old Masai giraffe, died at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. She had been showing signs of gastrointestinal complications.

### **January 13, 2021/Abilene, Texas:**

Sunny, an 11-year-old giraffe, died unexpectedly at the Abilene Zoo. A necropsy later determined that a cardiac episode similar to a heart attack and inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract contributed to her death. Sunny left behind Edward, an 11-week-old calf.

### **December 14, 2020/Panama City Beach,**

**Florida:** A giraffe died at Zoo World. The roadside zoo apparently refused to provide any details in response to inquiries, such as the animal’s name, sex, age, and cause of death. In a statement, the zoo said, “Unfortunately one of our giraffes had a birth defect and despite all efforts by our veterinarians and staff [the death] was unavoidable. We prefer to focus on the

progress the zoo has made in the last 6 years, including the opening of our new lion exhibit this coming Sunday.”

### **October 27, 2020/Grand Saline, Texas:**

Azizi, an 18-month-old giraffe at the East Texas Zoo and Gator Park, died during a veterinary examination. A post-mortem review revealed a twisted gut.

### **October 22, 2020/Salina, Kansas:**

Btuanya, an 18-year-old-giraffe, was euthanized at the Rolling Hills Zoo. He was being treated for tendinopathy that was progressively getting worse.

### **October 9, 2020/Santa Rosa, California:**

Cosha, a 22-year-old giraffe, died at Safari West. No cause of death was mentioned.

### **October 6, 2020/Buffalo, New York:**

Sampson, a 5-year-old giraffe, died at the Buffalo Zoo. He developed complications following a medical procedure for a dental issue.

### **September 9, 2020/Phoenix, Arizona:**

Zuri, a 17-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Phoenix Zoo. She suffered from chronic mobility problems and progressive instability.

### **September 3, 2020/Kansas City,**

**Missouri:** Lizzie, an 8-year-old Masai giraffe, died at the Kansas City Zoo. She had been having gastrointestinal issues for several months and was euthanized when her health declined. Initial findings supported a diagnosis of rumenitis, and she had contracted salmonella. Her daughter, Dixie, had died two months earlier from the same ailments. (See the July 11, 2020, entry.)

### **August 26, 2020/Louisville, Kentucky:**

Malaika, a 23-year-old Masai giraffe, was euthanized at the Louisville Zoo. The zoo had been treating her for musculoskeletal

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problems, but the pain could no longer be controlled.

**August 13, 2020/Wichita, Kansas:** Lois, a 22-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Sedgwick County Zoo. She had a cancerous mass in her jaw.

**July 24, 2020/San Francisco, California:** Floyd, an 18-year-old reticulated giraffe, died at the San Francisco Zoo following “a significant decline in health” and joint degeneration.

**July 22, 2020/Santa Barbara, California:** A newborn Masai giraffe was euthanized hours after she was born at the Santa Barbara Zoo and began displaying “several potential congenital abnormalities.”

**July 11, 2020/Kansas City, Missouri:** Dixie, a 2-year-old Masai giraffe, died unexpectedly at the Kansas City Zoo. She had rumenitis, an inflammation of the stomach, and salmonella. Her mother died two months later from the same ailments. (See the September 3, 2020, entry.)

**June 5, 2020/Houston, Texas:** Tyra, a 21-year-old Masai giraffe, died following “several age-related changes associated with her digestive system” at the Houston Zoo.

**June 2020/Abilene, Texas:** Mesi, a 15-year-old giraffe at the Abilene Zoo, died after a urethral obstruction resulting from bladder stones.

**May 18, 2020/Des Moines, Iowa:** Samburu, a 24-year-old giraffe, died at the Blank Park Zoo.

**February 28, 2020/Cameron, North Carolina:** Stretch, a reticulated giraffe, died of “unforeseen natural causes” at the Aloha Safari Zoo.

**February 18, 2020/Evansville, Indiana:** Kizzie, a 19-year-old giraffe, died unexpectedly at the Mesker Park Zoo.

**January 6, 2020/Salt Lake City, Utah:** Pogo, a 17-year-old giraffe, died unexpectedly at the Hogle Zoo. Her unborn calf died with her.

**December 22, 2019/Phoenix, Arizona:** Makope, a 14-year-old giraffe, died at the Phoenix Zoo. She had developed sudden neurological abnormalities and had been undergoing medical treatment for several months because she was having difficulty navigating her surroundings.

**December 8, 2019/Columbus, Ohio:** Cami, a 6-year-old Masai giraffe, died at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. She had lost a calf during childbirth earlier in the week.

**November 28, 2019/Port Clinton, Ohio:** Three giraffes were among the 10 animals who died in a barn fire at the African Safari Wildlife Park.

**November 18, 2019/Cincinnati, Ohio:** Kimba, a 12-year-old giraffe, died at the Cincinnati Zoo. He had developed complications following a surgical procedure on his hooves. Kimba had been dealing with pain related to chronic lameness.

**October 22, 2019/Denver, Colorado:** Kazi, a 2-year-old giraffe, died while recovering from anesthesia following a castration procedure at the Denver Zoo.

**October 3, 2019/Melbourne, Florida:** T-Bone, a nearly 1-year-old Masai giraffe, died at the Brevard Zoo following a parasitic infection.

**August 25, 2019/Suamico, Wisconsin:** Hodari, a 15-year-old giraffe, died at the Northeastern Wisconsin Zoo following a brief illness.

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**August 24, 2019/Toledo, Ohio:** Trevor, an 8-year-old giraffe, collapsed and died at the Toledo Zoo.

**August 12, 2019/Montgomery, Alabama:** Connye, a 4-year-old giraffe, died unexpectedly at the Montgomery Zoo. A necropsy report was pending.

**August 10, 2019/Sacramento, California:** Val, a 24-year-old giraffe, was found dead in her sleeping quarters at the Sacramento Zoo. Zoo officials reported that she had been starting to show signs of aging, including lameness and joint deterioration. A necropsy report was pending.

**July 12, 2019/Salt Lake City, Utah:** Kipenzi (Kip), a 15-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Hogle Zoo. Zoo officials reported that she had shown signs of gastrointestinal distress and that her appetite had decreased. A necropsy determined that she had gastric ulcers in her stomach chambers, of which giraffes have four.

**June 17, 2019/Dallas, Texas:** Witten, a 1-year-old giraffe, died at the Dallas Zoo. He was under anesthesia while undergoing a physical exam when he suddenly stopped breathing.

**June 12, 2019/Nashville, Tennessee:** Margarita, a 14-year-old Masai giraffe, was euthanized at the Nashville Zoo “after she experienced complications from arthritis.”

**June 4, 2019/Toledo, Ohio:** Binti, a 1½-year-old Masai giraffe, was euthanized at the Toledo Zoo. She was found down and unable to stand in a holding area, and test results indicated multiple severe abnormalities.

**May 23, 2019/Des Moines, Iowa:** Zuri, a 21-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Blank Park Zoo because of “age-related health conditions.”

**May 10, 2019/Oakland, California:** Benghazi, a 23-year-old reticulated giraffe, died at the Oakland Zoo after suffering from a back injury for a year.

**May 3, 2019/Loxahatchee, Florida:** Lily and Jioni, two giraffes at Lion Country Safari, were struck and killed by lightning during a thunderstorm.

**March 21, 2019/Buffalo, New York:** Agnes, a 24-year-old giraffe, died at the Buffalo Zoo.

**February 20, 2019/Kansas City, Missouri:** Hamisi, a 9-year-old giraffe, died from “an acute spinal cord injury” at the Kansas City Zoo. His head got caught in a section of the barn that allows keepers to have access to the giraffes.

**December 29, 2018/San Diego, California:** Kumi, a 5-month-old giraffe, was euthanized after being gored in the stomach at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. According to the zoo, his wound was consistent with being gored by an antelope.

**December 4, 2018/Columbus, Ohio:** A giraffe calf died following complications during labor at the Columbus Zoo. This is the second giraffe death at the zoo in three weeks. (See the November 17, 2018, entry.)

**November 17, 2018/Columbus, Ohio:** Ubumwe, a Masai giraffe born on October 30, 2018, died from unknown causes after being treated for gastrointestinal discomfort at the Columbus Zoo.

**November 13, 2018/Omaha, Nebraska:** Sam, a 17-year-old giraffe at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, was euthanized after suffering from a degenerative joint disease for several years.

**November 3, 2018/Norfolk, Virginia:** A 2-week-old Masai giraffe died at the Virginia Zoo. He was being treated for a serious

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infection revealed through a blood test conducted following abrupt changes to his behavior and appetite.

**October 24, 2018/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Nairobi, a 21-year-old giraffe, died at the Honolulu Zoo.

**October 18, 2018/Des Moines, Iowa:** Lizzy, a giraffe who was not yet 2 years old, died suddenly at the Blank Park Zoo.

**October 5, 2018/Denver, Colorado:** Dikembe, a 24-year-old giraffe, was euthanized after showing signs of declining health at the Denver Zoo.

**October 1, 2018/Sanford, Florida:** Emba, a 22-year-old Rothschild's giraffe, was euthanized at the Central Florida Zoo after suffering from a degenerative spinal condition.

**September 9, 2018/Cumberland, Ohio:** A 2-month-old giraffe calf at The Wilds died suddenly.

**July 30, 2018/Colorado Springs, Colorado:** Penny, an 8-week-old giraffe at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, was euthanized because of a dislocated hip and other health complications. Surgeons at Colorado State University's veterinary school found an abscess in her abdomen and believe that she had an infection in three of her legs.

**July 5, 2018/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** Zahra, an 8-year-old giraffe at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, died after developing digestive issues. She had been being treated after exhibiting lameness and decreased appetite the previous month.

**May 14, 2018/Atlanta, Georgia:** Zuberi, an 8-year-old giraffe, died at Zoo Atlanta after getting his neck wedged in a metal railing.

**April 12, 2018/Toledo, Ohio:** Bahati, a 4-year-old Masai giraffe, was euthanized at

the Toledo Zoo after keepers found her on the ground and unable to get back up.

**March 20, 2018/Vallejo, California:** Rosie, a 10-year-old reticulated giraffe, died after lifelong health issues at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. She had recently been diagnosed with a degenerative joint disease.

**March 10, 2018/Fresno, California:** Gali, a 23-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. He had been suffering from severe arthritis.

**November 28, 2017/Baltimore, Maryland:** Juma, a 5-year-old giraffe at the Maryland Zoo, died from an "unknown illness."

**October 15, 2017/Jackson, Mississippi:** Casper, a 13-year-old giraffe at The Jackson Zoo, died of complications from a urinary blockage.

**August 25, 2017/Palm Desert, California:** Pona, a 16-year-old giraffe at The Living Desert, died unexpectedly overnight of unknown causes.

**August 22, 2017/Boston, Massachusetts:** Beau, an 18-year-old Masai giraffe, was euthanized at the Franklin Park Zoo for "quality of life reasons."

**July 15, 2017/Baltimore, Maryland:** One-month-old Julius, a giraffe at the Maryland Zoo, died after repeated attempts to prolong his life. He had been struggling with health issues since birth.

**June 29, 2017/New Orleans, Louisiana:** Jumo, a 9-year-old giraffe at the Audubon Zoo, died unexpectedly overnight of unknown causes.

**May 31, 2017/East Orange, New Jersey:** Hodari, an 11-year-old Masai giraffe, died at the Turtle Back Zoo from complications of anesthesia from a dental procedure.

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**May 28, 2017/Schnecksville, Pennsylvania:** Ernie, a 6-year-old Masai giraffe at the Lehigh Valley Zoo, died after critically injuring his neck after becoming aggressive with his father, Murphy. The two had recently been relocated from the Kansas City Zoo.

**April 13, 2017/Boise, Idaho:** Julius, an 11-year-old giraffe confined at Zoo Boise, was euthanized after he fell and wasn't able to get back up.

**March 6, 2017/Asheboro, North Carolina:** Jamali, a 9-year-old reticulated giraffe kept at the North Carolina Zoo, was found unresponsive after becoming accidentally entangled in a toy used for enrichment.

**January 18, 2017/Salt Lake City, Utah:** A 3-week-old female giraffe died at the Hogle Zoo. She had been struggling with health problems since birth.

**June 27, 2016/En route to Canada from San Diego, California:** A 5-year-old Masai giraffe delivered a stillborn calf while being transported from the San Diego Zoo to the Calgary Zoo. Both zoos were aware that a midterm pregnancy might be possible, but it was decided that it was safe for her to make the trip.

**June 24, 2016/Cleveland, Ohio:** Travis, a 9-year-old giraffe, died at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo from an untreatable acute urinary condition.

**April 6, 2016/Valdosta, Georgia:** Maggie, a 5-year-old giraffe at Wild Adventures Theme Park, died. She had been under veterinary care for gastrointestinal issues.

**April 3, 2016/Toledo, Ohio:** Asha, a 1-year-old Masai giraffe newly acquired by the Toledo Zoo from the Santa Barbara Zoo, was euthanized after she fell while in quarantine. An X-ray showed a compound spiral fracture in her right hind leg.

**March 19, 2016/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** Hope, a 24-year-old giraffe at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo, was euthanized after she was unable to stand. She had been receiving treatment for a chronic limp.

**March 19, 2016/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** Mopani, a 30-year-old giraffe, died at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo after she was fatally injured by Roan, a male giraffe. They had been placed in the same stall during severe weather.

**March 14, 2016/Erie, Pennsylvania:** Mitch, a 14-year-old giraffe at the Erie Zoo, was euthanized after he couldn't stand on his own. He had suffered for more than a year from leg and foot problems.

**February 22, 2016/Houston, Texas:** Mtembei, an 8-year-old Masai giraffe at the Houston Zoo, was euthanized after he was unable to stand after falling.

**January 5, 2016/Miami, Florida:** An 8-month-old giraffe named Wesley at Zoo Miami was euthanized after getting his head lodged between two posts. He sustained a spinal injury after he panicked and "pulled his neck."

**December 29, 2015/Montgomery, Alabama:** Willie, a 12-year-old reticulated giraffe at the Montgomery Zoo, died after ingesting a rope that may have been in hay.

**October 28, 2015/Brookfield, Illinois:** Franny, a 24-year-old giraffe at Brookfield Zoo, was euthanized after suffering from degenerative arthritis.

**October 24, 2015/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** Bogy, a 15-year-old Rothschild's giraffe, died at the Oklahoma City Zoo. He had been suffering from recurring gastrointestinal issues for over a year.

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**October 9, 2015/Fresno, California:** A 1-month-old reticulated giraffe at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo died after sustaining a neck injury that resulted from becoming entangled in a wire barrier. He had been playing with other giraffes at the time.

**September 2, 2015/Santa Rosa, California:** A 12-day-old giraffe died at Safari West. A necropsy found that he had contracted an internal infection.

**August 24, 2015/Coal Valley, Illinois:** Mimi, a 12-year-old giraffe at the Niabi Zoo, died. Staff had noticed that she wasn't properly ruminating the previous day and placed her on watch.

**July 28, 2015/Dallas, Texas:** Kipenzi, a 3-month-old giraffe at the Dallas Zoo, died after breaking three vertebrae in her neck. She had run into the perimeter of the enclosure that she was confined to.

**July 2015/Coal Valley, Illinois:** Genesis, a male giraffe calf at the Niabi Zoo, was euthanized. His mother had accidentally stepped on him shortly after birth, and his injured ankle failed to heal.

**June 3, 2015/Springfield, Missouri:** Pammy J, a 2-year-old giraffe, died after being sedated for a medical procedure at the Dickerson Park Zoo.

**June 2, 2015/Cumberland, Ohio:** According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report, Little Dog, a 1½-year-old giraffe, was found dead with abdominal wounds in a pasture at The Wilds. They were presumed to have been caused by a rhino who shared the pasture.

**May 14, 2015/Houston, Texas:** Neema, an 8-year-old Masai giraffe, died at the Houston Zoo. A necropsy found that she had a complicated internal torsion.

**February 12, 2015/Peoria, Illinois:** An hours-old calf was euthanized at the Peoria Zoo. She was having difficulty breathing and had signs of neurological damage.

**January 12, 2015/Tupelo, Mississippi:** Tall Boy, a 20-year-old giraffe, died at the Tupelo Buffalo Park. The death was attributed to natural causes.

**December 23, 2014/Louisville, Kentucky:** Walker, a 21-year-old Masai giraffe suffering from mobility problems, was euthanized at the Louisville Zoo.

**November 21, 2014/Miami, Florida:** Fezzik, a 17-year-old reticulated giraffe, died at Zoo Miami. He went into cardiac arrest 30 minutes after being sedated in order to examine his leg, which he had trouble walking on.

**November 18, 2014/Cape May, New Jersey:** Aziza, a 20-year-old giraffe, died from a degenerative heart condition at the Cape May County Zoo.

**November 2014/Des Moines, Iowa:** Shani, a 21-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Blank Park Zoo after suffering from severe ligament and joint problems.

**October 8, 2014/Springfield, Missouri:** Cheka, a 21-year-old giraffe at the Dickerson Park Zoo, was euthanized when treatment for an injury to her ankle that occurred nearly 20 years previously during her move to the zoo was no longer bringing her any relief. She'd been losing weight and having mobility problems.

**September 30, 2014/Baltimore, Maryland:** Angel, a 17-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Maryland Zoo. She'd been showing signs of leg and back pain that had recently worsened.

**September 14, 2014/Sacramento, California:** Because of labor complications,

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Shani, a Masai giraffe at the Sacramento Zoo, gave birth to a stillborn calf.

**September 11, 2014/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** A newborn Rothschild's giraffe suffering from a congenital heart defect died at the Tulsa Zoo.

**August 28, 2014/San Francisco, California:** The smaller of a set of twins born two days earlier at the San Francisco Zoo died. He had been struggling since birth.

**August 20, 2014/Greenville, South Carolina:** Autumn, an 8-year-old Masai giraffe at the Greenville Zoo, gave birth to a stillborn calf.

**August 12, 2014/Cumberland, Ohio:** According to a USDA report, Naivasha, a 14-year-old Masai giraffe, was found dead in a stall at The Wilds.

**August 10, 2014/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A 4-day-old giraffe died of unknown causes at the Tupelo Buffalo Park.

**July 16, 2014/Topeka, Kansas:** Jesse, a 24-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Topeka Zoo. He was suffering from laminitis, which limited his mobility and was causing increasing pain.

**May 28, 2014/Cumberland, Ohio:** According to a USDA report, Geraldine, an 8-year-old Rothschild's giraffe, was euthanized after being found recumbent at The Wilds.

**May 19, 2014/Jacksonville, Florida:** Zawadi, a 19-year-old giraffe, was euthanized after collapsing while being exhibited at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. It wasn't known why he collapsed.

**April 8, 2014/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** Kyah, a 6-month-old giraffe at the Oklahoma City Zoo, was euthanized during

surgery after complications occurred in an attempt to repair a condition called persistent right aortic arch. (A blood vessel had wrapped around her esophagus, cutting off the route to the stomach and preventing her from eating solid foods. The condition would only worsen with age.)

**December 29, 2013/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A fight between two giraffes at the Little Rock Zoo resulted in the death of 13-year-old Jigsaw. The other animal involved, Mesi, wasn't significantly injured.

**November 30, 2013/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** A 7-year-old giraffe died unexpectedly at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo. She'd been undergoing treatment for an illness for several months.

**November 28, 2013/Lufkin, Texas:** Rafiki, a 17-year-old Masai giraffe, was discovered dead in a stall at the Ellen Trout Zoo. The death was unexpected.

**November 20, 2013/Melbourne, Florida:** Duncan, an 11-year-old reticulated giraffe at the Brevard Zoo, was euthanized. He had been suffering from chronic lameness and was placed in a restraining chute for treatment. But although he was given a sedative, he wouldn't settle down. The procedure was stopped and Duncan exited the chute on his own, only to collapse. After five hours of failed attempts to help him, the zoo determined that he was suffering from capture myopathy—a condition that is stress-related and destroys muscle tissue.

**August 13, 2013/Coal Valley, Illinois:** A 1-week-old giraffe calf died of unknown causes at the Niabi Zoo. She had developed breathing problems shortly after birth.

**August 13, 2013/Thurmont, Maryland:** Rocket, a 4-year-old giraffe, died unexpectedly at the Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo.

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**August 13, 2013/Lufkin, Texas:** Emi Lane, a 16-year-old Masai giraffe, died of acute cardiac arrest at the Ellen Trout Zoo.

**July 12, 2013/Waco, Texas:** Jeffrey, a 21-year-old reticulated giraffe, died at the Cameron Park Zoo. Necropsy results were pending.

**June 20, 2013/Cumberland, Ohio:** According to a USDA report, Mickey, a 19-year-old giraffe, died after being gored by a rhinoceros at The Wilds.

**June 15, 2013/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Samburu, a 21-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Tulsa Zoo. He had a fractured foot and was unable to stand.

**April 22, 2013/Panama City Beach, Florida:** Elliot, a 5-month-old giraffe recently acquired by ZooWorld, was euthanized after sustaining injuries to his spinal cord. He had become stuck in “an open space” in the side of a barn and had struggled to get loose.

**April 19, 2013/Houston, Texas:** Yao Ming, a 7-week-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Houston Zoo. He had a bone infection that caused severe arthritis.

**February 17, 2013/Springfield, Missouri:** Thirteen-year-old Kamili was euthanized the day after giving birth to her seventh calf at the Dickerson Park Zoo. She wasn't producing enough milk, and her health declined until she was unable to stand.

**February 12, 2013/Fresno, California:** Gamba, a 15-year-old reticulated giraffe at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, died following an illness over the preceding two weeks. The cause of his death hadn't been determined.

**January 2, 2013/Atlanta, Georgia:** Mona, a 7-year-old giraffe at Zoo Atlanta, died from internal bleeding after collapsing.

**December 30, 2012/Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin:** A fire at the Timbavati Wildlife Park killed two 4-year-old giraffes.

**December 19, 2012/Bordentown, New Jersey:** Zuri, a giraffe at the Animal Kingdom Zoo, was euthanized after she was found collapsed in a barn and repeated attempts to get her back on her feet failed.

**December 18, 2012/Springfield, Missouri:** B.J., a nearly 1-month-old giraffe, died at the Dickerson Park Zoo. He wasn't nursing from his mother, so zookeepers were feeding him through a tube.

**September 13, 2012/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** A 3-day-old giraffe died unexpectedly at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo.

**August 21, 2012/Santa Barbara, California:** Daniel, a 19-month-old Masai giraffe, died of respiratory arrest following a dental procedure at the Santa Barbara Zoo.

**July 24, 2012/Panama City Beach, Florida:** Sydney, a giraffe in his early 20s, was euthanized at ZooWorld after he was found lying on the ground and attempts to help him stand failed.

**March 1, 2012/Houston, Texas:** Kiva, a 16-year-old Masai giraffe, was euthanized at the Houston Zoo. He was suffering from degenerative arthritis involving his front hoof joints.

**January 8, 2012/Winston, Oregon:** Kipande, a 6-year-old giraffe at Wildlife Safari, was found dead from an apparent fight.

**December 12, 2011/Nashville, Tennessee:** Savannah, a 7-year-old Masai giraffe at the Nashville Zoo, died, along with her unborn calf, after complications from pregnancy.

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**December 3, 2011/Portland, Oregon:**

Akeem, a 24-year-old reticulated giraffe at the Oregon Zoo, was euthanized after being found lying still in a corner of the barn. He didn't respond to attempts to help him stand.

**October 30, 2011/Bordentown, New Jersey:**

A giraffe and her 3-week-old calf died after a wall collapsed on them during a fire at Animal Kingdom Zoo. Firefighters were trying to get them out of a locked building. In addition to the giraffes, two dogs and a roomful of exotic birds died. This was the second fire in 2011—a fire in April claimed the life of the zoo's owner.

**September 5, 2011/Salt Lake City, Utah:**

A stillborn giraffe was born to 9-year-old Pogo at the Hogle Zoo.

**August 18, 2011/Norfolk, Virginia:**

A 3-week-old Masai giraffe was found dead in an enclosure at the Virginia Zoo. A necropsy showed that he had peritonitis.

**July 19, 2011/Tucson, Arizona:**

Watoto, a nearly 6-year-old giraffe, died after being fed toxic oleander trimmings by an apprentice keeper at the Reid Park Zoo. Twenty-year-old giraffe Denver became seriously ill after also eating the plants.

**July 17, 2011/Springfield, Missouri:**

A female giraffe calf died while still in the womb of 19-year-old Gidget at the Dickerson Park Zoo. She was determined to be underdeveloped after she was delivered.

**July 1, 2011/Cincinnati, Ohio:** Zuri, a 3-month-old giraffe at the Cincinnati Zoo, was euthanized six weeks after breaking her leg.

**July 1, 2011/Waco, Texas:** Julie, an 18-year-old reticulated giraffe at the Cameron Park Zoo, was euthanized after a deformity in her ankle, which she'd had for many years, began to deteriorate rapidly, making it difficult to walk and stand.

**June 18, 2011/Cleveland, Ohio:**

Brigit, an 18-year-old Masai giraffe, died at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. She was being treated for an extended bout of pneumonia and pleurisy.

**May 19, 2011/Buffalo, New York:**

Jennie, an 18-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Buffalo Zoo. She had failed to recover from anesthesia following a hoof-trimming procedure.

**April 14, 2011/Baltimore, Maryland:**

Zoe, a 16-year-old reticulated giraffe, died after receiving anesthetics during a medical procedure at the Maryland Zoo.

**February 6, 2011/Lufkin, Texas:**

Slim, an 18-month-old giraffe, collapsed and died unexpectedly at the Ellen Trout Zoo.

**February 5, 2011/Clovis, New Mexico:**

Jay, a 17-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Hillcrest Park Zoo. He was found lying down in a pen and was disoriented and had a bleeding head wound. There was an indication that he may have slipped on the ice outside the enclosure and hit his head on the fence before landing on the ground.

**January 13, 2011/Sugarcreek, Ohio:**

A 13-month-old giraffe was found dead in a barn at The Farm at Walnut Creek. She apparently died as a result of catching her head in a gate that hadn't been closed correctly.

**December 10, 2010/Springfield, Missouri:**

Stretch, a 23-year-old giraffe at the Dickerson Park Zoo, was euthanized because he suffered from severe arthritis. A preliminary necropsy showed that he had suffered from severe joint degeneration in both hips.

**December 7, 2010/Baltimore, Maryland:**

Mary, a 24-year-old reticulated giraffe, was

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euthanized at the Maryland Zoo. She had been suffering from progressive arthritis.

**November 19, 2010/Colorado Springs, Colorado:** Uhura, a 20-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo after she fell down a slope and wasn't able to get back on her feet.

**November 16, 2010/Norfolk, Virginia:** Keana, an 8-year-old giraffe at the Virginia Zoo, died because of a hoof condition that prevented her from standing.

**November 2010/Cincinnati, Ohio:** Akilah, a 3-year-old giraffe at the Cincinnati Zoo, died after her horns got caught in netting.

**October 14, 2010/Norfolk, Virginia:** A 5-day-old giraffe died at the Virginia Zoo. Preliminary findings indicated that he had acute septicemia, and abnormalities were found in his heart and lungs.

**September 20, 2010/Boise, Idaho:** Joseph, a 4-year-old giraffe, died unexpectedly of unknown causes at Zoo Boise.

**August 22, 2010/Suamico, Wisconsin:** A day-old giraffe died at the NEW Zoo. This was the second unsuccessful birth for 5-year-old Zuri.

**August 13, 2010/Topeka, Kansas:** B.G., a pregnant 24-year-old giraffe, was found dead in an outdoor exhibit at the Topeka Zoo. Fluid on the lungs, excessive heat, and a difficult pregnancy were being blamed.

**July 12, 2010/Houston, Texas:** Noel, a 15-year-old Masai giraffe, and her unborn calf died during labor at the Houston Zoo.

**July 4, 2010/Springfield, Missouri:** A giraffe calf who was only a few days old died at the Dickerson Park Zoo. She wasn't able to stand on her own and wasn't nursing from her mother.

**June 29, 2010/Peoria, Illinois:** Savannah, a 3-year-old giraffe, died in front of visitors at the Peoria Zoo. His head and neck got caught in the fork of a tree, and he flipped his body as he struggled to free his head.

**June 2, 2010/Springfield, Missouri:** Assante, a 10-year-old giraffe, was euthanized at the Dickerson Park Zoo after sustaining a broken neck while being transported from Walt Disney World in Florida.

**March 28, 2010/Salt Lake City, Utah:** Jamar, an 8-month-old giraffe calf at the Hogle Zoo, died. Necropsy results cited failure to thrive as the official cause of death.

**March 23, 2010/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** A giraffe was dismembered and placed in a trash bin following her death. The discovery caused the mayor of Albuquerque to order an investigation. Kashka, a 16-year-old giraffe, had died the previous week at the Rio Grande Zoo after sustaining a debilitating injury to her leg in a recent fall. Instead of following procedure to dispose of her remains, a zoo worker put them in a trash bin near the zoo.

**January 12, 2010/Lufkin, Texas:** Jumaane, a 2-year-old Masai giraffe, died unexpectedly from unknown causes at the Ellen Trout Zoo.

**January 10, 2010/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Amira, a 9-year-old giraffe held at the Tulsa Zoo, died of hypothermia. The USDA fined the zoo \$5,000 after a necropsy determined the cause of death.

**December 6, 2009/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Amali, a 5-year-old giraffe at the Tulsa Zoo, died after being sedated for a procedure to determine the cause of a neck injury that had occurred while she was being transported from a zoo in Ohio.

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**October 14, 2009/Buffalo, New York:** Akili, a 13-year-old reticulated giraffe, died unexpectedly at the Buffalo Zoo. The cause of death wasn't known at the time.

**September 11, 2009/Boston, Massachusetts:** Tweet, an 18-year-old giraffe known for Toys"R"Us commercials and the film *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, died after being forced to participate in filming for the movie *The Zookeeper* at the Franklin Park Zoo. He had been provided by Gary Gero's Birds & Animals Unlimited, a California-based animal trainer. His death was unexpected and of unknown causes.

**July 24, 2009/Los Angeles, California:** Asali, a 26-year-old Masai giraffe, died from birthing complications at the Los Angeles Zoo. Veterinarians had tried to remove a stillborn calf from her for two days, and she died after the calf was removed.

**May 20, 2009/Knoxville, Tennessee:** Jim, a 9-year-old giraffe at Zoo Knoxville, died. He was being monitored and treated for unexplained weight loss.

**March 16, 2009/Providence, Rhode Island:** A giraffe calf died during his mother's labor at the Roger Williams Park Zoo.

**February 15, 2009/Gulf Breeze, Florida:** Colby, a 13-year-old giraffe, died at the Gulf Breeze Zoo. He had been suffering from bouts of heavy vomiting and died after inhaling vomit into his lungs. He was found lying down and trying to get up.

**November 8, 2008/Boise, Idaho:** Shingo, a 2-year-old giraffe, died unexpectedly at Zoo Boise. A necropsy indicated that he died from peracute mortality syndrome.

**August 23, 2008/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Georgina, a 22-year-old giraffe at the Tulsa Zoo, died of unknown causes.

**August 14, 2008/Asheboro, North Carolina:** Azog, a 14-year-old giraffe at the North Carolina Zoo, died while undergoing surgery to remove a stone blocking his urinary tract.

**August 11, 2008/Louisville, Kentucky:** Zahara, a 3-year-old giraffe with a crooked neck, was euthanized at the Louisville Zoo after she was found unable to stand. Attempts to help her failed. It was determined that she had pinching of the spinal cord.

**July 29, 2008/San Francisco, California:** Gezi, a 9-year-old giraffe, died at the San Francisco Zoo. She collapsed and went into cardiac and respiratory arrest.

**May 25, 2008/Monroe, Louisiana:** A young male giraffe on loan to the Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo died from complications of bloat.

**May 11, 2008/Jackson, Mississippi:** A 6-day-old giraffe calf died at the Jackson Zoo. Necropsy results were pending.

**January 19, 2008/Brookfield, Illinois:** Dusti, an 11-year-old giraffe, was found dead with a rope around his neck at Brookfield Zoo. The rope was part of a pulley system in the hallway near the exhibit that he was kept in.

**January 11, 2008/Santa Barbara, California:** Gemina, a 21-year-old giraffe with a crooked neck, was euthanized at the Santa Barbara Zoo after her health began to decline.

**September 5, 2007/Vallejo, California:** Makonnen, a 2-year-old giraffe, died in a fire at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. It was caused by a malfunctioning electrical outlet in the giraffe barn.

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**August 9, 2007/Atlanta, Georgia:** Betunia, a 23-year-old Masai giraffe, died after a sudden illness at Zoo Atlanta.

**July 17, 2007/Gulf Breeze, Florida:** Sammy, a 10-year-old giraffe, was found dead in a habitat at the Gulf Breeze Zoo. A necropsy found that he had died of an upper neck injury, and it was presumed that he had collided with a post in the enclosure.

**June 19, 2007/Ludlow, Massachusetts:** According to a USDA report, a young male giraffe died at Lupa Game Farm. Staff speculated that the older male giraffe may have broken the younger one's neck while sparring.

**May 2, 2007/Portland, Oregon:** JC, a 16-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Oregon Zoo. She suffered from a pulmonary disease.

**April 27, 2007/Tucson, Arizona:** Yebo, a 17-year-old giraffe at the Reid Park Zoo, was euthanized when medication no longer helped his severe arthritis.

**April 13, 2007/Sioux Falls, South Dakota:** Davis, a 9-year-old giraffe, died following surgery at the Great Plains Zoo.

**November 30, 2006/Garden City, Kansas:** Makena, a 1-year-old giraffe at the Garden City Zoo, died of a broken neck. She had "wedged her head into a small opening inside a barn and panicked."

**November 14, 2006/Madison, Wisconsin:** Raymond Junior, a giraffe at the Henry Vilas Zoo, was euthanized after severely rupturing his hip joint. He suffered from a degenerative bone and joint disease. His father died the previous month. (See the October 15, 2006, entry.)

**October 15, 2006/Madison, Wisconsin:** Raymond, a 12-year-old giraffe at the Henry Vilas Zoo, was euthanized after repeated

attempts to get him to stand from a seated position failed.

**August 20, 2006/Minot, North Dakota:** Cher, a 3-week-old giraffe, died at the Roosevelt Park Zoo. Following a commotion in the giraffe pen, she was found "lying flat," and she died a short time later. It was speculated that she might have run into a wall.

**July 13, 2006/Atlanta, Georgia:** Aaron, a 9-year-old giraffe at Zoo Atlanta, died following an operation on his hoofs.

**May 21, 2006/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** A 12-year-old reticulated giraffe at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo died following a brief illness.

**April 10, 2006/Topeka, Kansas:** Desha, a 7-month-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Topeka Zoo. She had been born with congenital bilateral flexor tendon laxity of the lower limbs, which caused painful leg problems.

**October 27, 2005/Columbia, South Carolina:** Becky, a 15-year-old giraffe at the Riverbanks Zoo, died from complications following surgery for a foot problem.

**April 23, 2005/Columbus, Ohio:** Tsavo, a 14-year-old giraffe at the Columbus Zoo, was euthanized after he was found lying on the ground and repeated attempts to help him stand failed.

**April 13, 2005/Columbus, Ohio:** Kenya, a giraffe at the Columbus Zoo, died after being injected with the wrong drug during surgery.

**September 1, 2004/Racine, Wisconsin:** Chas, an 18-month-old Masai giraffe, was euthanized at the Racine Zoo after he was found unable to stand.

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**August 22, 2004/Knoxville, Tennessee:**

Magic, a 17-year-old giraffe, was found dead at the Knoxville Zoo (now called Zoo Knoxville). Preliminary tests showed a possible internal infection.

**March 25, 2004/Racine, Wisconsin:**

Karlie, a 3-year-old Masai giraffe at the Racine Zoo, died of spinal trauma. She injured her spine after getting her head stuck in a stall.

**March 13, 2004/Fresno, California:** A giraffe calf died less than a week after being born at the Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno (now called Fresno Chaffee Zoo). He had been born with a crooked spine and crushed ribs on one side. Preliminary postmortem results showed signs of pneumonia.

**February 8, 2004/Salt Lake City, Utah:**

Ruth, a 26-year-old giraffe at the Hogle Zoo, was euthanized after complications from a fractured hind leg.

**February 7, 2004/Salt Lake City, Utah:**

Kisii, a 10-year-old reticulated giraffe, was euthanized at the Hogle Zoo. She had collapsed and suffered from a sharp decline in her health.

**September 12, 2003/Madison, Wisconsin:**

Savannah, a 10-year-old reticulated giraffe, died at the Henry Vilas Zoo after she was discovered lying down and unable to get up in an outdoor exhibit. Preliminary findings indicated that she had sustained severe head trauma and cerebral bleeding.

**February 2, 2003/Seattle, Washington:**

Mahali, a 13-year-old reticulated giraffe at the Woodland Park Zoo, died of inflammation of the intestine, stomach problems, and kidney failure.

**September 2, 2002/Washington, D.C.:**

Griff, a 19-year-old Masai giraffe, died after a weeklong illness at the National Zoo.

**August 13, 2002/Milwaukee, Wisconsin:**

Kio, an 8-year-old reticulated giraffe, died following a brief illness at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

**February 9, 2002/ Washington, D.C.:**

Ryma, a 17-year-old giraffe at the National Zoo, died of a rare digestive illness that was brought on by other health problems, including arthritis, gum disease, and sinusitis.

**January 2, 2002/Salt Lake City, Utah:**

Sandile, a 7-year-old giraffe at the Hogle Zoo, died after getting his neck caught in some fencing, likely experiencing severe spinal trauma.

**October 25, 2001/Seattle, Washington:**

A 5-day-old giraffe died of an infection at the Woodland Park Zoo.

**October 7, 2001/Asheboro, North**

**Carolina:** A 5-year-old giraffe died at the North Carolina Zoo. He fell in a stall, and attempts to help him back onto his feet failed.

**August 3, 2001/Gulf Shores, Alabama:**

Shannon, a giraffe at the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo, died from a strangulated ileum.

**July 2, 2001/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:**

Rafiki, a 20-year-old giraffe, was found dead at the Philadelphia Zoo. He had a urinary tract blockage resulting from kidney stones.

**July 2, 2001/Toledo, Ohio:**

According to a USDA report, George, a male reticulated giraffe at the Toledo Zoo, died after being gored by a kudu. The animals had been known to be incompatible as far back as May 2000.

**January 11, 2001/Pittsburgh,**

**Pennsylvania:** A 17-year-old giraffe was euthanized at the Pittsburgh Zoo after she was found down in a stall and repeated attempts to help her stand failed. She had

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been ill for several months, and preliminary necropsy results indicated chronic inflammatory bowel syndrome.

**May 16, 2000/San Francisco, California:**

Amy, a 26-year-old reticulated giraffe, was found dead in an indoor stall of the San Francisco Zoo. The cause of death was unknown.

**March 21, 2000/Evansville, Indiana:**

Yoda, a 21-month-old reticulated giraffe, died of unknown causes at the Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden. He was found with his neck curved like a “C,” and his head was pointing toward the sky. He died overnight while under observation.

**February 17, 2000/San Francisco,**

**California:** Farrah, a 23-year-old reticulated giraffe, died after being sedated for a hoof-trimming procedure at the San Francisco Zoo.