



African Penguin Undergoes Unique Chemotherapy Treatment for Melanoma

WACO, TEXAS (September 27, 2024)—Cameron Park Zoo’s beloved African Penguin, Mauri, a 30-year-old male, is currently undergoing specialized treatment for melanoma. Mauri, who was diagnosed prior to his arrival at the zoo, is receiving cutting-edge care at Veterinary Specialists of North Texas. His treatment includes bi-weekly injections of a chemotherapy formulation that goes directly into the tumor, along with the administration of a melanoma vaccine originally developed for use in dogs.

To ensure Mauri’s comfort during this delicate treatment, he will be accompanied by his mate, Rita. The zoo’s veterinary staff recognizes the importance of reducing stress in animals undergoing medical care, and Rita’s presence will help provide the emotional support Mauri needs during transport and treatment.

At Cameron Park Zoo, we pride ourselves on providing world-class care for all of our animals, from preventive health measures to addressing specific medical conditions like Mauri’s melanoma. While melanoma isn’t uncommon in African penguins, none of the other members of his waddle are currently affected.

The zoo encourages the public to draw parallels between animal care and human health. Skin cancer, including melanoma, affects more than just penguins—humans should also remain vigilant about checking their skin for any changes or abnormalities. Early detection is key.

Mauri’s journey highlights both the resilience of wildlife and the importance of thorough veterinary care. The zoo will provide updates on his progress as he continues his treatment.

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About Cameron Park Zoo:

Cameron Park Zoo, located in Waco, Texas, is committed to wildlife conservation, education, and public engagement. Cameron Park Zoo strives to inspire conservation action and foster an appreciation for the natural world among visitors of all ages.