



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Jay Tetzloff,
Miller Park Zoo Superintendent,
(309) 434-2250
jtetzloff@cityblm.org

January 6, 2022

Snow Leopard Dies from COVID-induced Pneumonia

BLOOMINGTON, IL – Rilu, an 11-year-old Snow Leopard has died at the Miller Park Zoo after struggling with COVID-induced pneumonia.

Rilu arrived at the Miller Park Zoo in 2011 from the Oklahoma City Zoo. During his time here, he produced seven living offspring that are now part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP). He made the Miller Park Zoo one of the leading institutions in the world in producing Snow Leopard cubs.

Rilu's personality and beauty will be missed by guests and staff, but he will not be forgotten.

Rilu is captured on film in Joel Sartore's project The Photo Ark. Joel's pictures and video of Rilu have been shown all over the world, including on the Empire State Building in New York. "I love that the legacy of Rilu will live on in the Photo Ark. Rilu will engage and astonish the world for many years to come," states Jay Tetzloff, Zoo Superintendent.

Masks are required at all indoor spaces at Miller Park Zoo. Miller Park Zoo is in Miller Park located at 1020 S. Morris Ave. Bloomington, Illinois.

###