

Zoo conducts autopsy on polar bear star Knut

March 21 2011



The world's most famous polar bear Knut sits in his enclosure at the zoo in Berlin in 2010. Vets have begun an autopsy on Knut after his untimely and unexplained death aged just four.

Vets began on Monday an autopsy on Berlin Zoo's superstar polar bear Knut after [his untimely and unexplained death](#) aged just four.

However, it remained unclear when the results from the examination of Knut, who was found lifeless in the pool in his enclosure on Saturday afternoon, would be published.

"I cannot give you a timeline. We will inform the public when we know what the exact cause was," spokeswoman Claudia Bienek told AFP.

Knut first shot to fame as an ueber-cute cub after being abandoned by

his mother and reared by hand. His first public appearance in March 2007 drew around 100 television camera crews from around the world.

But once Knut grew into a strapping adolescent and then adult, animal welfare groups began to worry that he was displaying abnormal behaviour because of all the attention.

He would sway to and fro and even imitate people taking photos by lifting a paw to his face. Hopes that Knut might form a romantic attachment with one of the females were dashed as stories emerged of violent maulings.

Bienek said there were currently no plans to erect a memorial to Knut, adding that a "book of condolence" had already been set up for fans to record their memories of the bear.

"I've been blubbing for days," said one entry of the 1,700 left online.

"I am in complete despair over the death of our [polar bear](#) Knut. I cannot put my grief in words," wrote another fan.

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Citation: Zoo conducts autopsy on polar bear star Knut (2011, March 21) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-03-zoo-autopsy-polar-star-knut.html>

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