

# One of world's oldest gorillas dies at San Diego Safari Park

January 27 2018

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This undated photo provided by the San Diego Zoo Safari Park shows Vila, an African gorilla. Considered to be one of the world's oldest gorillas, Vila died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at the park in Escondido, Calif. The park says Vila, who turned 60 last October, died Thursday surrounded by members of her family troop. Authorities say she was the matriarch of five generations of gorillas and during her life served as a surrogate mother for several western lowland gorillas. (Ken Bohn/San Diego Zoo Safari Park via AP)

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Gorillas typically live to be 35 or 40. They are considered critically endangered because of disease, hunting, war and [habitat loss](#).

Vila had arthritis and other [health conditions](#) related to her age and had been under veterinary care.

She was born in the African Congo in 1957. She came to the zoo in 1959 and was moved to Safari Park in 1975.



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This undated photo provided by the San Diego Zoo Safari Park shows Vila, an African gorilla, in the foreground. Considered to be one of the world's oldest gorillas, Vila died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at the park in Escondido, Calif. The park says Vila, who turned 60 last October, died Thursday surrounded by members of her family troop. Authorities say she was the matriarch of five generations of gorillas and during her life served as a surrogate mother for several western lowland gorillas. (Ken Bohn/San Diego Zoo Safari Park via AP)

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