

Winston, beloved gorilla at San Diego Zoo Safari Park, dies at 52 after suffering health problems

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This undated photo provided by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance shows Winston, a western lowland gorilla at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Winston has died at the age of 52 after suffering multiple health problems, officials said. The park said Winston was euthanized Saturday, July 13, 2024, after veterinarians determined his condition was declining. Credit: Tammy Spratt/San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance via AP

Winston, a western lowland gorilla who was a favorite attraction at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, has died at the age of 52 after suffering multiple health problems, officials said.

The park said Winston was euthanized Saturday after veterinarians determined his condition was declining.

"After careful consideration stemming from furthering [complications](#) from his worsening conditions, and with Winston's quality of life top of mind, wildlife health and care teams made the difficult decision to compassionately euthanize him," the zoo said in a statement.

Winston was one of the oldest male gorillas in a U.S. zoo, the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) reported Sunday.

"This gentle giant will be remembered for his quiet strength, easygoing nature, and heart of gold," the zoo statement said.

In recent years, Winston had been treated for a variety of "age-related conditions," including [heart disease](#), degenerative joint disease and [kidney disease](#), officials said.

The gorilla was born in the wild and later came under the care of a private owner in England. Since coming to the San Diego safari park in 1984, Winston fathered nine offspring and was the grandfather to eight and great-grandfather to one, the Union-Tribune reported.

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