



# Springfield Park District

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT BIDS FAREWELL TO KIMMY AND JARI – LAR GIBBONS AT THE HENSON ROBINSON ZOO

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District - Henson Robinson Zoo family is sad to announce the loss of long time elderly zoo resident Kimmy a white-handed gibbon (see Lar Gibbon Zoo Card for more details on gibbons). Kimmy came to the zoo in 1995 and was almost 41 years old at the time of her passing. Kimmy had developed diabetes over the last several years. Like many people, this condition was treated with an appropriate diet and medication, allowing Kimmy to live a long and normal life until recently when her medical condition became too much. Kimmy delighted thousands of guests in her time at the Henson Robinson Zoo and even became a surrogate mother to Jari in 2014.

Jari was abandoned by her mother at birth at the Jackson, MS Zoo. As a result, staff had to step in to begin hand-raising Jari. Wanting to give Jari the best chance to lead a normal gibbon life the decision was made to send her to the Henson Robinson Zoo and Kimmy as a surrogate mother. Once at the zoo Kimmy was able to bond with Jari giving her the companionship she needed as a young gibbon. “Jari will not be mature enough for 3-4 more years to find a male companion and with the passing of Kimmy we find ourselves needing to do what is best for Jari and her future.” – stated Interim Director Marikay Altes “Luckily enough, an appropriate new female has been found with the AZA Accredited Santa Barbara Zoo for Jari to continue to learn appropriate skills from.” Staff and visitors alike will miss Jari and her acrobatic antics but know she will continue to learn the skills she needs from her new mom.

*Staff of the Henson Robinson Zoo would like to invite the public out on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 to bid Jari farewell before we send her off to her new zoo. Kimmy and Jari are both important ambassador's for their wild counterparts and have raised money for the Hutan Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project. This will be the last chance for the public to buy their Jari T-shirts (remaining sizes only) or to contribute to the conservation program.*

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For more information on this topic and any other Park District news related items, please visit our Website at [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org)

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