

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 7, 2009

## SPECIAL SEA LION REMEMBERED

*Fresno, Ca. – A young California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) was humanely euthanized this morning at Fresno Chaffee Zoo.*

“Anacapa” was found on a beach in May 2007 as a very young pup and taken to the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur where she was nursed back to health for a few months and then released to the wild. A month later she was again found on a beach and paralyzed in her hindquarters. After it was determined her paralysis was permanent Ana came to Fresno Chaffee Zoo in April 2008.

Although Ana could swim and move around her environment, her inability to lift her back end off the ground created lesions on her skin. Zoo staff members implemented numerous strategies to protect her skin including modifications to her habitat and designing a special wet suit for her. When the lesions worsened instead of improving, resulting in infection, the difficult decision to perform euthanasia was made.

Many of the animals at Fresno Chaffee Zoo are taught to “target” and “hold” to assist animal care staff in daily health checks. This training was particularly important for monitoring Ana’s special needs. Ana was a curious and eager student and quickly transferred the target behavior to touching her nose to a paint canvas creating pieces of art.

“During target training and painting sessions Ana seemed to enjoy the extra attention from her keepers and the fish treats she received as reward. She was a true animal ambassador and her paintings have been sold to raise funds to support conservation” said Zoo Director Lewis Greene.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo is home to one other sea lion, six-year-old “Pismo” who is blind and was also rescued off the coast of California, and 21-year-old harbor seal “Buck”.

California sea lions are the most common pinniped and can be found in large numbers along the California coast. Their range extends as far north as Oregon, Washington and British Columbia and south to Mexico and the Galapagos Islands.

*Fresno Chaffee Zoo is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children 2-11 and seniors 62+. Children under 2 and Fresno Chaffee Zoo members are free. The mission of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to provide a fun, unique and up-close experience that strengthens the bond between people and wildlife. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).*

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