



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIRMINGHAM ZOO MOURNS LOSS OF BELOVED GORILLA

BIRMINGHAM, AL - Babec, the Birmingham Zoo's male, 28-year-old Western Lowland Gorilla, died today. Babec was diagnosed with heart disease in March 2003 and received the world's first successful cardiac resynchronization therapy device, or CRT, in 2004. His procedure was documented nationally in the Washington Post and USA Today. In the last few weeks, Babec's cardiac disease progressed. Today, the Birmingham Zoo animal care staff made the difficult decision to humanely euthanize Babec.

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A high-res image of Babec is available at www.birminghamzoo.com/imagegallery.htm