

The lion Kivú, the only Costa Rican lion, dies.



The lion Kivú, one of the animals most loved by the Costa Rican people, died on Friday January 17 at 10:00 PM due to complications of his chronic kidney disease.

Twelve weeks after moving to his new home in La Garita de Alajuela, the lion Kivu died at about 10:00 PM by complications associated with chronic renal failure who suffered. The lion was showing a deterioration in his state of health for several weeks, and from the last did not want to eat.

Currently, the lion's body is in the Veterinary School of the Universidad Nacional, where it is performed a necropsy to study more deeply the causes of his death.

According to an interdisciplinary team of professionals from MINAE-SINAC, MAG-SENASA, the Veterinary School of the Universidad Nacional and international consultants, these complications were caused by a chronic kidney disease.

An incurable condition: Despite its condition, the quality of life in Kivu improved substantially during the first few weeks after its transfer to Zooave. The lion had an enclosure of more than 300 square meters, with trees and plants. In addition to being out of exhibition, it was under constant monitoring 24 hours a day.

The team in charge had been evaluating different options to give quality of life to Kivú. However, faced with the deterioration of the last few weeks, assisted death was being considered to avoid unnecessary suffering.

Since Kivu entered the care of the State last December 5, the professional team had stated that they were dealing with a geriatric lion and with irreversible and degenerative kidney disease. That is to say, Kivú was with an incurable disease since its stay in Simón Bolívar.

Despite his condition and the suspicions of his illness, and before the breach of the administrative order made to Fundazoo, the State decided to take custody of Kivú and thus improve the quality of life in its last stage.

A call to reflection: The case of Kivú shows that Costa Rica is in the process of transforming its wildlife policies. Animal welfare policies are rapidly changing, and Costa Rica should not be left behind. It is necessary to assume a more responsible and respectful attitude toward the species that live with us.

Kivu now rests, but we as a country have much to do.

(MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA)