

Terra Natura Benidorm administer medical treatment to a jaguar to cure his heart condition

EXPERTS AT THE COMPLEX USED AN ULTRASOUND AND ENDOSCOPE TO DETECT THE DISEASE AFFECTING THE ANIMAL.

Experts from Terra Natura, the animal and nature park in Benidorm have administered medical treatment to Attila, one of the two jaguars (*Panthera onca*) living in the complex,. The treatment was for a heart condition that had been detected after performing an ultrasound and various other medical tests. Attila who is 17 years old, is recovering from his illness and receiving diuretics and vasodilators to treat his condition.

The park keepers first detected something was wrong when they noticed the cat had a swollen abdomen. The swelling did not subside so an ultrasound and endoscope were performed while the animal was under anaesthetic to determine the problem. This procedure required help from Patricia Gene a Veterinary Surgeons specializing in horses and who provided the scanner needed to perform this test.

It is believed that the cause of the swelling is due to a heart condition . The Jaguar has a life span of approximately 20 years and due to the advanced age of Attila he is now starting to experience the signs of ageing.

Experts are optimistic about the prognosis of this male jaguar, as his lungs have not been affected and he has not lost his appetite. Attila has good mobility and reacts normally to the external stimuli which all indicate that he is likely to recover.

The experts at the park take special care of the older animals in the park and continually monitor their health. The jaguar is considered the largest cat in America and the third largest in the world, after the tiger and lion. It is characterized by its robust constitution and its present in the Native American mythology and cultures, such as the Aztec and the Maya.

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