

# **Zoo polar bear dies**

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**Body**

Oct. 26—RANDOLPH COUNTY — The staff and guests at the N.C. Zoo are mourning the death of a ***polar bear***.

The male ***polar bear*** Payton, who was 20 years old, died Wednesday.

Payton was being transferred to the Louisville Zoo in Kentucky as part of a ***polar bear*** breeding partnership. The ***polar bear*** was accompanied by an experienced care team during the transfer operation, the zoo said Thursday.

After the care team left the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro with Payton, they performed routine checks on the 1,000-pound ***polar bear*** during the trip. On the second check, less than two hours away from the North Carolina Zoo, the care team found Payton unresponsive.

The ***polar bear*** was immediately transported to a nearby large animal veterinarian, who confirmed that Payton had died. The ***polar bear*** was transported back to the North Carolina Zoo where an animal autopsy was conducted by zoo veterinary staff.

A full investigation into the death will be conducted.

In the wild, ***polar bears*** can live up to 25 years, the zoo told The High Point Enterprise.

Under human care, the median life span of a male ***polar bear*** is 20.8 years old.

Payton arrived at the North Carolina Zoo in January 2021 to be a mate for female ***polar bear*** Anana.

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