



MAYOR
Renard U. Johnson

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Alejandra Chávez

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Deanna M. Rocha

District 4
Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5
Ivan Niño

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Chris Canales

**NEWS
RELEASE**

08 / 21 / 2025

El Paso Zoo's Lion Hodari Undergoes Successful MRI at Providence Memorial

EL PASO, Texas—Hodari, the seven-year-old, nearly 500-pound African male lion at the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, is recovering comfortably after receiving advanced medical care to help diagnose a suspected spinal condition.

Recently, Hodari began showing signs of temporary mobility issues, lethargy, and tenderness while walking. Although the Zoo conducted a wide range of diagnostic tests, an MRI was necessary to obtain a clearer view of his spine and neck.

To complete the procedure, Hodari was safely transported under sedation to The Hospitals of Providence Memorial Campus after hours. He was accompanied by the Zoo's veterinary healthcare team and Veterinary Neurology Consultant Dr. Antonio Bowens, who oversaw the imaging process and evaluation.

"We are incredibly grateful to The Hospitals of Providence for providing the resources and support needed to perform Hodari's MRI," said Joe Montisano, Director of the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens. "The team there was exceptional in coordinating the logistics safely. We are pleased to report that Hodari is doing well. While we are awaiting final results, the initial readings are very encouraging and have already given us valuable insight into his condition and treatment options."

Hodari joined the El Paso Zoo in 2022 from the Pueblo Zoo in Pueblo, Colorado. Caretakers quickly discovered that he is a responsive, well-mannered lion with a strong connection to his zookeeper team.

"Hodari is a stunning male lion, and we are excited for our guests to continue learning about African lions through him for many years to come," Montisano added.

For more information about Hodari and other Zoo animals and programs, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens spans 35 acres and is home to more than 220 species from around the world, including critically endangered animals. The Zoo is open Wednesday through Sunday.

###

MEDIA: Please credit pictures sent in the email to **The Hospitals of Providence, Memorial Campus**.



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media Contact: Rick Isaias
Strategic Communications
Isaiasra@elpasotexas.gov
(M): 915.355.6611