

São Paulo Zoo and Cempas/UNESP Conduct Groundbreaking Procedure in Jaguar in Brazil

An 18-year-old male jaguar (*Panthera onca*), under the care of the University, underwent the first recorded blood transfusion between conspecifics in Brazil.

The animal, named Jack, was in a debilitated and anemic condition, making him unfit to undergo a hemodialysis protocol. In response, the veterinary team identified a blood transfusion from a healthy jaguar as the most viable alternative.

The selected donor was Ruana, a young female from the São Paulo Zoo. The operation was a true race against time, as Jack was located approximately 230 km away from the Zoo around a 3-hour journey.

Prior to the procedure, the team conducted blood compatibility tests between the two animals. The results, obtained within a few hours, confirmed compatibility and demonstrated the feasibility of the procedure.

The transfusion was carried out as planned and, within hours, Jack showed clear signs of recovery: he regained consciousness, resumed feeding and was able to stand and walk.

The next steps involve close monitoring of his clinical progress, with the expectation that he may no longer require hemodialysis.

Beyond being critical to Jack's recovery, this procedure represents an important milestone and opens new perspectives for the development of clinical protocols and therapeutic approaches in the management of the species.

The São Paulo Zoo is an active participant in the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Big Cats, coordinated by ICMBio and AZAB. Initiatives of this magnitude bring renewed hope for species conservation, as management techniques such as this can contribute to both ex situ and in situ efforts.

Link to the jaguar Jack's procedure at Cenpas/UNESP

<https://www.jornalandradashoje.com.br/transfusao-sangue-onca-pintada-inedita-brasil-unesp>

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