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Godzilla (1935–2004). *Photograph by John Binns.*

The herpetology and veterinary staff of the Gladys Porter Zoo sadly report the passing of the longest living member of the genus *Cyclura* on record.

At an estimated age of 69 years, “Godzilla,” a male Grand Cayman Blue Iguana died on 26 May 2004 of apparent chronic hepatic insufficiency. He was ill for about two weeks prior to his death, although, at his advanced age, Godzilla required extraordinary maintenance for the seven years he resided at the Zoo. Totally blind in one eye and almost blind in the other, this animal routinely brought out the “hero” in the Gladys Porter Zoo’s veterinarians.

Captured as a full-grown adult on Grand Cayman in 1950 by naturalist Ira Thompson, Godzilla weighed over 15 pounds and was estimated to be at least 15 years of age at the time of capture. He was imported to the U.S. in 1985 by Ramon Noegel and was placed on loan to the Gladys Porter Zoo in 1997.

Though gaunt and aged in appearance, Godzilla retained the characteristics of a territorial, dominant *C. lewisi* until the time of his final illness. He was a favorite of the Zoo’s keeper staff and volunteers; he will truly be missed.



Adult male San Salvador Iguana (*Cyclura rileyi rileyi*) on Green Cay, San Salvador, Bahamas. Photograph by John Binns.