

NEWS FROM...



RE: **Zoo to Break Ground on new Animal Care Complex**

FOR: Immediate Release

IMAGE: Architects' Rendering – Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex at the Palm Beach Zoo

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May 22, 2007, West Palm Beach, Florida – The Palm Beach Zoo will officially break ground on construction of the new Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex, a \$7.0 million facility where medical care will be provided for the zoo's collection of more than 1500 animals. The ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 29 at 8:30 a.m. at the construction site, located behind the zoo near the South Florida Science Museum, on Dreher Trail. Parking is available at the West Palm Beach Garden Club.

The Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex, built on an inspirational site overlooking beautiful Baker Lake, will include three primary components:

The Salvatore M. Zeitlin Animal Hospital, named for the zoo's long-time veterinarian; the Center for Conservation Medicine; and the Wildlife Wellness Center.

The morning ceremony will include comments from Dr. Terry L. Maple – President and CEO of the zoo, West Palm Beach City Commissioner and Commission President Bill Moss, Kane Baker – Zoo Board Chairman, Dr. Salvatore M. Zeitlin, and Dr. Rolla Campbell, a major donor to the project. Other major donors to the project, including Melvin J. and Claire Levine will also be on hand to shovel the symbolic "first dirt." Forty-eight children from nearby Palmetto Park Elementary will attend to express their love for the animals. Several of the zoo's small animals will be present at the ceremony. Entertainment will be provided by violinist Berston Augustin, a student at Palm Beach Atlantic University. A light breakfast will be served.



The Salvatore M. Zeitlin Hospital will be a veterinary medicine facility providing emergency care, exams, treatments and surgery for the zoo's collection of over 1500 animals. It will contain the Campbell Surgical Suite and Campbell Nursery. There will also be two recovery rooms, a specialty room for nonhuman primate medicine, a treatment room, a radiology room, and necropsy room. The hospital will be well-equipped with an ultrasound machine, heart monitor, and anesthesia machine, as well as emergency carts and IV supplies. The zoo's upgraded 3,300 square foot outdoor quarantine facility will stand adjacent to the hospital.

The building will also house offices, library and meeting facilities for the new Center for Conservation Medicine, incorporating biomedical education and telemedicine. These facilities will be used in cutting-edge educational programs for community elementary, middle and high schools. An academic partnership with the Charles E. Schmidt College of Sciences at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton and the FAU Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College in Jupiter is also envisioned.

The Wildlife Wellness Center will house the zoo's commissary where animal diets are studied, recorded and prepared with the aid of advanced digital technology. It will house the zoo's freezer, dry food storage, and food preparation areas, a pharmacy, non-nutritional enrichment materials, and management space for dedicated personnel. A unique feature is the audio-visual network that permits animals in the zoo collection and zoo visitors to observe food preparation. The zoo's primates are expected to be interested spectators as their food is being prepared for distribution by their keepers.

Dr. Terry L. Maple, President and CEO of the zoo has said, "When it opens in 2008, the Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex will be the most important new zoo medical and husbandry facility in America. The Palm Beach Zoo will take its place as a national leader in quality animal care."

The zoo is seeking additional gifts to name the Wildlife Wellness Center, the Center for Conservation Medicine, and to provide an operating endowment in partnership with Florida Atlantic University.

The architects for the project are Peacock & Lewis of Jupiter. Gary Lee of Philadelphia-based CLR, Inc. provided additional creative programming for the facility.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Gail Eaton at (561) 533-0887 Ext. 219.

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