

TO: Editor

FROM: The Palm Beach Zoo

RE: Melvin J. and Claire Levine Name Animal Care Complex at Palm Beach Zoo

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FOR: Immediate Release

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

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January 7, 2007, West Palm Beach, Florida – Melvin J. and Claire Levine of Palm Beach have announced a lead gift that will name a state-of-the-art animal care complex at the Palm Beach Zoo. Their contribution of \$2.5 million is the largest gift in a capital campaign to build the Melvin and Clair Levine Animal Care Complex, a \$7.0 million facility that is badly needed at the 50-year-old zoological park.

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 Zeitlin Hospital, named for the zoo's long-time veterinarian; the Center for Conservation Medicine; and the Wildlife Wellness & Nutrition Center.

Discussing their motivation for making this gift, the Levines said, "We have always cared deeply for animals, for science, and for the natural world. When we heard about this opportunity to ensure that our zoo animals would have a first-rate health care facility, it was a good fit with our personal interests. We were also very pleased to know that the complex would address so many educational needs. We are proud to have helped to make this dream a reality."

The Salvatore Zeitlin Hospital will be a two story 10,000 square foot veterinary medicine facility providing emergency care, exams, treatments and surgery for the zoo's collection of over 1,100 animals. It will contain the Campbell Surgical Suite and Campbell Nursery, both named by a \$1 million gift from Dr. Rolla and Kim Campbell. 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 second floor of the building will house offices and classrooms 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. A consultant in Conservation Medicine from the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York will visit the zoo in January to help plan the facilities and programs.

"We are very happy to have the zoo's participation in developing programs in Conservation Biology and Sustainability, and the new Center will enable the partnership," said Dr. Gary W. Perry, Dean of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science at FAU.

The Wildlife Wellness and Nutrition 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 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.

A ground-breaking ceremony will take place in the spring of 2007. The innovative facility will be opened and dedicated in May of 2008.