UPDATE ON TORONTO ZOO VISIT TO PAWS FACILITY IN CALIFORNIA

Toronto – December 23rd, 2011

Staff of the Toronto Zoo have returned from a two-day visit with the PAWS team in California. The site review visit was intended to allow the Toronto Zoo staff the opportunity to tour the facility and meet the PAWS staff to plan for the safe and humane transfer of the Zoo's three elephants, Iringa, Toka and Thika.

The Toronto Zoo and PAWS teams (the "Move Team") is working earnestly on plans, as follows:

- Permit processing and health records required for transfer.
- Securing the appropriate crates for moving the elephants.
- Training of the elephants once the crates have been secured.
- Determining the mode of transportation from Toronto to California.

"I am pleased with the progress of the Move Team meeting that took place at PAWS in California," says John Tracogna, CEO, Toronto Zoo. "Both parties are committed to the safe and humane treatment of the elephants".

The Move Team is working diligently to ensure the April 30, 2012 move deadline is met however unanimously agree the timeline for training of the elephants will be determined only by the elephants themselves.

The Move Team will provide updates and information as the plan progresses in the new year.

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About the Toronto Zoo:

The Toronto Zoo is Canada's premier zoo and a leader in wildlife preservation and environmental protection. More than a tourist attraction, the Toronto Zoo boasts a number of leading programs for helping animals and their natural habitats – from species reintroduction to reproductive research. A world-class educational center for people of all ages, the Toronto Zoo is open every day except Christmas, and attracts approximately 1.3 million visitors each year.

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