CALENDAR ADVISORY

For immediate release | August 14, 2014 Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Caileigh Robertson 206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoopr@zoo.org

New Cheetah Chase runs through September 1

WHAT: Cheetahs are the fastest land mammals in the animal kingdom, running in short bursts of up to 65 mph! Now through September 1, Woodland Park Zoo keepers will launch a moving, speeding target in the new cheetah exhibit. Watch what happens...and then stick around to learn fascinating facts about these alluring felines.

WHEN: The new Cheetah Chase is offered daily at 10:30 a.m. through September 1, followed by a staff chat on the natural history of cheetahs, information about the zoo's cheetahs, and their training and enrichment.

<u>Cheetahs, Liz and Missy,</u> made their debut at the zoo in May in a new, temporary exhibit. The 14-year-old females arrived from Wildlife Safari in Winston, Ore. and are expected to live at Woodland Park Zoo for six to 18 months while Wildlife Safari makes plans for new breeding pairs or possible offspring in its future.

COST: The Cheetah Chase is free with zoo admission. Admission through September 30: Adult (13-64) \$18.75; Child (3-12) \$11.75; Toddler (0-2) Free. Active, retired, and veteran U.S. military and their families, seniors and people with disabilities receive a discount. Zoo members receive free admission year round.

Parking: \$5.25. Parking is limited. Conserving resources is one more way to help animals. For bus service to the zoo, visit: <u>www.metro.kingcounty.gov</u>.

Zoo hours through September 30: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. For more information and how to become a zoo member, visit <u>www.zoo.org</u>. Or call 206.548.2500 or 548.2599 (TTY).

Online ticketing: avoid lines and buy your general admission tickets in advance at <u>www.zoo.org/visit</u>. Discounts and coupons are not applicable for online ticket purchases. Mobile app: search for the free Woodland Park Zoo mobile app for iPhone, iPad or Android in your app store.

INFO: Cheetahs are well adapted to open, grassy environments and live throughout the drier parts of sub-Saharan Africa, often traveling in small, isolated groups. Cheetahs are classified as vulnerable; however, two subspecies ranging in Namibia and Iran are critically endangered. The largest wild population of cheetahs is found in Namibia, although most populations continue to decline. Lack of genetic variation due to population decline, human-wildlife conflicts, high infant mortality, and a great susceptibility to disease place the species at a further risk of extinction.

Woodland Park Zoo partners with other accredited zoos through the Species Survival Plan to ensure healthy generations of cheetahs into the future. The zoo also supports the Cheetah Conservation Fund through its Wildlife Survival Fund, dedicated to investing in endangered species before it's too late.

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