



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 8, 2007

## **Polar Bear Cubs On Exhibit Thursday**

Toledo, OH—In late November 2006, three polar bear cubs were born at The Toledo Zoo to Crystal and Nan. They were three of only four cubs born in North American zoos in 2006. Now, after months of animal care staff monitoring their progress and watching as they thrive, these special little bears are ready to meet their public! Beginning **Thursday, May 10**, visitors will be able to see The Toledo Zoo's polar bear cubs on exhibit in the Arctic Encounter<sup>®</sup>. Polar bear cubs at The Toledo Zoo are presented by BP Toledo Refinery.

Because polar bear cubs stay in a family group consisting of a mother and her young cubs in the wild, visitors will not be able to see all three cubs in the Arctic Encounter<sup>®</sup> at the same time. Plans right now call for one group to be on exhibit from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the second group going on exhibit from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Those plans may change depending on the bears' behavior.

These cubs, two females born to Crystal and a male born to Nan, represent an important stride in the preservation of polar bears, whose populations in the wild are declining rapidly due to warming Arctic climates. Nan's single cub weighs approximately 60-65 pounds, and Crystal's twins weigh about 40-45 pounds each. This lower weight is common in multiple births. All three cubs are adapting very well to the Arctic Encounter<sup>®</sup> exhibit, and both Crystal and Nan have demonstrated excellent maternal behavior. The fact that both Crystal and Nan are first-time mothers makes their motherly skills all the more remarkable.

The Toledo Zoo also hopes that visitors who see these polar bear cubs will be moved to act to preserve their wild counterparts. Climate change in Arctic regions is the primary cause of population declines in the wild. Any measures that individuals take to curtail energy use will be of considerable benefit to polar bears in their native environment

The Toledo Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit [www.toledozoo.org](http://www.toledozoo.org) or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

*The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement.*

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