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Note: Please contact the Marketing & PR department for images of Lucas.

A Baby of Ponderous Proportions: Lucas The Elephant Turns One Month Old

Toledo, Ohio — Lucas, the elephant calf born at the Toledo Zoo on June 3, is one big month old.

In that time he has added more than 60 pounds to his birth weight of 305 pounds, four teeth have erupted (he will not grow tusks until he's older) and he has explored every inch of his exhibit. He continues to delight Zoo visitors with his pachyderm playfulness, including his favorite "toy," a 55-gallon plastic barrel which he enjoys pushing and rolling. Other favorites include digging through the exhibit's soft sand to find buried treasures (small tires and other safe enrichment objects) and playing in the small mud wallow zookeepers created for him. When his playtime wears him out, he stretches out on his side, often in the shade of his mother, Renee, and takes a short nap.

As adorable as his antics are, they are all important lessons that help build his strength, communication abilities and motor skills as he grows. And he is definitely growing! Lucas gains about two pounds every day, and he will likely continue that rate of growth for the next two to three years. Since June 7, when he and his mother, Renee, went on exhibit, more than 75,000 visitors have visited Lucas. Come see him while he's still "little!"

He and Renee are on exhibit daily 'til 4 p.m., though the animals' well-being or weather changes may require briefly moving them off exhibit. **The Zoo has also installed a webcam in the exhibit so you can watch him online at www.toledozoo.org/webcams.** Lucas is proudly sponsored by BP.

The Toledo Zoo is open daily 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 and all the affordable fun at your Toledo Zoo, please visit www.toledozoo.org or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 am to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

The Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.