



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 24, 2011

**CONTACT:** Kandace York, Communications Coordinator

419-385-5721 ext. 2145 or [kandace.york@toledozoo.org](mailto:kandace.york@toledozoo.org)

**Zoo's Polar Bear, Siku, To Join Orphaned Cub in Louisville**

Toledo, OH – Siku, one of the Zoo's four polar bears, will move early this fall to Kentucky's Louisville Zoo.

Siku was born in December, 2009 at the Toledo Zoo to mother, Crystal, and father, Marty. That year, he was the only successful polar bear birth at a U.S. zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). His name, which means "ice" in the Iñupiaq language, was chosen by schoolchildren on Alaska's North Slope.

He will join Arki, an adult female, and Qannik (KUNN-ick), a young female polar bear cub who was found orphaned on Alaska's North Slope this spring. Qannik means "snowflake" in the Iñupiaq language; it is also the name of the oil field where ConocoPhillips employees found her.

Siku's moving date has not been finalized, but it will be some time early this fall. "It is a little sad when our animals leave," said Dr. Randi Meyerson, the Zoo's curator of mammals. "But the Louisville Zoo's new Glacier Run bear habitat is an excellent facility with a lot of space, flexibility, animal-training and enrichment options. Siku, Qannik and Arki have a promising future there. They will play an important role as ambassadors for polar bears in the wild, to help inspire the public to decrease their carbon footprints."

In addition to her role as the Toledo Zoo's curator of mammals, Dr. Meyerson is the coordinator of the AZA's Polar Bear Species Survival Plan (SSP) and the co-chair for the Polar Bear International's Polar Bear Sustainability Alliance.

Visit Siku today at the Zoo's Arctic Encounter® -- time is running out to see him before he leaves for Louisville!

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](http://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.*

###