

# PALM BEACH ZOO NEWS

**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**  
**FROM: PALM BEACH ZOO**  
**RE: PALM BEACH ZOO RECIEVES \$500,000 CHALLENGE GRANT**  
**CONTACT: Claudia Harden - Phone (561) 533-0887 ext 223**

West Palm Beach, FL, January 16, 2009 – Melvin J. and Claire Levine of West Palm Beach have made a \$500,000 challenge grant to the Palm Beach Zoo's new Jaguar Conservation Fund with the goal of raising \$1 million for research and education. In 2006, the Levines gave \$2.5 million to name the zoo's Melvin J. and Claire Levine Animal Care Complex, now under construction.

In discussing the reasons for their recent matching gift, the Levines said, "We have a great love of wildlife and believe it is the responsibility of our generation to do all we can to ensure that the natural world is protected and conserved for the inspiration and enjoyment of future generations. This challenge gift is intended to encourage others to join us in supporting jaguar conservation."

Dr. Terry L. Maple, President/CEO of the Palm Beach Zoo, said: "This generous challenge gift is the stimulus we needed in our efforts to focus on wildlife conservation. The jaguar population has dramatically declined due to diminishing habitat and the effects of decades of illegal hunting. The Jaguar Conservation Fund will enable the Palm Beach Zoo to establish field conservation partnerships with other organizations working in South America. We will also strengthen our institutional resources for conservation education and jaguar propagation at the zoo. I am confident that we can render significant aid to protect the jaguar."

The Palm Beach Zoo's Jaguar Conservation Fund is a new initiative established by the zoo's board of Directors at its December meeting. Gary Krieger, chairman of the conservation committee said, "We have created the Jaguar Conservation Fund to support research and education that will not only help jaguars survive and thrive, but also protect their natural environment. We hope to preserve this magnificent species for generations to come. The jaguar was selected as the first in a series of Priority Species for Conservation. This program will focus attention on endangered species, many of which are housed at the Palm Beach Zoo, to raise awareness of their plight."

The Palm Beach Zoo is actively seeking gifts to the Jaguar Conservation Fund in order to meet the requirement of the Levine challenge grant. Those interested in contributing should contact Dr. Maple at (561) 533-0887, extension 250 or write him at [TerryLMaple@msn.com](mailto:TerryLMaple@msn.com) or contact Chief Development Officer Glenn Ekey at [gekey@palmbeachzoo.org](mailto:gekey@palmbeachzoo.org) or telephone Claudia Harden at (561) 533-0887, extension 237.

## About the Palm Beach Zoo

The Palm Beach Zoo is a tropical habitat promoting awareness, appreciation and respect for wildlife and the natural world. The zoo sponsors many conservation projects throughout the world through its Priority Species conservation programs.

Palm Beach Zoo is located in Dreher Park. The park entrance is on Southern Boulevard just east of I-95. Admission: Adults \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. For more information regarding the Palm Beach Zoo, please visit [www.palmbeachzoo.org](http://www.palmbeachzoo.org).