



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 15, 2014

Contacts:

Kris Sherman, 253-404-3800; 253-226-6718 or kris.sherman@pdza.org

Whitney DalBalcon, 253-404-3637 or whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org

**CANADA LYNX KITTEN, TWO BURROWING OWLS AND A BARN OWL
JOIN WILD WONDERS OUTDOOR THEATER AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM**



TACOMA, Wash. – A 9-week-old Canada lynx kitten is set to make his television debut Thursday morning on KING 5’s “New Day Northwest” and his first official public appearance at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium on Friday.

Jasper, named for the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies, is one of four new animals at the zoo’s Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater, which presents twice daily live-animal shows during the summer.

Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater staff members also feature animals in close encounters around the zoo and in the community as part of year-round educational programming.

Jasper is part of the Species Survival Plan® for Canada lynx, which are listed as endangered in Washington state.

He now weighs about 4 pounds and is being hand-reared by zoo staff.

Jasper will make periodic appearances at the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater and around the zoo this summer as he grows into his role as an ambassador for his species. There is no set schedule for these.

Two burrowing owls, Pebbles and Cricket, and a barn owl named Apollo also are adjusting to their new homes. They're making periodic brief appearances on the walkway above the theater.



Pebbles and Cricket, both females, weigh around 5 ounces each. They are about 2 months old.

Barn owl Apollo weighs just under a pound. He is 3 months old.

It's a busy summer at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater, where "Indiana Bones and the Golden Treasure" is presented at noon and 3:30 p.m. daily.

The fast-paced, engaging and often humorous live-animal show stars Herald the dog as Indiana Bones, Barkeologist. It features a wide-ranging

cast of more than a dozen animals.

The action is set to catchy music and culminates with Indiana Bones piloting his own airplane as he flies in to save the day. Along the way, visitors learn about geocaching and why it's a great, fun way to explore the outdoors. Following each show, visitors can go on a mini geocaching adventure around the zoo with Herald.

###

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).

Photo captions:

Jasper, a 9-week-old Canada lynx kitten, recently joined the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. He is scheduled to make his television debut at 11 a.m. Thursday on KING 5's "New Day Northwest."

Burrowing owls Pebbles and Cricket also are new to the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater area at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. The owls are about 2 months old and each weighs around 5 ounces.

Photo credits: Ingrid Barrentine/Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium