

**News Release**

June 16, 2004

**Information:**

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**PHOTO**

**AVAILABLE**

Digital images of  
polar bears available  
upon request.

**PHOTO**

**OPPORTUNITY**

Many of these  
activities will be  
highly photogenic.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Get the bear facts at the Zoo**

TACOMA, Wash. — The four polar bears at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will be in the spotlight June 19-20 as the Zoo celebrates Bear Awareness Weekend.

Visitors will have a chance to handle bear artifacts and visit with bear keepers both days.

The Zoo is providing sanctuary to Boris and Kenneth, who were among six polar bears seized in November 2002 from a circus touring in Puerto Rico.

They have made a successful transition to Zoo life, and their health has improved dramatically in the 18 months they have lived at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. The other bears at the Zoo are Blizzard and Glacier.

Here's the schedule of special Bear Awareness Weekend activities:

- Noon to 3 p.m. both days: North American bear biofacts. Watch for activity tables near the polar bear exhibit.
- 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., both days: Polar Bear enrichment talks.

The Zoo's celebration ties into the National Bear Awareness Week, promoted by Defenders of Wildlife. Bear events are held at zoos across North America to educate the public about the important role that bears play in nature as well as the importance of respecting biological diversity.

There are eight species of bears around the world. North America is home to three of them: polar bear, grizzly (brown) bear and the American black bear.

**-end-**

*Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The Zoo is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation.*