



**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 29, 2011**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Kate Lipscomb, Marketing and PR Manager  
205.601.9949 cell  
klipscomb@birminghamzoo.com

Katrina Cade, VP of Marketing and Media  
205.533.0254 cell  
kcade@birminghamzoo.com

**New Additions to the Birmingham Zoo**

The Birmingham Zoo proudly announces new additions to the family. Layla and Ona, 19 month old female African Wild Dogs, arrived at the Zoo from the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. They are very active in the mornings and evenings and enjoy a nice nap in a sunny spot during the day. African Wild Dog's coats are remarkable. A photograph of the dog's right side would not match a photograph of its left side as the pattern is not bilaterally symmetrical. They are unique in that no two animals have the same pattern.

"The Birmingham Zoo has never had African Wild Dogs before. We are excited about this opportunity to work with these amazing animals. Layla is the more vocal of the two and the first to investigate new things. Ona likes to sit back and observe. Both enjoy jumping up in the windows to look at guests. They are very intelligent and enjoy spending time with their trainers," said Tammy Morano, Zoological Manager of Predators

African Wild Dogs are also called Cape Hunting dogs or Painted dogs. They are extremely social animals that communicate by touch, vocalizations and actions. They have tremendous endurance running at speeds of 37 mph for three miles or more pursuing prey. Their long legs and large lungs help them run long distances without tiring. Their speed and endurance as well as the pack structure make them successful 80% of the time when hunting. The African Wild Dog is considered to be an endangered species. In the wild they can be found in Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. These sisters are now on exhibit in the Predator Building across from the lion exhibit. The public is invited to visit and see them as they get use to their new home.

For more information about the Birmingham Zoo please visit [www.birminghamzoo.com](http://www.birminghamzoo.com).

###