

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2009



Contact: Jim Bartoo
(615) 833-1534 ext. 126
jbartoo@nashvillezoo.org

Nashville Zoo Animal Art Goes to Auction

Nashville Zoo animals have expressed their creative side, and now the public has a chance to own one of the animal masterpieces at *Wild Impressions* Animal Art Auction. The event takes place Thursday, July 30, from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. at Hotel Preston, 733 Briley Parkway, Nashville, TN 37217.

Browse and bid on artwork created by Nashville Zoo animals as you enjoy food, drink and live music from area artists. Fifty paintings will be available for auction from animals such as tigers, giraffes, macaws and more.

Art is a valuable form of enrichment for animals. Using nontoxic, environmentally-safe materials, animals use paintbrushes, claws, paws and tails to create their masterpieces.

Wild Impressions is hosted by the Nashville chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK). Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased the night of the event. Cash and check only for admittance and auction. Because alcohol is served at these events, only guests 21 years and older may attend. All proceeds benefit the Island Conservation, which promotes the conservation, restoration and sustainable development of island ecosystems. For more information about Island Conservation, please visit www.islandconservation.org.

AAZK is a nonprofit, volunteer organization made up of professional zoo keepers and other interested persons dedicated to professional animal care and conservation. AAZK supports the promotion and implementation of zookeeper education and strives to make the general public aware of our concern for all deserving conservation projects and the need for the preservation of our natural resources and the species that depend on those resources.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Road and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of the Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation, and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, please call 833-1534 or visit our website at www.nashvillezoo.org.

###