

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** 30 October 2013

**CONTACT:** 

Jane Ballentine O: 443/552-5275 C: 301/332-1742

## MARYLAND ZOO UPDATE ON YOUNG LION CUBS

**BALTIMORE, MD** – The male and female lion cubs born at the Maryland Zoo on October 4 are doing well under the care and supervision of the Animal Department staff at the Zoo. Here is an update on their condition:

- They are 25 days old, and their eyes are completely open.
- They are gaining weight and on track with their development. They now weigh around 4 kg each (8.8 pounds).
- Their mobility continues to improve as they grow, and keepers have noticed the first signs that they are showing interest in playing with one another.
- They can climb in and out of the nest box to explore their entire den when they wish to do so.
- They are fed 110 ml (approx 4 oz) of special kitten formula 5 times a day.
- Their teeth are just starting to come in. The weaning process will start slowly once they have all their teeth, and the keepers will begin to introduce meat to their diet.
- The Zoo will seek the public's help with naming the cubs in a few weeks.

Last week, Cuma, the Zoo's female lion, was reintroduced to Hassan, the father of the cubs. They immediately settled in with one another and are out on exhibit together daily.

## **About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore**

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo's varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the award-winning Children's Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums.