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**Cleveland Zoological Society's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual *ZippityZooDoo***  
*Cleveland's longest-running benefit presents *Elegant Elephants Ball**

**CLEVELAND – May 28, 2008** – The Cleveland Zoological Society hosts the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual *ZippityZooDoo, Elegant Elephants Ball* on Friday, June 6, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to midnight at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Cleveland's longest-running benefit boasts a gourmet dinner and exclusive access to the Zoo's elephants and their wild, wonderful world. The Zoo's three female elephants will be packing their trunks this fall as we get ready for the next BIG thing: *African Elephant Crossing*. This strategic expansion exemplifies the Zoo's long-standing commitment to conserve African wildlife. This year's *ZippityZooDoo* is an opportunity to say farewell to our elephants! Attendees are treated to an exquisite seated dinner, catered by Sammy's, and finish the evening by dancing under the stars to the sounds of Jerry Bruno Orchestra.

Every year, *ZippityZooDoo* features the "Wild Side" silent auction, which includes many Zoo experience packages. Guests may bid on a variety of one-of-a-kind items such as spending the night at the Zoo's Rising Waters Safari Camp. This year's live auction includes an opportunity to have a VIP tour with celebrity Jeff Corwin during his August visit to the Zoo.

The event is expected to raise \$200,000 for the Cleveland Zoological Society, the fundraising partner of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Reservations begin at \$250 per person and tables of ten are available starting at \$3,500.

The Cleveland Zoological Society promotes Cleveland Metroparks Zoo as a leading civic asset and regional funding priority. Zoo Society donors underwrite the Zoo's margin of excellence through support from the largest membership program in Northeast Ohio (42,000 households), contributing 50% of the funding for capital improvements and 12 to 15% to the Zoo's annual operating budget. The Zoo Society has raised \$9 million for the Zoo's new elephant exhibit, *African Elephant Crossing* and the capital campaign continues. Groundbreaking is anticipated this fall.

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