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## **Two Zoo Courses Aid in Keeper Professional Development**

Toledo, Ohio—The Toledo Zoo has long been at the forefront of excellence in animal care and conservation, and by hosting two training courses aimed at professional development for zoo professionals over the coming days, the Zoo can truly demonstrate its expertise to individuals from around the world. Through Friday, April 24, the Zoo will host the Amphibian Biology, Conservation and Management School, followed by a program titled Advances in Animal Keeping, which takes place from Sunday, April 26 to Friday, May 1. Both courses are presented under the auspices of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

**The Amphibian Biology, Conservation and Management School** is an intensive training program that takes place through the end of the week. Over the next few days, the students will be trained in amphibian biology, amphibian medicine, conservation, and care and breeding of animals in zoo and university settings. The course includes lectures, hands-on workshops, and a field trip. It will examine issues of amphibian biodiversity, the art and science of husbandry, reproduction, welfare and enrichment, amphibian conservation, and other topics designed to help train the next generation of zoo and conservation biologists. The program has proven to be highly successful in providing students with the necessary tools to help ensure a future for amphibians worldwide. This year's class will be attended by 23 individuals from five countries, including students from as far away as Chile and Ecuador.

**Advances in Animal Keeping**, presented in conjunction with the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), focuses on the very highest standards in animal husbandry and combines problem solving, team building and interpersonal skills in order to engage, motivate and retain animal care professionals within our industry and to elevate the standards of animal care in AZA zoos and aquariums. Students will be engaged in activities designed to promote life-long learning skills. In-class discussion, exchange of ideas with animal care colleagues, small group activities, and question-and-answer sessions all enable students to analyze trends, to think critically and evaluate, to consider problems and propose solutions, to communicate effectively, and to learn their roles in their organization. The final project enables students to enhance their competency in working with a team of diverse individuals to accomplish a common goal in minimal time.

*The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement.*

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