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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **St. Louis Children's Hospital First Aid Station Opens at the Saint Louis Zoo *New partnership taps pediatric medical staff for first aid needs of Zoo visitors***

**ST. LOUIS** —Visitors at the world-renowned Saint Louis Zoo will now receive medical support provided by nationally-ranked St. Louis Children's Hospital. About 20 hospital paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) will staff the Zoo's first official first aid station to provide medical help for visitors, Zoo employees and volunteers needing treatment for minor injuries.

"This partnership is one of the few collaborations of its kind between a metropolitan zoo and children's hospital," said Dr. Jeffrey Bonner, Saint Louis Zoo president and CEO. "Our first aid station team gives our youngest visitors and their families the reassurance of highly-trained first aid support, if they should ever need it."

Located near the Conservation Carousel at the northeast corner of the Zoo grounds, the First Aid Station features curtained-off exam areas as well as cots for patients overcome by heat or needing rest. It will also serve as a lactation site for nursing mothers and as a place for lost children to reunite with their families. Non-medical assistance will be provided by Zoo volunteers.

The First Aid Station staff is trained in lifesaving techniques, although most injuries at the zoo include scraped knees, bumps and bruises, or insect bites. A red first aid vehicle equipped with first aid supplies and a stretcher will also reach people needing assistance at locations around the Zoo. For more serious injuries, the paramedics and EMTs from the First Aid Station can provide help until a St. Louis Fire Department ambulance transports the injured person to nearby hospitals for additional treatment.

"For many years, we have collaborated with the Zoo for community events, so this partnership is a natural extension of a great relationship," said Lee Fetter, president of St. Louis Children's Hospital. "We share a dedication to the health, education and wellbeing of children and families, whether they live in St. Louis or are just visiting."

The first aid station will be staffed by medical personnel during regular Zoo hours from April 1 through October 31 and for various special events. During the rest of the year, the building will be open and staffed by Zoo volunteers.

### **About Saint Louis Zoo**

Named America's #1 Zoo by Zagat Survey and Parenting Magazine, the Saint Louis Zoo is widely recognized for its innovative approaches to animal management, wildlife conservation, research and education. One of the few free zoos in the nation, it attracts about 3,000,000 visitors a year. For more information, visit [stlzoo.org](http://stlzoo.org).

### **About St. Louis Children's Hospital**

St. Louis Children's Hospital has provided specialized care for children for more than 127 years. The hospital is affiliated with Washington University School of Medicine, ranked the number four medical school in the country by US News & World Report. In 2007, Child magazine ranked St. Louis Children's Hospital among the 10 Best children's hospitals in the country, and second in pulmonary medicine. St. Louis Children's Hospital is a member of BJC HealthCare. For more information, visit [stlouischildrens.org](http://stlouischildrens.org).