Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation

"Meeting the dental needs of disadvantaged animals worldwide."

PEIVDF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INAUGURAL FUNDRAISER – "AN EVENING WITH DR. PETER EMILY"

Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation Holds Its Inaugural Fundraiser
In Las Vegas on Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Lakewood, CO, January 17, 2008 -- The prestigious Western Veterinary Conference (WVC) will host the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation (PEIVDF) inaugural fundraiser on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 5:30 pm at the Four Seasons Hotel, Acacia Ballroom in Las Vegas, NV. Special guests include Tippi Hedren and Martin Dinnes DVM, of Shambala Preserve and the Roar Foundation.

The PEIVDF is working to expand the veterinary dental knowledge of caretaker and veterinary staff at captive animal facilities and animal sanctuaries throughout the world. At its current funding level, the Foundation awards annual working grants for achievements in dental care for Disadvantaged Small Animals, Disadvantaged Zoo and Wild Animals, and Equines. The PEIVDF is actively working to raise the funds to expand its mission, to include a program they call "Veterinary Dentists Without Borders". Through this program, the Foundation will travel to animal facilities in the United States and abroad to perform necessary veterinary dental procedures, as well as providing training in veterinary dental care to existing staff.

Most people, and in fact even well-trained professionals, aren't aware of the dangers lurking inside the mouths of the world's animals. Dr. Peter Emily is widely known as the "grandfather" of animal dentistry – or sometimes "Godfather", due to his Italian heritage. Since the early 1960s he has made it his life's mission to educate layman and professionals about the need for veterinary dental care in both wild and domesticated animals. His patient list includes spotted hyenas, tigers, a killer whale, polar bears, elephants, shrews, monkeys, various birds and even a gold tooth for a black-footed ferret. But it's not about giving Ol' Rex or a wild boar a nice set of pearly whites – it's about identifying potentially deadly and often painful problems. If left untreated, these problems can lead to much more serious health issues.

Many veterinarians and captive animal facilities understand the importance of regular dental care. Siegfried & Roy, The Denver Zoo, and veterinary hospitals around the world have called upon Dr. Emily to perform root canals, beak repairs and a variety of other dental procedures most people think only humans require.

Even captive exotic animals in the most well-appointed zoos can suffer from "zoochosis" to some degree – an abnormal psychotic behavior often manifested by pacing and cage-biting. Though they look frighteningly big, the teeth of many animals just aren't that strong compared to the biting force of the animal's jaw. The cage is bitten and a tooth is broken, often resulting in the extremely painful exposure of the tooth's root. Every breath, every brush of the tongue, every drink of water, is painful. Add to that the inability to verbalize what is wrong. All they can do is pace and act out more as the pain intensifies and the problem compounds. The mouth is central to blood flow in the body. Even in domesticated animals, the infection caused by an untended broken canine often leads to serious systemic health problems.

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The Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation (PEIVDF) was established in 2005 through a donation of funds from Dr. Emily and is a registered 501(c)(3) private foundation, working to provide for the dental needs of disadvantaged animals worldwide by providing vitally necessary veterinary dental education, training and services.

For more information about this event, or to schedule an interview with Dr. Emily, please call Susanne Pilla at (303) 355-7688, or e-mail Susanne at pilla.s@peteremilyfoundation.org., or visit the website at: www.peteremilyfoundation.org