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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Statement from the Ohio Department of Agriculture regarding the Thompson animal quarantine**

At the request of Marian Thompson, testimony in today's administrative hearing was continued by the hearing officer until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 30, 2012 at the same location as today's hearing.

Additionally, State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Forshey received and today reviewed the results of the testing performed in March on the five animals currently under quarantine. A preliminary review indicates all five animals are free of the dangerously contagious or infectious diseases for which they were tested.

The animals remain under quarantine at the Columbus Zoo for continued observation for behavioral and clinical signs of rabies, the test for which can only be confirmed after an animal is deceased. No determinations regarding the status of the quarantine will be made before the observation period has concluded.

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