

For Immediate Release  
November 29, 2011



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## **Toy Drive Offers Free Zoo Tickets**

### **Metro's Mounted Patrol Holds 50th Annual Toy Drive at the Zoo**

Metro Nashville Police Department's Mounted Patrol Division will collect donated toys for its annual Christmas Basket Program on Dec. 3 and 4 at Nashville Zoo. As an added incentive, the Zoo is offering a complimentary admission ticket for every new toy donated.

Metro police officers will collect the toys in the Zoo's parking lot from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Kids are invited to drop off letters to Santa Claus that the officers will deliver to the North Pole in time for Christmas. Horses from the Mounted Patrol Division will also be available for guests to meet.

The toy drive is part of the Metro Police Department's 50<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Basket Program, a charity drive designed to collect toys and other items for area families in need of assistance during the holidays. In addition, the Metro Police Department is assisting with USA Cares, a charity that supports wounded military veterans and their families. Police officers will deliver the donated toys to children on the morning of Dec. 24.

Zoo admission is not required to donate toys. Toys must be unwrapped and designed for children 12 and younger. The complimentary Zoo tickets may be used anytime during normal Zoo hours through the end of January 2012.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Pike and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, call 615-833-1534 or visit [www.nashvillezoo.org](http://www.nashvillezoo.org).

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