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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Shark Pups Arrive At The Living Planet Aquarium

Sandy, UT (July 11, 2012) --- Look what the stork dropped off at The Living Planet Aquarium! In this case the stork is actually an Australian cargo plane and the babies are 5 shark pups that arrived today from northeast Australia. The pups were flown to Los Angeles in self-contained, water-tight tanks complete with battery-powered aerators. After water tests, health inspections, and water changes the new arrivals were loaded into a truck for the trip to their new home in Utah. A temperature-controlled truck drove through the night to avoid the daytime desert heat.

This Friday, July 13, three young Gray Reef Sharks and two Blacktip Reef Sharks will be on display in the shark tank located in the Ocean Explorer gallery. They each measure approximately 3 feet long with the potential to reach up to 8 feet in length. The old sharks were temporarily moved to a behind-the-scenes holding tank to give the pups a chance to settle in. “We wanted to get small sharks that will grow and mature before we open our new facility which will include an 80 foot long, 300,000 gallon shark habitat,” said Andy Allison, Curator of Animals. “They arrived just in time for *Shark Week* which will allow us to partner with Discovery Channel to maximize the impact of our education programs,” said Allison. A new Giant Shovelnose Ray and a White Spotted Guitarfish will also accompany the sharks in their new habitat.

The arrival of the sharks mark the beginning of an exciting period for the Aquarium which will culminate with the opening of a brand new aquarium in late 2013. The pups will remain on exhibit in the Sandy location until they are ready for transfer next year to the new aquarium in Draper. The shark pups join an impressive group of animals at The Living Planet Aquarium, a



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must-see Utah attraction and educational facility, where adults and children alike can enjoy and learn about more than 1,600 animals including a Giant Pacific Octopus, sharks, a rescued Green sea turtle, Gentoo penguins and much more.

About The Living Planet Aquarium

The Living Planet Aquarium inspires people to explore, discover and learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems. Admission is \$9.95 per adult, \$7.95 per child, ages 3-17, and free for children ages 2 and under. Each ticket purchased helps support the Aquarium's vision to foster stewardship for the environment and life on Earth. Advance tickets may be purchased online at www.thelivingplanet.com or by phone at (801) 355-fish(3474). The Aquarium, located at 725 E 10600 S in Sandy, Utah, is a non-profit organization. Open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Aquarium is accessible to people with disabilities. Members enjoy unlimited visits and other benefits. Call (801) 355-fish(3474) to join. For more information, visit www.thelivingplanet.com.

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