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Dear Producer/Interviewer:

Dr. Lucy H. Spelman is a world-renowned zoo and wildlife veterinarian— the current regional manager for the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project in Africa and the former director of the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, DC—who has been featured on Animal Planet, the Discovery Channel, “Today” and National Public Radio for her work at some of the world’s most prestigious zoological institutions. Now as editor and contributing author for **THE RHINO WITH GLUE-ON SHOES: And Other Surprising True Stories of Zoo Vets and their Patients**, she offers a fascinating insider’s look at wild animals, the dedicated professionals that care for their health, and the special bonds that develop between them in this collection of essays she gathered from some of the world’s top zoo and wildlife vets. Already endorsed with glowing praise from animal lovers Jeff Corwin, Jane Goodall, and actress Betty White, **THE RHINO WITH GLUE-ON SHOES** will be published as a Delacorte Press Hardcover on July 1, 2008.

Comprised of personal stories from 28 vets working in the U.S. and abroad, **THE RHINO WITH GLUE-ON SHOES** is filled with the real-life medical drama that ensues when treating animals that range in weight from several tons to less than an ounce, with symptoms as diverse as broken hearts and broken bones. From the story of the crippled child who took courage to wear her own orthopedic brace after meeting a giraffe who wore a brace as well, to one about a tiny frog’s treatment that led to new improvements in anesthesia, Spelman’s collection of stories brings to life the dedicated work of zoo and wildlife vets around the world—helping wild animals, one patient at a time.

In an interview, Dr. Lucy Spelman can discuss this compilation and:

- **The typical day of a zoo and wildlife vet.**
The answer according to Spelman, as the stories in her book show—there isn’t one! Every case is unique from her own story about Mohan the rhino who needed “glue-on” horseshoes to prevent a painful foot infection to one about an aging chimpanzee with a cataract who needed eye surgery. She can also discuss the many obstacles that all zoo and wildlife vets face—especially since their patients can’t talk and tell them what’s wrong—as well as the various methods and advanced technology they have in their arsenal for treatment.
- **Her personal story and her abiding passion for animals.**
Spelman grew up with a menagerie of animals on an old dairy farm in rural Connecticut. While in middle school, she looked forward to “old clothes Wednesday,” a day set aside by one of her teachers to explore the nature trails across the street. Her experience includes nearly ten years with the Smithsonian National Zoo, half as a veterinarian, and half as its director—the youngest person ever to hold this position and the only female veterinarian among her zoo director colleagues. She was instrumental in bringing giant pandas to Washington in 2001 and spearheaded the start of a 10-year revitalization plan for the National Zoo. She has worked with a number of endangered “giants” in their native countries, including giant otters in Guyana, giant pandas in China, and, for the past two years, mountain gorillas in Central Africa.

As the summer months approach and zoo and national park attendance reaches their peak, now is the perfect time to interview Dr. Lucy Spelman about the dynamic bonds between humans and animals reflected in each of the true-life stories of **THE RHINO WITH GLUE-ON SHOES**. I look forward to discussing the possibilities.

Best,
Sharon Propson, Publicity Manager
212-782-9008/ spropson@randomhouse.com