

For Immediate Release

Contact Information

Heather Williams: Public Relations

Office: (843) 971-6722

Fax: (843) 216-3804

Email: heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com

Raising a Polar Bear

An orphaned bear's journey from the wilderness to the zoo

Mt. Pleasant, SC (February 1, 2014) – Author Jennifer Curtis and photographer John Gomes pair up to release *Kali's Story: An Orphaned Polar Bear Rescue* coming to stores February 10th from Sylvan Dell Publishing. This tale will capture children's hearts as zookeepers step in to "mother" the baby bear until he travels to meet his new polar bear companion.

Curtis first heard of Kali while working with Gomes and the keepers at the Alaska Zoo on the *Animal Helpers: Zoos* book. From this partnership Curtis felt compelled to tell the baby bear's story to children. "I was intrigued by the fact that this bear would not have been able to survive on his own in the wild and impressed by the caring staff at that zoo," said Curtis. "I wanted to help tell this bear's story. We also hope that this book will raise more awareness about the plight of this species while bringing more recognition and hopefully funds for the Alaska and Buffalo Zoos." Gomes photos and videos grabbed the attention of national media as Kali played and romped in the Alaska snow, and zookeepers readied the wild bear for a meeting with a new polar bear companion in his new environment.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is proud to tell *Kali's Story*, and the book includes an educational For Creative Minds section, which allows curious minds to dive deeper into polar bear facts and activities. Also available on the company's website are teaching activities, quizzes and standards alignment for educators to seamlessly integrate the book into the classroom and introduce new facts about polar bears to young children.

Curtis is an award-winning nature author frequently found among students and teachers talking about literacy or conservation. In addition to the *Animal Helpers* series, *Baby Owl's Rescue*, and *Turtles in My Sandbox* for Sylvan Dell, some of her other recent titles include *Osprey Adventure*, *Saving Squeak: A River Otter's Tale*, and *Seahorses*. Jennifer resides in Maryland, with her family and a wide variety of pets. Visit her website at jenniferkeatscurtis.com.

John Gomes' passion for photography is evident through his nature and Alaskan-focused images. A self-taught photographer going back to the "manual" camera days, John's photos capture Alaskan life

including mushing (sled-dog racing) and rodeos. John has been the Alaska Zoo's official volunteer photographer for over ten years and has spent countless hours capturing magnificent images of baby and adult animals, including bears, goats, coyotes, foxes, and porcupines.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Jennifer Keats Curtis or John Gomes please contact Heather Williams at (843) 971-6722 or heatherwilliams@sylvandellpublishing.com.

About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell is on a mission to improve child literacy with science and math through fictional picture books. Using prose and pictures, children are delighted with stories of their favorite animals, planets, or even place. This leads to the exploration of facts and learning activities in each book's *For Creative Minds* pages. Sylvan Dell carefully designs each book to portray accurately the chosen subject. Vetted by experts in that field, and aligned to common core and state standards, each book is an asset to educational programs. Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 80 authors and illustrators, and honored to have won more than 70 book awards since its inception in 2005.

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