No. 1 / march 2014

ZOO report

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

BRNO

special supplement

ZOO REPORT PROFI

The Content

Zooreport
the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo
march 2014
No. 1/14, volume XVI

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Distribution:
500 pcs in the English version
1,500 pcs in the Czech version

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First page:
Northern fur seal

UNSALEABLE

The reality of a zoological garden as opposed to virtual blindness

Dear friends of Brno Zoo, please allow me to take the opportunity of beginning this issue of ZooReport with a few thoughts on the purpose of the existence of Brno Zoo. In fact, the following musings probably concern all zoos and similar institutions, not only Brno Zoo.

Even though we may not realize it, the importance to society of a zoological garden is increasing, and with greater speed than before. You may ask what makes me believe so. In my opinion, it is the result of a lifestyle change which is perceptible particularly in the younger and youngest generations. I see the main reason for this change in the hurried, one could say almost exponential, speed with which modern technological conveniences, particularly in the area of information technology, are penetrating our lives.

One might thus ask: "Why should I spend hours in some zoo when I can view pictures, videos, and all the information I want about any animal in the world on my computer monitor just with a few clicks?" This idea may seem absurd to generations which grew up before the age of information technology (and I include my generation in this category). But for the youngest generation, which takes it for granted that there is mobile phone access to the Internet and Facebook, just as they do that the sun rises every morning, this idea is completely logical. One can see, not infrequently, today's young people happily staring at their iPads while out in the forest – that is if they should even happen to visit the countryside at all...

The zoo is here mainly for children, and it is our children that are most threatened by what I call "virtual blindness" – living their lives in virtual reality rather than in the real version of existence. Respect and love for animals and life in general cannot be learned through the Internet or Android applications. The hundreds of thousands of years of development which our species has been through have programmed humans to gain such experience and feelings through immediate contact and with personal interest, and one or two generations growing up in the ever-present world of virtual reality won't change anything about this. Luckily, the principles held by cavemen (in the good sense of the word) – or something similar - hopefully still exist. A positive attitude to animals results in a positive attitude to the surrounding world, to people as well as to the environment, and when else should such an attitude be fostered in people than during their childhood? Children should be (and I believe they still are) happier when they have direct contact with an animal, and they can enjoy this more with a live animal than by interacting with one in even an almost-perfect computer game. This is where the role of zoological gardens is irreplaceable. Their importance is growing in direct proportion to the growth in the cyberspace which surrounds our lives.

It is therefore up to the management of zoos to make them as attractive and accessible as possible for visitors, particularly children. And it is up to the city, as the establisher, to provide sufficient (mainly financial) support to help this effort bear fruit. This isn't a process which can be completed in a single day, but a long-term task. However, it is important that all those involved realize that providing support for zoological gardens is not simply an end in itself, or something unchangeable. Instead, it must be one of the key pillars of education for the generation to come, a generation which will probably have to deal with issues regarding the preservation of the environment with an urgency beyond any yet encountered in human history.

JUDr. Jiří Oliva

Everyone can decide for himself how successful Brno Zoological Garden has been in these efforts to date. In my opinion, it is heading in the right direction and yet is aware that there is always room for improvement...

JUDr. Jiří Oliva,
Chairman of the Environmental Committee of Brno City Council

JUDr. Jiří Oliva

was born in Brno in 1977. After completing his school leaving exams at Brno Secondary Industrial School of Foundry Technology, he gained a Master's degree from the Faculty of Law at Brno's Masaryk University, where in 2004 he passed his viva voce and earned the title Doctor of Law.

In 2002 he was elected to the local government of the City of Brno as a member of the Czech Social Democratic Party. He served on the Audit Committee and Organisational Commission of Brno City Council. He has been a member of the Czech Social Democratic Party since 1997, and currently holds the position of Vice-Chairman of the City Executive Committee of the Brno City branch of the Czech Social Democratic Party. In the local elections in 2006 he was again elected to the local government and became a member of Brno City Council. As a member he primarily wishes to support the development of cycle routes, the preparation of new industrial zones and the improvement of public transport in the city.

Jiří Oliva is married and lives in Brno. His free time interests include history, travel and sport. He plays squash and tennis, enjoys cycling, and previously practiced martial arts.

Avocets

A new species in the Beringia aviary: pied avocets

Last year in November, our zoo received five pairs of pied avocets *(Recurvirostra avosetta)*. The birds, aged from one to three years, were a gift from the Vienna Zoo. They represent a species of birds from the *Charadriiformes* order, a suborder of waders *(Charadrii)* which had never been kept at Brno Zoo before.

The main pied avocet nesting area is the centre of the Eurasian continent, though their range also reaches into northern Europe. Most populations spend the winter in Africa, while some fly to the coast of India or to China. Avocets are a bit bigger than jackdaws, and they are similar in appearance to a stork, but smaller, with black and white feathers. The species does not feature sexual dimorphism; i.e., the males and females have the same colouration. As the Latin name suggests, the very thin, long beak of the avocet has a tip which points upwards; that is, it is recurved. The birds use it to hunt for small fish and invertebrates by sweeping it back and forth just below the surface of shallow waters.

We placed the group of avocets in the aviary in the Beringia exhibit complex alongside northern pintails *(Anas acuta)* and two other species of waders – ruffs *(Philomachus pugnax)* and Eurasian oystercatchers *(Haematopodus ostralegus)*. At first, we weren't sure how the avocets would react to their stay in the auxiliary facilities of the complex during the quarantine period. To make them more comfortable, we fitted the ceiling of their sleeping quarters with a soft net. Despite our initial worries, however, they acclimatized perfectly, and it could be seen from the start that they were used to the presence of humans. They started to accept offered food very quickly (minced or small fish and special granules for waders) and they were always hungry, which allayed our fears. After the door to their outdoor enclosure was opened, they were hesitant about coming out, but they found the courage in the end. After a month of quarantine, being able to take a proper bath brought them the greatest joy. They visited their run during milder winter spells, but they didn't want to go out much when the temperatures dropped. However, not much later, just before spring, they could be seen in the shallow waters near the dam of the lake. Unlike northern pintails and Eurasian oystercatchers, pied avocets have close ties to water, and small webs on their feet help them when they are swimming in deep water. They don't sit on elevated structures like the other two species, but are mostly found on the ground, like other members of the *Recurvirostridae* family.

The insular distribution of pied avocets in Europe, linked to suitable wetland biotopes, also extends to the Czech Republic. The first documented nesting site in the country was at the Bezdrev fishpond in 1943. The current nesting population in the Czech Republic numbers no more than 20 pairs, and therefore the pied avocet is on the list of critically endangered animals in our country. The disappearance of suitable biotopes, particularly the drying out of wetlands, is the most serious risk to them. The protection of remaining populations of waders, especially via the preservation of suitable wetland locations, could contribute to the ending of this unfavourable tendency.

RNDr. Petr Suvorov, Ph.D.,
Curator of bird keeping

Avocets

Sunny hillsides and cool gorges beautify the Central Bohemian Uplands

The Central Bohemian Uplands nature reserve is located in northern Bohemia, along both banks of the river Elbe. It was founded in 1976 and, with its area of over one thousand km^2, it is the second largest nature reserve in our country after the Beskydy reserve. It takes up almost the whole area of the range of hills with the same name that stretches for around 70 km from the southwest to the northeast. The hills of the Central Bohemian Uplands have a conical shape, the result of tertiary volcanic activity and the subsequent erosion of igneous rocks. This relatively densely inhabited region hides a variety of completely different, well preserved, and unique natural environments.

The southwest part of the Central Bohemian Uplands, with an average annual temperature of above 8 °C and an average rainfall of under 450 mm, fulfils the conditions for the maintenance of narrow-leaved steppe grasses, stipa steppes, and dry wide-leaved grassland and pasture land. The best-known areas with steppe grassland include the Oblík and Raná national nature reserves, and the Milá nature reserve. Only there, and on several other hills in the Central Bohemian Uplands, can we find an endemic grasshopper subspecies, *Stenobothrus eurasius bohemicus*.

The slopes of Raná Hill are the largest natural area where the critically endangered European ground squirrel *(Spermophilus citellus)* can be found in the Czech Republic. The steppes and pastureland in the Louny region, where the occurrence of the hoopoe *(Upupa epops)* has once again been recorded, are being restored by the nature reserve authority as part of the Life+ European conservation project.

Photo Roman Hamerský

A view on the Central Bohemian Uplands

Photo Jana Marešová

European ground squirrel

The southern and southeastern edge of the Central Bohemian Uplands is characterized by so-called white hillsides – slopes which suffer repeated landslides and which feature high calcium carbonate content (which is where the light colour comes from). The continuously present early-successional ecosystem stage, alkaline bedrock, and specific microclimate create the conditions for the presence of rare steppe pants, orchids and broomrape (a parasitic plant without chlorophyll from the *Orobanchaceae* family), as well as hundreds of rare species of thermophilic insects.

The more forested central part of the Central Bohemian Uplands is dominated by the faunistically interesting canyon of the river Elbe. Our largest lizard, the attractively coloured European green lizard *(Lacerta viridis)*, inhabits sunny rocks and walls there. In contrast, deep in the valley, the second largest rodent in the world, the Eurasian beaver *(Castor fiber)*, builds its burrows in the river banks. In the forest, the fish-eating black stork *(Ciconia nigra)* nests; and we can meet several endangered butterflies, the dusky large blue *(Phengaris nausithous)* and scarce large blue, on wet meadows. Stone crayfish *(Austropotamobius torrentium)* live in smaller brooks in the northern part of the Central Bohemian Uplands, and extensive wet meadows with pastureland are home to the elegant and predatory golden ground beetle *(Carabus auratus)*.

Photo Jan Procházka

Black storks

Other protected areas are connected to the Central Bohemian Uplands – the Labské Pískovce protected landscape area and Bohemian Switzerland National Park in the north, and the Lužické Mountains protected landscape area in the northeast. Together they form a unique landscape with deep gorges, "rock towns" (areas filled with tall, thin, weathered pillars of rock), and preserved countryside.

RNDr. Jana Marešová,
Zoologist of the Central Bohemian Uplands
Nature Reserve Authority

Chimpanzees sometimes pick up the leafy branches left for them by their keepers in the outdoor run, and take them into the pavilion to eat

Fáben is no longer alone

We brought two chimpanzee females *(Pan troglotydes)* from Pilsen Zoo on 18th June 2013 to form a new exhibition group with our existing male, Fáben. Fáben has lived alone at Brno Zoo for about a year, and he has definitely missed the company of other individuals of the same species. Even though older individuals usually find it hard to get used to new partners, it became apparent that bringing the two females from Pilsen to Brno was the right move.

Both zoos took great care in establishing this new grouping of chimpanzees. Before the move, a Brno zookeeper spent a week in Pilsen watching both females, and a zookeeper from Pilsen stayed in Brno after their arrival until the release of all three individuals into the shared enclosure, which happened ten days later. During the time when the chimpanzees were getting to know one another through bars, the zoo keepers watched their reactions very carefully.

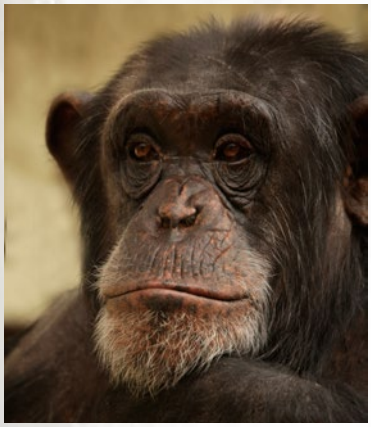
Our zoo has been keeping chimpanzees since the 1960s, and Fáben since 1996. He was born at Kolmarden Zoo in Sweden in 1979, where he was raised by his mother. He lived in Brno with three females until 2010, when forty-four-year-old Dady died. Shortly afterwards, forty-year-old Peggy suffered the same fate. The third female, Nymba, who was as old as Fáben, died in April 2012.

Our chimpanzees have never reproduced, as Fáben has never mated in Brno. In the four zoos where he was kept previous to his arrival here, he apparently did mate, but never produced young. The cause of the change in his behaviour when he came to Brno isn't known.

Our newly arrived females have the following histories: **Gina**, a former circus star, was raised by people. Her year of birth, 1975, is only a guess. She doesn't want to mate, and refuses all males. She came to Pilsen in the 1980s, where she lived as the dominant individual in a pack in which the breeding male, Bask, was also her subordinate. Zookeepers in Pilsen hope that Bask will finally mate with the young females there after the departure of Gina.

Mary was born at Krakow Zoo in Poland in 1995. She was already five when she came to Pilsen. As she spent her adolescence without her mother or siblings, her social education was disrupted in a way similar to Gina's – only with the difference that she is willing to mate. However, she immediately killed the young she had given birth

Gina



Mary

to because she had no idea of how to handle them. (After this experience, a Pilsen Zoo vet provided a means of contraception for her.)

Brno's ape pavilion was built in 1966 and was reconstructed in 2010. It therefore meets current requirements for animal keeping. A large new natural run is going to be added soon, but right now the outdoor run is something of a relic of the past. It consists of three cages which were originally inhabited by three different species of apes. These have now been joined to create one area which is used only by the chimpanzees. The first two cages are connected directly, while the third one is connected to them via an approximately two-metre-long tunnel made of wire mesh. After the females arrived, we isolated Fáben in the third cage to let him get acquainted with his new female friends through the wires for ten days. He was interested in contact with them from the first moment he saw them.

Fáben (left) and Mary (right) have become an almost inseparable couple

From the females' two joined outdoor cages, they were able to enter the viewable indoor enclosure, which has access to a lower floor with sleeping quarters. Gina's first reaction on seeing Fáben was very warm: She hugged him through the bars, shouting happily. Mary, on the other hand, tended to start quarrels; but she presented herself as a subordinate individual by offering her tummy to Fáben.

In the following days, Fáben made his bed in the tunnel so that he could better see what was happening in the neighbouring double cage. When the outside runs were cleaned, the females were shut in the pavilion and Fáben was in the double cage. He peeped into the sleeping quarters through the window, looking for the females, and kept hitting the door leading to the inside run. Days passed calmly, with no shouting or hysterical fits. A clear sign of successful adaptation was recorded on the eighth day, when the females spread their excrement on the glass wall of the inside run for the first time.

Fáben

Each of the females had a different attitude to the three Brno keepers who look after them. Gina was cooperative, taking food and drink from the keepers' hands and letting them scratch her, moving around the animal-keeping facilities as if she had been there forever. Mary, however, perhaps loved her Pilsen keepers more than Gina did, and didn't approve of the change. She didn't accept the drinking bottle or any of the offered food, standing aside at feeding time.

The group was united on 26th June. At 10 o'clock, a vet arrived with an immobilizing gun, and the keepers connected a hose to the water supply in preparation for settling any possible conflicts that might ensue. At first, Gina remained locked inside the pavilion, and the first direct contact took place between Fáben and Mary. They walked around the outdoor cages for about ten minutes, happy to be together. Then Gina appeared on the scene. When she noticed Mary and Fáben, she started shouting and all three of them disappeared into the indoor run. They returned a few minutes later and the door was shut behind them so that the reactions of the chimpanzees could be under constant supervision. Gina at first seemed to be afraid that Fáben might harm Mary, but she finally realized that that wouldn't happen, and her worrying eased. At midday, Mary joined Fáben and Gina in being fed from a keeper's hand. She also took her drink from a pot and let the keepers scratch her, greeting them and acting in a relaxed way. It was pleasant to discover that she no longer felt unfriendly towards the keepers. In the afternoon, Mary started grooming Fáben. He was happy to be looked after.

Visitors to Brno Zoo can thus once again view a happy three-member group of chimpanzees who will certainly please everyone with their behaviour, even if they don't reproduce. Chimpanzees are an important part of educational programmes. Let's also bear in mind that animal keeping is not only about the breeding of young: A zoo must also be able to provide a decent life for its animals until their very end.

The walking trail following the main route passes through the wallaby enclosure, which by March 2014 was almost complete

Construction of the aviary for bald eagles

Three new exhibits: wallabies, eagles, and an African village

There has been a lot of construction activity on the premises of Brno Zoo since October 2013, when work on the construction of three new exhibits began: a run for brush-tailed rock wallabies, an aviary for bald eagles, and an African village. These projects are all supposed to be completed by the middle of 2014.

The run for the wallabies was already nearing completion in March of this year. It can be found at the end of the main route along which the tourist train takes visitors from the At the Tiger's restaurant to the Exotarium pavilion in the top part of the zoo. The walking trail which follows the main route actually passes through the wallaby enclosure. Before it leaves the enclosure near the Exotarium, an experience trail branches off, along which visitors can meet a wallaby.

Also, on the southwest slope of Monk's Hill, in the Beringia complex with its northern animal exhibits, an imposing new addition to the zoo is being created – a sixteen-metre-high aviary for bald eagles. This impressive steel structure has a funnel-like shape which widens from the base up so that the birds have sufficient space in which to fly, as the upper circular edge measures thirty metres in diameter. When entering and leaving the aviary, visitors will pass through complementary exhibits featuring striped skunks, North American porcupines, and North American chipmunks.

Finally, at the highest point of the gardens, near the run for ungulates from sub-Saharan Africa known as the Safari, an "African Village" is being constructed, which will mainly consist of eight circular-based structures that resemble dwellings used by the inhabitants of the Kalahari Desert. This captivating corner of the planet, which is perhaps reminiscent of a semi desert, offers a variety of plant and animal species. Some ethnic groups still live in harmony with nature there. The circular huts will serve as information and teaching centres, the village will be enlivened by African poultry, and there will be a lake with flamingos along its edge. The globe-shaped water tower, which has been standing there since 1973, will be made to look like a hot-air balloon so as not to clash with the exotic landscape. Close to the African Village, in the Safari run, large animals will be moving around: giraffes, zebras, and wildebeests.

The new exhibits will enable direct observation of the animals without any optical barrier. The zoo will thus attain a new, higher level of quality, which fully corresponds to the current requirements for animal keeping and which emphasizes the role of animals in the popularization of the protection of the environment.

Construction of the African Village (with the globe-shaped water tower in the background)

Brno Zoo's takins are reproducing successfully

Brno's herd of Mishmi takin *(Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor)* has been increased by two new babies. First, on 23rd March, a male was born; and then, on 1st April, a female arrived. Let us remember that our takin also gave birth to one male and one female in 2013. These rare, even-toed ungulates from the Himalayas have been reproducing in Brno since 2003, and they have successfully raised eight young (including this year's babies) so far. It is pleasing to look at the current herd, as there are two adult pairs, two young takin from last year, and two babies born this year.

This year's Mishmi takin young with a young takin born in 2013

Our new anteater is waiting for a female

One of the exhibits in the terrarium building, which borders on the Tropical Kingdom pavilion, has had a new inhabitant since 26th March 2014. It is a male collared anteater *(Tamandua tetradactyla)* from Olomouc Zoo, where anteaters are bred with success. He was born in Dortmund Zoo and lived in Olomouc since 2008. He has produced offspring in the aforementioned zoological gardens and also in others. We hope that we can soon find a female for him and that Jarys, as Dortmund named him, will also reproduce here.

There are four subspecies of three species of anteaters which form the *Myrmecophagidae* family, which in turn belongs to the Xenarthra mammal superorder. They live in the forests and savannahs of tropical America from the southern part of the USA down to Argentina. Some of them live in trees, and others can be found more frequently on the ground.

They have a specialised diet, feeding on small insects (mainly ants and termites) which they usually catch by digging into anthills and termite hills with the large claws on their feet and then sticking their long tongue, which is covered with sticky saliva, inside. When searching for food, an anteater can move its tongue in and out of its mouth up to 150 times per minute.

Anteaters have no teeth. The snout is elongated into a tube, ending with a small circular opening for the tongue. The jaws, which are underdeveloped, cannot process the prey, and the function of teeth is assumed by the muscular stomach, where food is ground up with the help of small swallowed stones.

Individual species differ significantly in size. The giant anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* grows up to a length of 120 cm (without the tail). In contrast, the smallest member of the family, the silky anteater *(Cyclopes didactylus)*, is only about 30 cm long, while the northern tamandua can grow up to 77 cm long. Collared anteaters, which have a maximum body length of 88 cm, inhabit dry as well as wet forests and bushy biotopes ranging from Venezuela to Argentina. Aside from ants, they also eat wasps and other insects and their larvae. They like robbing the nests of wild bees, where they eagerly consume bee larvae and honey.

Collared anteater male Jaris

ZooReport is to be published as a quarterly magazine again

The ZooReport magazine, which was published irregularly in 2012 and 2013, will once again appear as a quarterly magazine from 2014. The temporary decrease in periodicity was the result of a lower contribution to the operation of the zoo because of the national economic crisis.

Feeding time for the northern fur seals

Northern fur seals have replaced brown fur seals

During the night of 19th to 20th December 2013, a vehicle arrived at Brno Zoo from Prague Airport bringing three northern fur seals *(Callorhinus ursinus)*, one male and two females. They had flown to Prague from Moscow, where they had been kept for some time by the local zoological gardens. The playful four-year-old pinnipeds come from the wild, and have replaced Brno's previously exhibited brown fur seals *(Arctocephalus pusillus)*, which we stopped keeping after many years.

Northern fur seals can rarely be seen in zoos in European Union countries: Only twp German zoos in - Berlin and Hannover - keep them, though other European keepers can be found in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. Their natural home is in the northern part of the Pacific Ocean, with their range extending from the Barents Sea up to southern Japan in the west Pacific, and the coast of California in the USA in the east. The southern border of their area of occurrence corresponds to approximately 35° north.

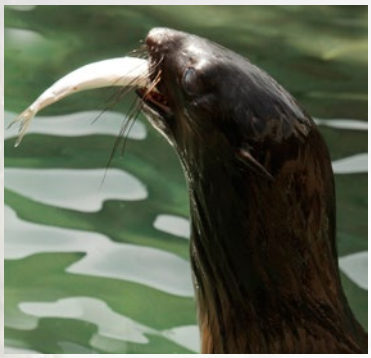
Northern fur seals are distinctly marine animals. They spend time and hunt in deep waters, where they sleep as well, and they avoid coastal shelves. The seas and oceans are threaded with their long migration routes in search of food, which consists mainly of fish. They only come onto dry land to reproduce, which takes place in numerous colonies along the rocky or sandy coasts of islands in the northern Pacific.

First, around April, the males arrive at the breeding grounds. Their seasonal migration is probably not as long as that of the females. Then they fight to establish territory, the winner chasing his adversaries away to its edge. One month later, the females, which had been impregnated during the previous season, arrive and give birth to one pup a day or two after. They nurse this baby for three or four months. Approximately one week after giving birth, the females are able to mate again. The local dominant male will mate with ten to twenty females, and sometimes his harem can consist of up to fifty cows.

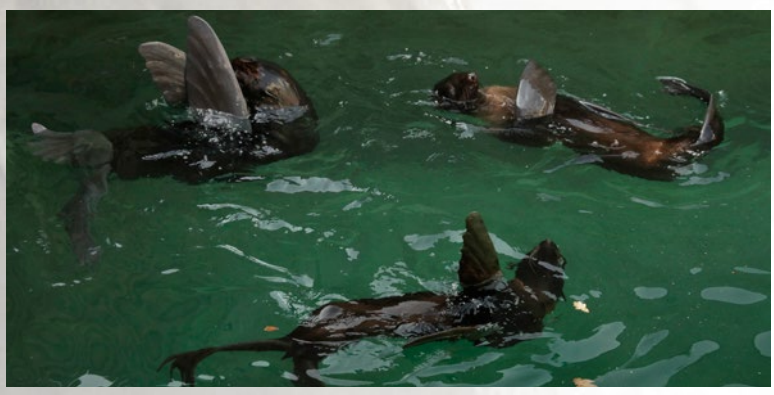
The largest gathering place for northern fur seals are the Pribilof Islands, where zoologists estimate their population amounts to around 600,000 individuals. Colonies on the Commander Islands comprise up to 230,000 individuals; and on Seal Island near Sakhalin, there are about 100,000 seals. On several of the Kuril Islands, they total about 45,000; while on Bogoslof Island in the Aleutian Islands, about 5,000 can be found; and there are also about 8,000 on the island of San Miguel near the coast of California in the USA.

Northern fur seals display great sexual dimorphism. Adult males have significantly darker fur, dark brown to black, and they are a lot larger than the mainly light brown females. Males weigh 180 to 275 kg and their body can measure up to 213 cm long, while females weigh 40 to 50 kg and can be up to 142 cm in length. Their fur is exceptionally thick.

There are about one million northern fur seals in the wild, which is about half the number that there were in 1950. The drop has been caused by the killing of these animals for their fur and fat, and the depletion of their food supply from the catching of sea fish on an enormous scale. Seals are also sensitive to crude oil leaks, as oily fur loses its thermoregulatory effect, so the animals die of cold. Today, there are significant limits on northern fur seal hunting. As part of the permitted hunting quota, some individuals can be captured to be kept in zoos.



Northern fur seal



Northern fur seal in the outdoor pool

Tigress Satu's fifth partner

When implementing our animal-keeping ideas at the zoological gardens, we often plan and think ahead, not only for days or weeks, but also for years and sometimes even decades. This is appropriate or, in fact, necessary when trying to breed a very rare subspecies such as the Sumatran tiger *(Panthera tigris sumatrae)*.

A two-year-old Sumatran tiger, Dandys, arrived at Monk's Hill from Warsaw Zoo on 19th March 2014 with our hope that he could eventually form a new breeding pair with Brno's female, ten-year-old Satu. Satu, who comes from Dublin Zoo in Ireland, has lived in Brno since 2005, and she has had bad luck, not becoming pregnant with any of her suitors. We all wish her success at last with the newcomer, who is already her fifth partner. However, he must be at least one year older before he becomes sexually mature.

Male Sumatran tiger Dandys

We are keeping the new pair separate for now. At the Tiger Rocks exhibit, the male and the female each enjoy a separate spacious run and indoor sleeping quarters. At first, Dandys moved around his new environment very shyly, but soon he began to watch very intensively what was happening in the neighbouring run, where Satu lives.

Satu first lived with Dick, a male tiger who was born at our zoo in 1996. While Dick was mating with Satu in March 2007, a fight broke out. He suffered a foreleg fracture and had to be put to sleep. Our tigress' second partner was Dick's brother, Kampar, who died of old age. The third male was Dustin, who was borrowed from Jihlava Zoo. He spent a short time in Brno, charged with the task of sexually stimulating Satu, after which she was to be inseminated artificially with sperm which had previously been taken from Kampar. This plan failed because the techniques for inseminating large felines have not yet been sufficiently developed. (However, the frozen sperm can still be used in the future.) The fourth male, Dua, born in Stuttgart Zoo in Germany in 2005, arrived in Brno on 15th May 2009. He returned to Stuttgart on 5th March 2014 after almost five years of coexistence with Satu. These years were idyllic ones, but perhaps a bit too much so. Whenever submissive Dua found the courage and tried to copulate with his mate, he failed to inseminate her.

Female Sumatran tiger Satu

The Sumatran tiger, endemic to the island of Sumatra, lives in forests, peat bogs, and swamps which people are turning into new agricultural areas. Thus, the tiger's biotope is shrinking. There are only several hundred individuals left in the wild (a more accurate number is hard to determine) and the number is probably decreasing. The IUCN Red List classifies Sumatran tigers as critically endangered (CR category).

Many other zoological gardens are struggling to put together breeding pairs of Sumatran tigers, and the birth of every new individual has a huge importance for the existence of the taxon. If a zoo owns a genetically precious female such as Satu, it is definitely worth while to keep trying, patiently and tirelessly, to create favourable conditions for the arrival of a new generation.

VYHRAJTE exotickou DOVOLENOU za 60 000 Kč

Soutěže se může účastnit každý návštěvník Zoo Brno!

Stačí vyzvednout si soutěžní lístek (v pokladně zoo či v prodejně suvenýrů v budově restaurace U Tygra), vepsat do něj správné odpovědi na sedm otázek a přidat vtipný komentář o brněnské zoologické zahradě. Soutěžit lze do 12. září 2014, následující den bude vyhlášen vítěz, který obdrží **zájezd s Cestovní kanceláří Livingstone v ceně 60 000 Kč**.

Statutární město Brno finančně podporuje Zoo Brno a stanici zájmových činností, příspěvkovou organizaci.

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B R N O

dms Dárcovská SMS Ověřeno Fórem dárců Pomoc jako součást vašeho života.

Chcete-li pomoci chovu brněnských ledních medvědů, zasílejte SMS ve tvaru DMS ZOOBR na telefonní číslo 87 777. Cena jedné DMS je 30 Kč, zoo obdrží 27 Kč. Více informací na www.darcovskasms.cz.