

zoo report

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the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

BRNO



special supplement
ZOOREPORT PROFI

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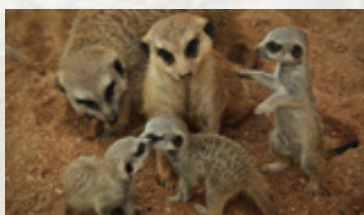
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Editor:

Zoo Brno a stanice zájmových činností, p. o.
U Zoologické zahrady 46,
635 00 Brno, Czech Republic
tel.: +420 546 432 311
fax: +420 546 210 000
e-mail: zoo@zoobrna.cz

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Editor's office address:

Zoo Brno a stanice zájmových činností, p. o.
Redakce Zooreport
U Zoologické zahrady 46,
635 00 Brno, Czech Republic
tel.: +420 546 432 370
fax: +420 546 210 000
e-mail: stuchlik@zoobrna.cz

Editor manager:

Bc. Eduard Stuchlík

Specialist readers:

RNDr. Bohumil Král, CSc.
Mgr. Lubomír Selinger

Emendation:

Rosalind Miranda

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Photos by:

Eduard Stuchlík

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Meerkats

UNSALEABLE

Brno Zoo and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine rescue Indonesian turtles

Animals have the same right as people to enjoy life. However, there is a substantial difference between them: Animals do not “aim” to endanger the lives of people with their activities, while human activities, often perhaps even those with good intentions, can have a disastrous impact on other inhabitants of our planet. There are very few places – if they exist at all – where people have yet to affect the balance of relationships in the wild, either directly or indirectly.

I had the opportunity to witness the extent of the effect of common human activities on a seemingly untouched ‘desert island’ in the Pacific, a place which lies a few hours’ sail from the last inhabited place east of Kalimantan. The daily flood of used plastic packaging has reached such a volume there that it took four people several hours of hard work a day to collect and dispose of it all. The plastic, which is devastating the beaches of the Pacific, had been thrown away by tourists several hundred kilometres away. Just as in many other places on the planet, there, on an island which one can walk around in two hours, the original flora and fauna are fighting an uneven battle with the products of human existence.

Professionals in the area of animal keeping and protection are focusing their attention on directly supporting the preservation of natural species and communities. I am genuinely happy that the

idea of protecting animals right in their own natural environment didn’t end up as just a trendy motto at Brno Zoo. With exceptional concentration and patience – as it is unbelievably complicated to get anything achieved in faraway Asia – our zoological gardens have become involved in the Kura Kura project, the aim of which is the protection of sea turtles in Indonesia.

I’m greatly honoured by the appeal from the management of Brno Zoo for my personal participation in this project as a collaborating consultant during the construction of a veterinary surgery and the provision of specialized support for its operation. I have been involved in giving veterinary care to animals of all kinds of species my whole life, and I have a particular soft spot for our scaly reptilian friends. The construction of a professional base which is able to provide the needed veterinary care for wounded and sick turtles is a challenge which I was happy to accept. We have already got through several important stages of the Kura Kura project. All the needed documents have been approved, the outdoor tanks for the patients are ready, and the construction of the room housing the veterinary surgery has been completed along with facilities for students and volunteers. Equipment for the pumping and distribution of seawater as well as some basic equipment for the veterinary surgery are being transported. I believe that the last preparatory stages will be completed shortly, thanks to the understanding of many organizations, groups, and



Professor Zdeněk Knotek teaches practical endoscopy lessons at a Bangkok university (2015)

individuals who have been helping to support the project financially.

The needed veterinary care will be provided for green sea turtles, hawksbill sea turtles, and other turtle species which have been wounded or confiscated. Rehabilitation following surgical procedures will take place for the minimum necessary period, after which the turtles will be returned to their natural environment.

Prof. MVDr. Zdeněk Knotek, CSc.,
Head of the Avian and Exotic Animal Clinic
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of
Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno



Zdeněk Knotek

Professor Knotek graduated from the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno in 1982, specializing in general veterinary medicine. Afterwards, he was employed at the Veterinary Research Institute in Brno and at the Department of Animal Keeping, Breeding and Genetics of the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno. From 1993 to 2003, he held the posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor; and later, Professor at the 1st Department of Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno. Since 2003, he has been the Head of the Avian and Exotic Animal Clinic at the aforementioned faculty. From December 2007 to January 2014, he served as Professor at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. In 2015 he was named Adjunct Professor at Purdue University in the USA.

Since 2000, he has been a member of the Presidium of the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV), serving as the vice-president of this association from 2006–7, and as its President in 2007–2008. He is an active member of the international committee of the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians, ARAV. He lectures and teaches at universities of veterinary science in Europe, the USA, and Asia.



Competitions for children took place in front of the Brno Zoo exhibit at the Olympia shopping centre

We presented the Kura Kura project at Olympia

In the central square in front of the entrance to the multi-screen cinema in the Olympia shopping centre in Modřice, an exhibit was created to promote the construction of a rescue centre for sea turtles on the island of Nusa Penida in Indonesia. Between 3rd to 18th July 2015, employees of Brno Zoo built an information booth there with an exhibition with the motto: "Save your own turtle!" Visitors to Olympia could also view live exhibits at the booth – three leopard tortoises and a Rothschild's mynah, a member of the starling family which comes from the island of Bali and is one of the most endangered animals in the world.

The exhibition presented the Indonesian archipelago as an area with the second largest biodiversity in the world (immediately after the Brazilian rainforests) and provided information about the local rescue programmes which often focus on turtles, one of the most endangered parts of Indonesia's natural heritage. Even though Indonesian turtles are legally protected, they often become the victims of lucrative illegal business practices aimed at the insatiable Chinese market, and they are disappearing quickly from the wild. (In China itself, almost all turtles have been killed already.) The main purpose of the event in Olympia was to make the public aware of the fact that Brno Zoo has been building a rescue station for sea turtles

at Nusa Penida in cooperation with the Indonesian foundation Yayasan Kura Kura Nusa Penida.

The station will accept turtles confiscated from illegal traders via an Indonesian rescue organization, the BKSDA. The rescued turtles' state of health is often very bad, with numerous surface injuries as well as deep wounds. A vet will look after them at the rescue station; and, after rehabilitation and convalescence, the healed turtles will be released by station workers back into the sea. Czech and Indonesian students of veterinary medicine will help the Indonesian vet. An educational section presenting topics relevant to the Indonesian natural environment, with lectures and seminars for local inhabitants as well as for tourists, is also being created at the station.

As the construction work cannot be financed from the budget of Brno Zoo, the regional authority has issued a certificate for the organization of a public collection, valid from 1st February 2015 until 1st February 2018. Everyone can help Indonesian turtles by sending a donor text message in the form of DMS ZACHRANZELVU to the number 87 777 or by making a contribution to account No. 267825941/0300.

Every Wednesday from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. and every Saturday from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., the exhibition was accompanied by various artistic shows and by entertaining competitions for children. Zoo employees also provided therapy animals (a ferret, a hedgehog, and a Sinaloa milk snake) which people could stroke. Brno Zoo is also preparing similar promotions of the Kura Kura project for other shopping centres. (ed)



Brno Zoo employees with animals among visitors to Olympia



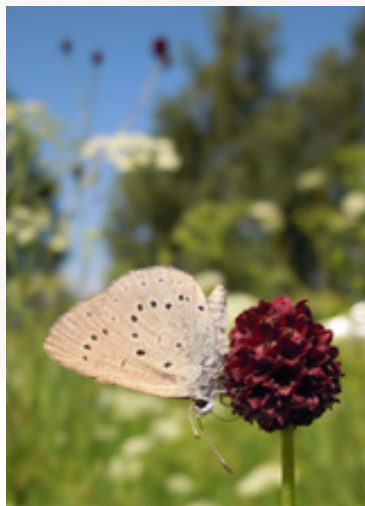
An artistic performance at the central square in Olympia complemented the promotion of the Kura Kura project

Broumov is a region of mountaineers and untouched countryside

The area surrounding the towns of Broumov and Police nad Metují, which protrudes into neighbouring Poland, was declared the Broumov Region Protected Landscape Area in 1991. Covering a surface of 430 km², it is a picturesque area rich in history with islands of wild countryside which have been inhabited and cultivated for many years.

The rectangular sandstone formations typical of the Broumov region are very varied in profile and form, ranging from micro shapes up to extensive rock "cities", which are the most precious part of the protected landscape area from the natural science and landscape perspective, and are of transnational significance. The renowned sandstone rock cities of the Adršpach-Teplice rocks, Ostaš, Kočičí skály, Hejda, Broumovské stěny, and Stolové hory are protected as reserves and natural monuments. With their relief and varied climatic conditions, they enable the existence of unique flora and fauna.

The region's inaccessible rock areas and high rock towers are important mainly for the Eurasian eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*) and the peregrine falcon



Scarce large blue on a host plant, the great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*)

(*Falco peregrinus*), for whose protection the bird area of the Broumov region was declared. Falcons have returned to the local countryside after almost fifty years of absence, and now several pairs are nesting there. As far as other bird species are concerned, we can observe the common raven (*Corvus*

Photo: Petr Kafka



A view of a ridge of the Broumovské stěny rock city which forms a so-called cuesta, in which sloping layers of resistant and less-resistant rocks alternate

corax), and the natural nesting sites of common kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) and western jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*). Small lakes have appeared in the surroundings of the Broumovské stěny rock formations as a result of the former sand mining there. Some of them are home to the rare natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*). It is also a landscape with a relatively high proportion of meadows and grassland, with groupings of these herbal biotopes covering approximately one fourth of the surface of the protected landscape area. Therefore, various species of butterfly, for example the scarce large blue (*Maculinea teleius*) and dusky large blue (*Maculinea nausithous*), can be encountered in many places. The meadow biotopes are often used by the corn crake (*Crex crex*) and the common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*). The bottoms of the cool gorges between the rock blocks are usually made up of scree, block labyrinths, and pseudokarst caves. The pseudokarst terrains on the territory of the protected landscape area are significant not only due to their surface area but also to the extreme microclimatic conditions present (high humidity and low air temperatures, with a lack of sunshine), which have enabled the survival of glacial relics such as certain mites or spiders. A peat lake near

the Skála settlement has become a famous location due to the exceptionally high occurrence of the small whiteface (*Leucorrhinia dubia*) and northern damselfly (*Coenagrion hastulatum*) there.

Even though the Broumov region has become a popular area for mountaineers, tourists, and hikers, there are still many localities which haven't been touched by human hand, where a natural environment close to the original wilderness has a chance to survive on a long-term basis.

Mgr. Petr Kafka,

Zoologist of the Broumov Region Protected Landscape Area Administration

Photo: Petr Kafka



Eurasian eagle owl chicks

Photo: Petr Kafka

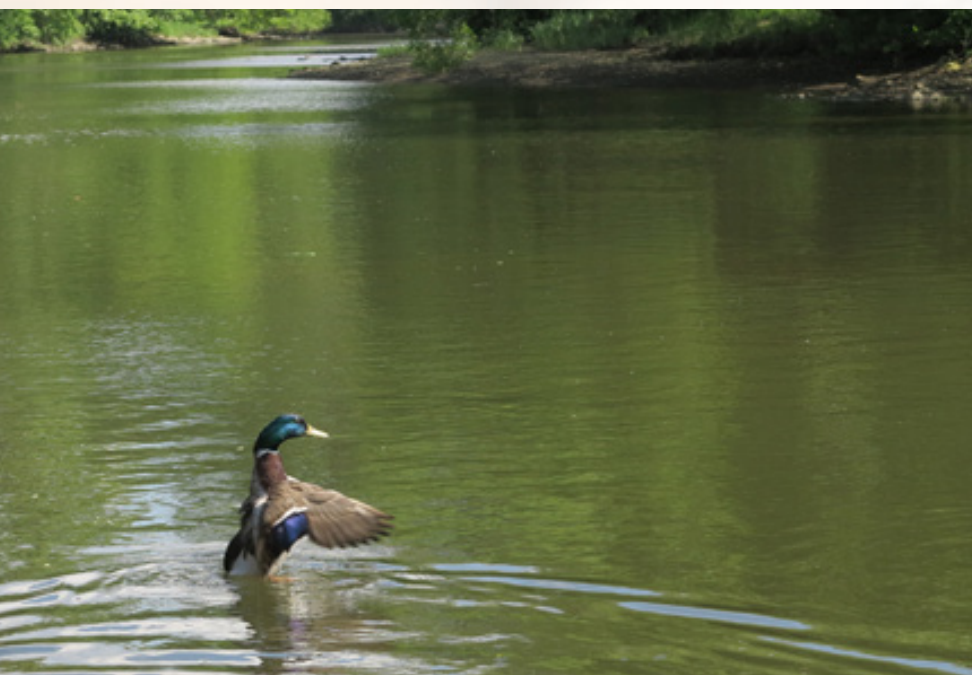


Photo: Jinačovice Rescue Station

A successfully treated mallard drake after release on the Svratka River

Citizens are becoming aware of the existence of the Jinačovice station

During the first six months of its existence, Brno Zoo's rescue station for wild animals caught and took care of approximately one hundred animals which were wounded or in need after we were notified by the public. People's awareness of the station has been growing ever since the zoo launched the operation of the station in the village of Jinačovice in the Brno-venkov region on 2nd February 2015.



European goldfinch

Proof of this is the increasing number of phone calls that we deal with at the station. We also advise callers on how to handle an animal they have found. You can telephone us on 702 137 837 at any time of the day or night, 365 days a year.

During the first half year the station was in operation, we accepted mainly wounded animals, and we also took care of abandoned young animals. Some of the animals were weakened or in bad condition. On several occasions, we rescued animals from places which were unnatural to them. One example was the case of a swift which was stuck in a box hanging approximately 10 m above the ground on the facade of a house in Brno-Komín. The swift had a string wound around its leg, the other end of which was tied to the box. A helpful man from this apartment building proved to be

a skilled mountaineer. He climbed onto the roof, rappelled down to the nest, and freed the swift, which was able to fly.

Mostly, though, we took in animals with fractures or contusions caused by their hitting obstacles. For example, a European goldfinch and great spotted woodpecker were accepted after crashing into glass. At first, they kept losing their balance and weren't able to fly; but after a few days of care, they were able to return to the wild. Sometimes the cause of the wound or injury was unclear, as in the case of a mallard drake which had a wound on his neck. The vet sewed it up, and the mallard soon got well and was immediately released at the place where he was found, on the Svratka River. However, injuries caused by electric current when a bird has come in contact with high-voltage lines often don't heal. A common buzzard we took in had a wing injury and a swollen lower limb from this. Unfortunately, the veterinary surgeon had to put it to sleep.

In recent years, ornithologists and power engineers have been cooperating to develop safer columns and power lines, and to install devices for the protection of birds on outdoor power lines. Citizens can help them with this by sending photographs to the Czech Society for Ornithology (ideally to the avif. birds.cz database) showing birds which are sitting on a column or power line so that the society can see where protection is necessary.

Bird injuries can also be prevented by the marking of glass surfaces. Silhouettes of birds of prey aren't an effective measure, as birds do not react to them. It is better to attach contrasting or UV stickers to the glass, the latter of which the human eye almost fails to notice, while birds see them very well.

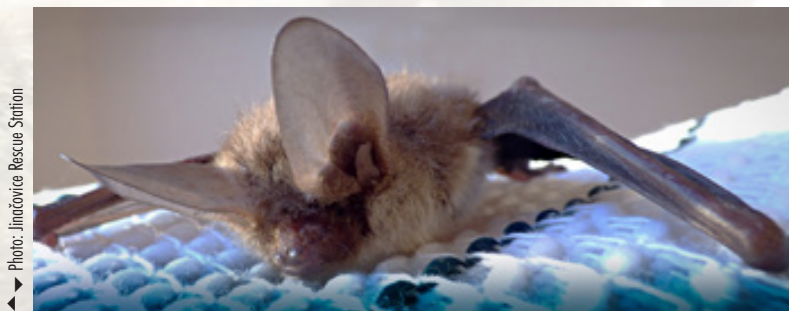


Photo: Jinačovice Rescue Station

At the end of winter, the most frequent clients at the station were bats, an example of which was this Bechstein's bat. This species, which is one of our rarest bats, occurs in fragmented populations in deciduous and mixed forests within our country

The abandoned young animals which have arrived at our station are often at the age when they are beginning to be independent but still need some care. Some others, only seemingly abandoned, didn't in fact need their mother's help any longer. The young animal rescue season started with our looking after a small European hare which had been wandering through town all alone. After it was brought to the station, it started eating solid food (mainly dandelion leaves) and, when it had grown a bit, we released it back into the wild. We often took in red squirrel young. For example, one animal was found cringing and cold on the grounds of a house, while another was injured after falling from a tree in the park. Squirrels get a special milk supplement at the station. When they start eating solid food, they are prepared for release in an outdoor aviary. We released the first rescued squirrel at the end of May, and others were getting ready to return to the wild in July. The squirrels improve their dexterity in the aviary and, as with all young animals, they have to stop being dependent on human care. They are in contact with people only once a day when they are given fresh food, and during the cleaning of their quarters. If possible, they are prepared for release in a group of young animals of their own species.

One of the first young birds to come to our station at the beginning of July was a common kestrel. It was only a few days old and still covered with white down, but it grew right before our eyes. We released it very soon – at the end of July – after which we started to prepare another kestrel for release. We often also received young songbirds – tits, thrushes, blackbirds, and redstarts. Sometimes, the animals were caught needlessly, as they were just becoming independent. Other times, young birds



Photo: Jinačovice Rescue Station

A lost young mute swan was returned to its family the day after it was found



Photo: Pavel Karas

A young red squirrel being given a milk supplement

which had been injured by an attacking cat or dog while they were learning to fly were rescued. We also accepted young house martins which had fallen out of their nests or, during hot days, young swifts which had jumped out of nests that were built in slits in hot man-made structures.

Artificial nursing wasn't successful in the case of a several-day-old European hedgehog which still had white spines along with its dark ones when it was taken in. A dog had chased its mother out of her nest. Even though the hedgehog was given a quality milk supplement, its digestive tract couldn't process it, and it died. It is still true that the best thing we can do for young animals is to leave them in the care of their own parents. We should distinguish between happy, motionless young, and babies which still don't have any feathers or fur and are crawling around on the ground and calling for their parents.

Some animals stay at the station for a longer period in order to regain their lost fitness, while others don't stay there for long. The case of a lost young mute swan ended in its quick return to its parents. We took care of this little grey-and-white ball one night when it couldn't find the way to its nest, returning it to a pair of swans which were swimming



Photo: Jinačovice Rescue Station

A young common kestrel after being taken in by the rescue station

across a pond with their other young the next day. All of the birds accepted the lost cygnet immediately.

If you are interested in news about what is happening at our station, you can look at the Jinačovice rescue station's facebook page. You can also find advice there on how to help animals in need. The workers at the station would like to thank all the people that draw their attention to animals which require assistance.

Mgr. Jana Švaříčková,
Head of the Wild Animal Rescue Station



The ground squirrels travelled from Slovakia in a transport crate in which each animal had its own box

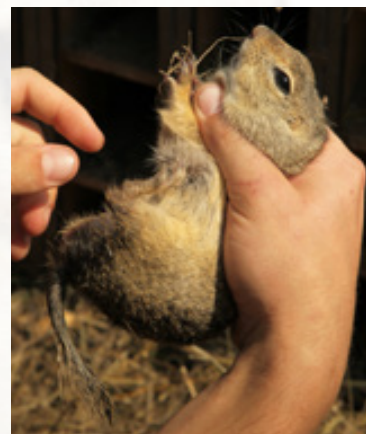
Slovak ground squirrels have moved into an aviary on Monk's Hill

The ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) is a steppe species of rodent from the squirrel family (*Sciuridae*), with a body length of around 20 centimetres and a weight of 200 to 400 grams. It lives in colonies which dig and inhabit a system of underground corridors. Inside these passages, they hibernate in winter, reproduce, and hide from predators. Active during the day, they also sleep in their burrows at night. They feed mainly on green plants and roots, as well as on fruit and seeds. Their original area of occurrence is southeastern Europe. They had already started to spread into central Europe with the development of agriculture about 6,000 years ago, and they gradually became a standard part of the cultural environment.... but they also became dreaded pests.

After World War II, ground squirrels began to disappear from central Europe, dying out completely in Germany and Poland. The decrease in their numbers was probably caused by loss of biotope as a result of landscape changes. Ground squirrels, which require permanently low grassland, survive in approximately thirty isolated populations now, at sports airports and golf courses, in garden allotments, and on small-scale protected areas and other similar places. We estimate the current population in the Czech Republic to be about 3,500 individuals.

On 7th August 2015, two members of the Basic Organization of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation in Vlašim brought a group of 43 ground squirrels to Brno Zoo. They unloaded 39 of them on the spot, while the rest were transported on the same day to Vlašim in Central Bohemia. The delivery was part of a rescue programme that has been coordinated by the Nature Conservation Agency for the Czech Republic since 2008. The animals came from the wild, having been caught by Slovak State Nature Conservation employees in restraining traps set at the airport in Bratislava. The reason for the capture of Slovak ground squirrels is that Czech populations of these animals are low in numbers and need to be strengthened.

The ground squirrels travelled in comfort in transport crates which contained small boxes padded with hay, one box for each animal. In Brno, there was a new



Ground squirrel after removal from the transport crate

aviary waiting for them with forty pre-drilled slanted holes having a diameter of 10 cm and a length of 40 cm. Employees from both organizations inserted one animal into each burrow, added food, closed the entrance with straw, and threw more food onto the surface. The ground squirrels had to extend their burrows underground themselves. In the following days, we observed that food was disappearing from the surface and that entrances to newly excavated burrows had appeared.

When caught, the ground squirrels were weighed, and a sample was taken from them for genetic analysis. Brno's new group consists of 29 females and 10 males, most being this year's young. The aviary is located in the background facilities of the zoo, on a meadow which neighbours on Monk's Hill's natural monument. There, the ground squirrels won't be disturbed by anything, and their behaviour will be natural. The imported ground squirrels will be used for breeding, which should strengthen the wild populations of this critically endangered species in the Czech Republic. (ed)



Placement of a ground squirrel into a pre-drilled burrow



Children making Indian dream catchers

Children's voices can be heard at the Hlídka environmental centre

The Hlídka centre for environmental education commenced operations on 1st July 2015. The new centre was created in a reconstructed historical building which is owned by the City of Brno and can be found at the centre of the city in the pleasant natural environment of the park below Špilberk Castle. The building was originally used as a gunpowder warehouse for the garrison at the castle, and later housed a restaurant popular with tourists. After World War II, the building became dilapidated, and its extensive reconstruction was only successfully completed at the beginning of this year.

The city has entrusted the zoological gardens with the operation of the ecological centre, and the team which works at Hlídka – the centre's head, three teachers, a worker of the information centre, a repairman, and a cleaning lady – is organisationally part of the educational section of Brno Zoo.

During the summer holiday, an information centre for parents with very young children and children from nursery schools was opened. From Monday to Friday, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., visitors could enjoy a well-stocked playroom with unlimited access to a little kitchen and sanitary facilities.

Two week-long city summer camps for children took place during the first half of August. With regard to the tropical nature of the weather at that time, the camp participants, children aged 7 to 11, enjoyed mainly water activities. They visited Brno Reservoir, the Riviéra river



This previously dilapidated building at Hlídka 4 has become a source of civic pride thanks to an enlightened investor (the City of Brno) and conservationists

pools, and the recently completed biotope in Komárov, where there is also an outdoor swimming pool. Additionally, the children visited the zoological gardens, were told local tales while walking through the historical part of Brno, and went to see the dungeon at Špilberk Castle. The camp programme also included creative workshops where the children painted their own T-shirts, and made ecological soap, ecological shampoo, and an Indian dream catcher – a decoration made of beads and feathers to hang above one's bed.

In July and August, educational events were held for the general public, as well as environmental sessions for elementary school pupils from grades 1 to 5. Since September, the environmental centre has been offering educational programmes for nursery schools and grades 1 to 5, and clubs for children and parents with children. From October, children of these ages can take advantage of one-day educational programmes. (ed)

Brno Zoo has welcomed its seventeen millionth visitor

Being expected with great excitement, the seventeen millionth visitor arrived at Brno Zoo with his girlfriend on 14th August 2015. The



One of the rooms in the reconstructed buildings is used as a gym. It was transformed into an art workshop during the summer holidays

surprised young couple from Kroměříž were given presents from the hands of zoo director Martin Hovorka: a voucher for a month-long car rental, a year-long entrance ticket to the zoo, and a fluffy tiger. They were also allowed to feed the giraffes and lemurs. "It is great. We are mostly looking forward to meeting the animals. I would like to become a vet myself, and my girlfriend keeps mygalomorph spiders at home," the young man said. The zoo, open to the public since 1953, has been recording exact data regarding visitor numbers since 1997, when cash registers were introduced there. (ed)



One curious baby joins adult meerkats as they vigilantly observe their surroundings from a raised location

Our newly-formed group of meerkats has bred

Brno Zoo's enclosure for the well-known and popular meškat has been the subject of heightened interest from visitors since this July. Alongside the three small adult animals, it is possible also to spot three frisky babies. At Brno Zoo, we have waited six years for these little ones to arrive.

Meerkats, small predatory mammals from the mongoose family, live in the semi-deserts of South Africa, where they take over and improve systems of underground shelters abandoned by other animals. They mainly hunt invertebrates, but also small vertebrates, including snakes. They

form colonies with a complex internal hierarchy, as lone individuals are not able to survive in the scorched, thinly-vegetated open country of their home, and soon fall victim to predators. Within the group, usually only one dominant pair breed, and not only the parents but also other adults of both sexes must look after the young. It thus isn't enough for a zoo to obtain a breeding pair: In order for these little mammals to reproduce, it is necessary to put together a harmonious group of at least three members in which males are in the majority. Meerkat females choose their partners themselves.

The new group of meerkats at our zoo includes one female, who came here this year from Linz Zoo in Austria, where she was born on 24th June 2014. She was joined before long by two males from Schwerin Zoo in Germany, born on 20th July 2013 and 21st May 2011. We took appropriate steps to prepare the enclosure for its new inhabitants, spreading a new layer of sand on the bottom of the run. When the meerkats search for food during the day, they dig into this sand almost constantly, and they also excavate burrows in it. We placed dry tree trunks above this layer in roughly horizontal positions, and also created other suitable locations from which the meerkats can watch for approaching enemies by adding several large tree stumps and boulders.

After they had been released into the run, our three surprised me with their activity, immediately running over the tree trunks all the way to the glazed walls of the enclosure, and investigating every corner. I didn't notice any conflicts between group members. All of the little predators were calm and behaved naturally, apart from the fact that there was no sign of the usual hierarchy with a dominant female. This can possibly be explained by the youth of the animals and their recent change of environment.

There is information on the following page about how the babies came into the world, and our experiences with them during their first days of nursing.

Milan Šebesta,
zookeeper



This year's meerkat babies



The meerkats' outdoor run

Our adult meerkats did a great job of breeding and nursing

During a routine check at our meerkat exhibit on 18th April 2015 I discovered that our young female was mating with one of our males, and so I began watching her even more closely. During the expected gestation period of approximately eleven weeks, I didn't notice any change in her behaviour until, when I brought food for the meerkats on 11th July, none of them came for it, but remained hidden in their burrow in the outdoor run. This could only mean one thing: that a long-awaited moment had arrived – baby meerkats had been born. Both males appeared on the surface of the run the following day, noticeably bitten about the neck. The female had obviously given birth and taken the dominant position in the group.

In the following days, the female lazed in the sun and enjoyed the summer weather, while the males had to look after the babies in the burrow. The mother only visited her young to feed them. It was just like in the wild, where select members of a meerkat colony, known as 'nannies', look after the new generation of babies, while the mother spends her time searching for food (when not feeding her children) in order to have enough milk.

During this period, feeding time for the adult meerkats took place in the following way: The males rapidly gulped down a couple of worms



The babies born on 11th July first appeared on the surface of their outdoor run on 3rd August

and immediately went back underground so as to warm and watch over the still-blind babies. Meanwhile, the female calmly feasted on crickets, locusts, mealworms, eggs, vegetables, and fruit. On the seventh day in the lives of the young meerkats, the male caregivers, probably influenced by the inclement stormy weather (which may even have threatened to flood the burrow) decided to find a safer place of shelter. They

carried the young in their mouths through the open connecting corridor from the outdoor run into the indoor sleeping quarters, which have an area of around 20 m², and are furnished with a layer of substrate suitable for digging in, several hiding places in hollow stumps, and a 'kennel'. When I saw that all the meerkats were there, I closed the exit to the outdoor run straight away. The babies were now right where we wanted them, dry, safe, and available for observation and counting at last. We were very excited to see three offspring from this first-time mother.

The babies opened their eyes on 23rd July, after which the adults gradually began taking them to scout out the local terrain. Even though the sleeping quarters have a glazed opening, none of the zoo's visitors noticed the babies. It was only when we opened the corridor from the sleeping quarters to the roomy outdoor run on 3rd August that a commotion began among our visitors: The run has a low glass wall, and everyone ran over to the enclosure with loud cries of enthusiasm.

Milan Šebesta,
zookeeper



Young meerkats

