

# zoo report

No. 3 / september 2016

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

## BRNO



special supplement  
**ZOOREPORT PROFI**



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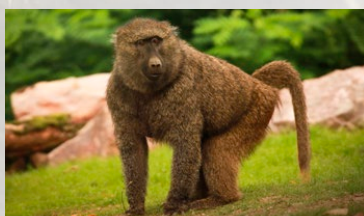
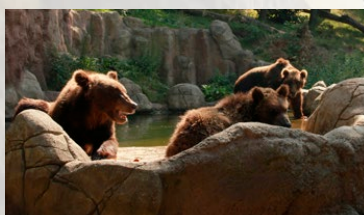
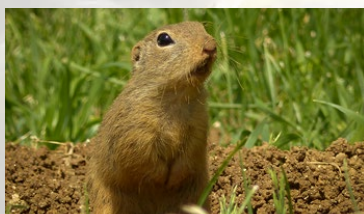
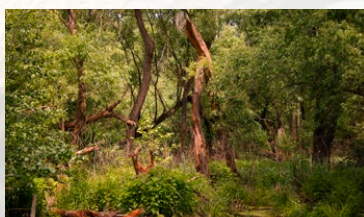
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### Zooreport

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Olive baboon

UNSALEABLE



## A Zoo Should Be Clean, Pleasant, and Friendly

Even as a kid, I liked animals. First it was a newt, and then a European tree frog in a five-litre bottle. Later, a hedgehog in a box during a country vacation with my aunt, a bat in a small cage, a futile attempt to rescue an injured swift, and a successful fattening of a long-eared owl which had fallen out of its nest. I took the owl to the Prague zoo. This was my first contact with a zoo environment, which I love to this day.

Although over the past fifty years zoos have changed, unfortunately they are still sometimes thought of as places where one can go for sensation and excitement. With the advancing commercialization of our lives, this notion deepens. We do not always realize that we should shape our relationship not only to exotic animals when visiting a zoo, but to the entirety of nature as well.

Zoos have been around since the mid-18th century, with the first one founded in 1752 in Schönbrunn, Vienna. Although the level of breeding exotic animals remained very low through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, even then many experts such as Carl Hagenbeck (1844–1913) in Hamburg began to think about how to exhibit animals in zoos. Generally, the opinion began to be asserted that the main mission of a zoo is to preserve endangered species. Indeed, some species were saved from extinction, such as Père David's deer, the European bison, the Hawaiian goose, and Przewalski's horse.

In 1935, the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG) was established. It was changed to the World Zoo Organization (WZO) in 1991; and since 2000, it has been known as the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). This supremely professional organization started to make itself known not only as a purely specialized



RNDr. Bohumil Král, CSc.

institution devoted to the breeding of endangered species, but also as an educational entity significant in shaping society's view of nature with reference to the role that is played by wild animals. Gradually, strategies detailing the role and mission of zoos were developed. In 1991, the WZO published a "Strategy for the Protection of Animals." WAZA continued these efforts. In 2005, it published a strategy on "The Future of Endangered Species"; and, in 2015, the documents "Obligation to Protect" and "Caring for Animals – Strategy of Well-Being and Quality of Life of Animals in Zoos and Aquariums" were added.

Despite the great efforts of the governing bodies, zoos cannot achieve these goals only by publishing strategies. Proclaimed results offering advice, recommendations, procedures, and regulations are not, unfortunately, achievable for the global zoo community because they often are available only to governments. There, they may encounter different opinions or mis-

understandings. The announced "strategies" do not provide enough emphasis on attracting visitors to zoos, or influencing them while there.

I am convinced that greater importance must be placed on the first of the fundamental tasks of zoos (even the smallest ones), which is to provide visitors with rest and relaxation while, at the same time, making absolutely sure that the needs of the animals are completely fulfilled.

A clean, comfortable, and friendly environment for visitors creates a subconscious positive relationship with zoos, animals, and nature as a whole. Such a relationship then affects all the thoughts, attitudes, and actions of the visitors. The mission of zoos is indispensable and irreplaceable.

That's why I appreciate the work of zoos, and that is why I also love animals.

RNDr. Bohumil Král, CSc.,  
Foreign Relations Department of Brno Zoo

### RNDr. Bohumil Král, CSc.,

Born January 4, 1941 in Prague. In 1963, he graduated from the Department of Systematic Zoology at Charles University's Faculty of Science, and immediately joined the postgraduate program at the Institute for Research of Vertebrates at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Brno. He studied vertebrate chromosomes as a taxonomical-evolutionary trait. In 1969, he defended his dissertation; and, in 1984, he received his RNDr degree from the Science Faculty of Charles University. He has given traineeships in the Federal Republic of Germany, Yugoslavia, and Poland; has worked in Cuba, Siberia, and the Far East; and has participated in scientific expeditions to Central Asia and the Pamirs. In 1987, he began working as chief zoologist in Brno Zoo, moving to Prague Zoo in 1989, becoming the director there in 1990. In late 1998, he returned to Brno Zoo, taking the post of zoological director. He has visited over 400 zoos worldwide. He is an honorary member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos, and the Eurasian Regional Association of Zoos and Aquariums. In 2014, he was awarded the „White Elephant“ prize for his lifelong work for Czech zoos. He still works at Brno Zoo, now in the Foreign Relations Department.





A six-month-old Congo African grey parrot has a grey iris



Photo: Michal Vanáč

Chicks of the Congo African grey parrot shortly after hatching

### **Our Parrots, Which Had Been Seized From Smugglers, Have Chicks**

Two young Congo African grey parrots (*Psittacus e. Erithacus*) which had hatched in the Exotarium Pavilion (formerly the Pavilion of Exotic Birds) on February 1, 2016 were almost as large as their parents by August. Distinguishing the young from the adults at that time was not easy. The pupil of very young parrots of this species is large and black, covering almost the entire eye. As they mature, it becomes smaller. Also, the iris of chicks is pale blue or greyish, whereas it is bright yellow in adult birds. Six-month-old parrots still have a larger pupil than adults.

The parents of our chicks came from the wild. The exact place of their birth is unknown. It had to be somewhere in the main occurrence area of

this species: in tropical forests, wooded savannahs, or mangrove forests of West Africa. We also do not know their age. The zoo received them under very sad circumstances. Customs officers and environmental inspectors found them in a suspect consignment which had been detained in February 2002 at the Prague airport. These parrots had apparently been caught in the wild and held at a farm which served as a gathering station for illegally caught birds before being transported overseas. During their long journey to Europe in a cramped space, they were very miserable.

The Ministry of Environment, which places confiscated animals in zoos, sent a group of 98 birds from two subspecies to Brno, including Congo African grey parrots and even rarer Timneh African gray parrots (*Psittacus e. timneh*). By the time they reached our zoo, some birds had been long dead and were in an advanced stage of decomposition. By the end of 2002, 62 of them had died due to overall weakening.

The unexpected gift surprised us a bit by its high number of birds. Still, we decided to quarantine all of them in cages in our veterinary station. They stayed in quarantine for about three months. These birds naturally live in large flocks, so were then placed in a joint exhibition in the Pavilion of Exotic Birds. There was no reason to breed them then; instead, we tried to send some of them to other zoos.

In 2013, breeders selected the four best Congo African gray parrots and put together two pairs,



The iris of an adult grey parrot is bright yellow

each of which was placed in a separate aviary with a nesting box. One female laid three eggs in the box in December 2015. On the 1st of February, two chicks hatched. Their parents carefully cared for them. At the age of about three months, one of the chicks crawled timidly to the edge of the nesting box. We kept them away from the outdoor aviary in order to protect them. Gradually, they began to climb nearby branches. They grew and grew, and we were finally able to allow them and their parents into the outdoor aviary. A genetic analysis found that the chicks are a male and a female. By August, they were fully feathered and able to fly. The zoo in Dvůr Králové nad Labem showed interest in one of them, while the second one is still waiting for a new owner.

Since long-lived African grey parrots are able to mimic human speech, they are very popular household pets. Private breeders are avid to acquire birds that have been captured in the wild. To get a pet this way is, in fact, easier than to breed it in captivity. Many birds die during the airlift of illegal shipments bound from Africa to Europe, USA, Middle East, and China; but the high price these birds command makes it worthwhile for smugglers.

Numbers of wild birds are declining. This species is categorized as vulnerable (VU) in the IUCN Red Book.

RNDr. Petr Suvorov, PhD.,  
Curator of Aviculture



## Plačkův Forest Is Unique Among South Moravian Meads

Plačkův Forest and Šatava River received a statute of protection in 1990 as a Nature Reserve. It lies at an altitude of about 170 meters above sea level, covers an area of 112.9 hectares, and is located about 2 km north of the confluence of the Svratka and Jihlava rivers in an area formed by silt. This is the last remnant of the floodplain forest which previously covered a large part of the Dyje-Svratka Valley and was destroyed during the construction of the Novomlýnské reservoirs at the northern foothills of the Pavlov Hills (Pálava) in the late 1970s and into the 1980s.

Thanks to the high level of ground water, the warm climate, and the suitable bedrock, various forest and wetland ecosystems that had no precedent in our country were gradually created here. Dominant are oak woodlands with lush bush and plant floors, imposing European ashes, and pedunculate oaks which are roughly 150 years old. A unique feature is the meandering flow of the Šatava River, with its primeval forest-type bank vegetation.

The rich amphibian species diversity was one of the reasons for establishing this reservation. It is one of the few places in the northern part of the Dyje-Svratka Valley where a population of the moor frog (*Rana arvalis*) survives. The European tree frog (*Hyla arborea*) and European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina orientalis*) are also numerous here.

As for reptiles, the grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) is commonly encountered here; but, in recent years, there are also European pond turtles (*Emys*

*orbicularis*), apparently originating from a nearby wetland, Betlém, where the population (started by turtles transferred here from the Danube delta) breeds in the long term.

The bird community includes not only forest birds, but you can also hear chants of reed species, or observe some representatives of the order Anseriformes. Every winter, white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) perch on the old trees in the Plačkův Forest; and black kites (*Milvus migrans*) and black storks (*Ciconia nigra*) regularly nest there.

As for mammals, the continuous presence of the Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*) and the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) is worth mentioning.

Given that the value of this reservation lies in the continued presence of surface water, the

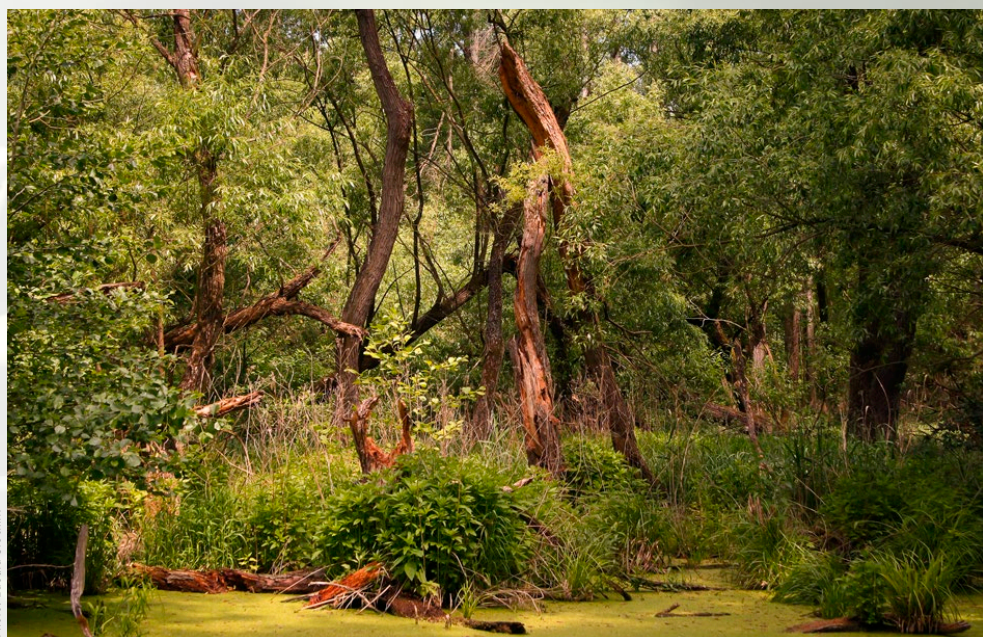


Photo: Eduard Suchlik

The Plačkův les Nature Reserve and the Šatava River are unique among South Moravian meads



Photo: Miroslav Šebela

### Moor frog

area is vulnerable during dry years. The Forest Company in Židlochovice that carefully manages and cares for this area built a system of artificial flooding there in 1996-1997, and also created two large pools designed for the reproduction of amphibians.

Since 1993, the Nature Reserve of Plačkův Forest and Šatava River has been included in the list of sites of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It has been included in the National List of Sites of European Importance since 2005.

RNDr. Miroslav Šebela, CSc.,  
Head of the Zoology Department  
of the Moravian Museum

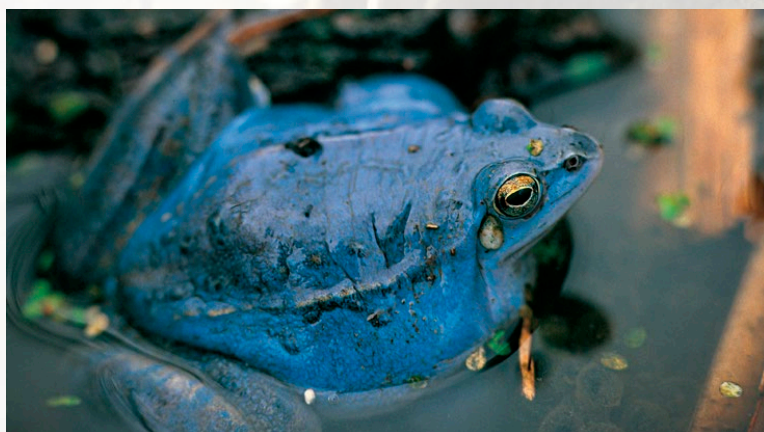


Photo: Miroslav Šebela

The European tree frog





Photo: Petr Štánek

A European ground squirrel at the entrance to its burrow, which it dug in the paddocks in the back part of the zoo

### European Ground Squirrels from Slovakia Gave Birth to Kittens

Zoologists from Brno Zoo counted fourteen kittens of the European ground squirrel (*Spermophilus citellus*) in the breeding paddock behind the orchard, at a site inaccessible to visitors.

The breeding of ground squirrels caught in the wild in western Slovakia has been going on since 2015, and is part of the rescue program of the Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape of the Czech Republic (ANCLP). Their mission is to strengthen wild populations of ground squirrels with individuals bred half-wild in zoos and conservation organizations. The program was initially created in 2008 in an effort to save the critically endangered Czech population of ground squirrels, numbers of which are decreasing, and whose occurrence area compared to the recent past has diminished and disintegrated into several small isolated districts.

The original area of the occurrence of the European ground squirrel is in southeast Europe. This species began to extend into central Europe with the development of agriculture 6,000 years ago, gradually becoming both a regular part of the cultural landscape but also a dreaded pest. After World War II,

ground squirrels began to disappear in central Europe, becoming extinct in Germany and Poland by the end of the 20th century. The decreasing abundance of this species has been apparently caused by a loss of habitat as a result of changes in the agricultural landscape. Ground squirrels, requiring permanently low herbage, now survive in approximately thirty isolated populations: in sports airports, golf courses, gardening allotments, small protected areas, etc. The current population in the Czech Republic is estimated at 3,500 individuals.

The controlled trapping of ground squirrels released into the paddock at Brno Zoo took place in late

May and June 2016. The results were encouraging. To the aforementioned 14 kittens, we can very likely assign a few more additions, as ground squirrels are shy and apparently not all of the kittens were caught. However, only four of them are females, which is not ideal for the purposes of reproduction. The kittens weighed 81 to 150 grams, which indicates that they were born sometime in early April. Eighteen adults were also caught, and the male to female ratio of these was balanced. Also, it is thought that there are more adults who had survived the winter. Based on the physical changes we have observed in the adults, six of the females were breastfeeding their babies, and



Photo: Petr Štánek

As evidenced by the tracks in the snow (in the photo they lead to the lower edge of the image), some ground squirrels came out of their burrows and took the food left for them during their first winter they spent in the zoo



two of the males had mated. (We know this because nursing females have enlarged nipples; and males who have mated have a dark pigmentation around the genitals.) The adults weighed 235 to 390 grams.

These ground squirrels, caught mostly on the lawns of M.R. Štefánik Airport in Bratislava, were released into the paddock on August 7th, 2015. The group consisted of 29 females and 10 males, most of them born in the spring of that year, so were of an ideal age to start breeding. From the beginning, the animals were periodically observed and fed. A CCTV transmission contributed to interim estimates of their numbers, health assessment, and observation of interactions amongst them.

We also made hay available for them to make dry beds. Their rations consisted of two main components: a mixture of grain (barley, oats, sunflower) and a mixture of fruits and vegetables (apples, carrots, beets, lettuce, celery, potatoes, kohlrabi, etc). As a protein source for the growing kittens, we gave mealworms and boiled soybeans. Their natural food source is the grass in the paddock, which is currently being eaten by them more slowly than it grows.

The Slovak ground squirrels spent their first winter in Brno in an unusual way. A very long winter's sleep, which starts very early, sometime near the beginning of August, is symptomatic for this species. But the period during which all the animals in our paddock would normally be in a near-hibernation state did not occur last winter. Even during the coldest periods, fresh tracks of a few squirrels who still came out of their burrows for the offered food were visible in the snow.



Before setting them loose in the paddocks, we ascertained the sex of the ground squirrels (This one is a male.)



Releasing ground squirrels imported from the wild in the Slovak Republic into the paddock at Brno Zoo in August 2015. The placement of the half-wild breeding ground, which was decided on by a pedology survey, has a suitable soil profile with an area of 12 x 20 meters, and is built on a meadow in a quiet part of the zoo outside the visitors' route

There are several possible reasons for this unusual behaviour, and it is likely that a combination of them came into play. First, the animals were not placed in the paddock until late summer, and therefore did not have enough time to dig the appropriate holes for wintering. (The burrows which we drilled for the ground squirrels before their arrival were only about 30 cm long, and were only suitable for their

initial release into the paddock.) Second, transport and transfer to the new environment brought about a reduction in their body condition and weight. The formation of fat deposits before hibernation then took longer. Third, last winter was very mild and short. Fourth, continuous feeding (year-round availability of sufficient quantities of food) could inhibit their preparations for hibernation, which would include a further extension of their burrows. Ground squirrels do not keep a supply of winter reserves underground, but, instead, digest their own fat.

Currently, in addition to our zoo, Hluboká nad Vltavou Zoo and the Rescue Station of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation in Vlašim are also involved in this ANCLP project. Ground squirrel kittens were born also in Vlašim this year. (Hluboká nad Vltavou Zoo's breeding program was only founded this year.) We hope that the number of kittens will grow, so that ground squirrels from zoos will start to strengthen the ailing population of their wild relatives over the next few years.

Mgr. Petr Šrámek,  
Curator of Breeding





Children from the suburban camp visited the breeding facilities of the zoo. Here, they are feeding lemurs in their barracks in the African village exhibition

### **Holiday at the Zoo**

Holidays in Brno Zoo have a long tradition. Children from seven to twelve years of age enjoyed eight week-long sessions at the suburban camp on Mniší hora for the first time during July and August 1997, with ZooReport chronicling their adventures. From last year, however, children's holiday camps organized by the zoo were in two places: as usual, in the zoo on Mniší hora; and at the Centre for Environmental Education Hlídka in the park under Špilberk Castle. As last year was the first time for the suburban camps at Hlídka, there were just two sessions organized; but this year, they've already had seven. For all five days of their stay at Hlídka, campers played the game of Save the Animals!

The game begins with the finding of a torn newspaper page. Children complete printed paper scraps to unravel the message that animals are disappearing all over the world, most likely due to the illegal activities of poachers and smugglers. The animals are begging for help and rescue; and the writer of the article is calling for the establishment of a special unit that will stop the criminal gang. A brave group is formed by all the children. To maintain secrecy, they are divided into three teams, each of which has a cov-

ert name derived from the name of an animal. A special unit receives a map marked with the path which must be travelled in order to rescue all the animals from the poachers' „hellhole“. The children proceed according to the map, which instructs them to perform various tasks, compete in knowledge and skills, and gain points to move toward the goal – the hideout of the poachers.

The first day of their stay at Hlídka, participants go to toughen up at the nearby Špilberk Castle casemates. They spend the afternoon at the Urban Centre in the area of the Old Town Hall, where they become acquainted with Brno Zoo. There, the „Lions' Return“ exhibition is being displayed, so they watch videos about Brno Zoo and then verify their knowledge while learning about various animal species and the sounds that they make. They also compile a giant animal puzzle.

On Tuesday, the children watch the animals at the zoo being fed, accompanied by commentary. On Mniší hora, their physical abilities are also tested in the rope centre. Then they move to the Open Garden of the Foundation Partnership on Údolní Street to play, getting more familiar with various natural patterns and elements, especially water. Tuesday's program ends there, near the Hlídka Centre.

The children spend Wednesday in our zoo feeding giraffes, lemurs, and llamas with the breeder, and also have an opportunity to try horseback riding. Workers from the Animal Rescue Centre in Jinačovice teach them how to help wild animals that are in distress or injured. When the talk about the care necessary for rescuing animals is completed, they watch a video about a curious cub that could be found somewhere in the woods or meadow. It might appear to be abandoned, but its unseen mother is watching somewhere nearby.

On Thursday, the children go on a trip to Jihlava Zoo, where three reconnaissance troops search for animals, gain points for their newly acquired knowledge, and get nearer to reaching their goal of discovering the poachers' hideout.

The denouement occurs on Friday at the Hlídka Centre. The children decode an Aztec cipher which contains an important message leading them to the nearby scientific amusement centre, Vida! Fortified with their new knowledge and a good lunch, they find the poachers' hellhole and rescue the animals. It is a demanding task requiring courage. The game ends with a triumphant cry, after which it can be said that the holiday stay on Hlídka has been successfully completed.

*Mgr. Vladimíra Dolejšová,*

Lecturer, Centre of Ecologic Education Hlídka



Children from the suburban camp spent a calm Monday afternoon in the Urban Centre, where they completed a puzzle made from photographs of animals from Brno Zoo



## Visitors Can Observe the Entire Family of Kamchatka Brown Bears

The male Kamchatka bear born on January 29 this year was christened Bruno in our zoo on July 30. The name was chosen by zoo visitors from the breeders' three proposals: Bolek, Bruno, or Hugo. The Kamchatka brown bear family – mother Kamčatka, son Bruno, and father Jelizar – can be seen in the exhibition at the Kamchatka cottages.

Kamčatka had already born twins in our zoo on January 30, 2012. She brought them into the world in the delivery box (artificial den) in the breeding base, and then cared for them for almost three years in the exposure, which was divided by a fence in order to protect the cubs from Jelizar. This year, though, Kamčatka ignored the delivery box, and instead chose to give birth in the lair which the bears had dug out in the paddock. This proves that the paddock was well built. The rearing was conducted almost like it would have been in nature. Kamčatka was able to defend her cub, always driving Jelizar from it.

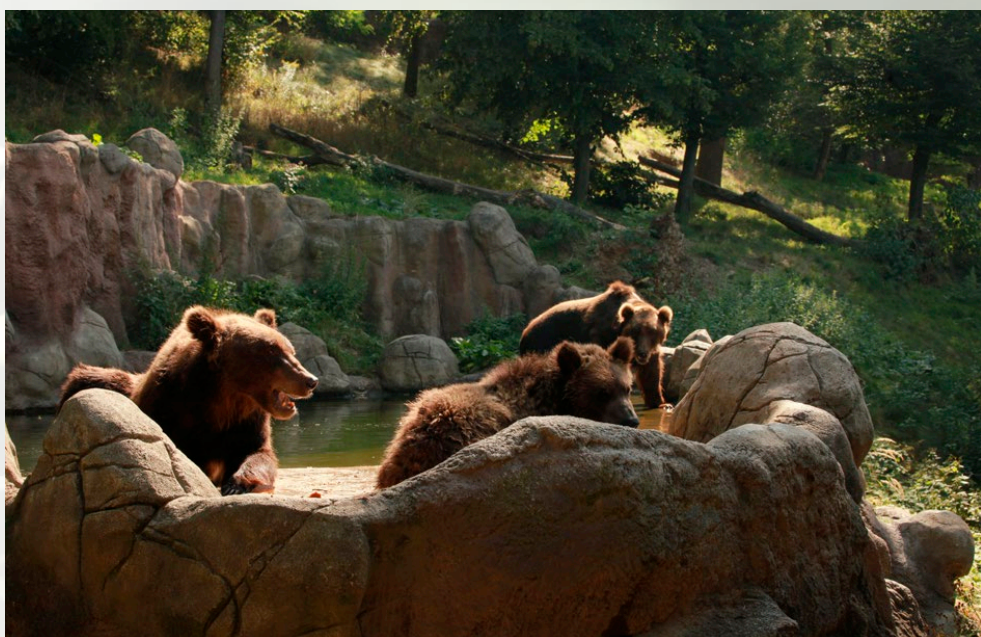
Although it can be seen that the presence of the male worries her, Kamčatka has the situation firmly "in hand" and manifests herself as the dominant individual. She continually watches her cub, who dreads its father, and Jelizar still keeps a respectful distance.

## A North American Porcupine Was Born

The couple of North American porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*) which inhabit the exposure near the aviary of bald eagles have produced a baby – a little male porcupette, born on the morning of July 9. His father, Bodláček, has lived in Brno since 2014, when the zoo acquired him from



A young North American porcupine



Kamčatka (left) and Bruno, with Jelizar in the background

a private breeder. The mother, Liara, arrived in 2015 from Antwerp Zoo, where she was born in 2010.

The breeder found Liara in her quarters with the placenta lying on the ground there. He then found the porcupette in the paddock, where it most likely had been born. Its quills were just starting to grow, so he could bring it to its mother with his bare hands. The porcupette initially stayed inside with his mother; but, at the end of August, he was occasionally seen independently, unsupervised by the female, exploring the paddock.

North American porcupines, rodents from the family of New World porcupines (*Erethizontidae*), live in predominantly coniferous forests in Canada and the US, the area extending to the north of Mexico. Their body is covered with long brown hair with white ends. At the upper part of the tail and on part of the back, they grow 3- to 15-cm-long hollow quills which terminate in microscopic barbs.

## Brno is the Seat of the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos

The headquarters of the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos moved from Prague to Brno. Its president is now Erich Kočner, who is the Director of the Košice Zoo; and its vice president is Martin Hovorka, who is the Director of the Brno Zoo. Such were the results of the voting of the



Bruno plays with his mother

participants in the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 23 June 2016 in Jihlava. The Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos was founded in 1990 in Bratislava, and it remains functional today. The Union represents the member institutions at home and abroad, and defends the work of expert committees where specialists exchange experiences not only in breeding but also in the technical and economic disciplines connected with running a zoo.





An olive baboon in the new exhibition

### **The Olive Baboons Have a New Paddock**

The inauguration of the new paddock for olive baboons (*Papio anubis*) took place on 27 August 2016.



Olive baboons are mostly herbivorous, but they also eat insects and small vertebrates

The paddock was built as an extension of one of our two pavilions for monkeys, where we have bred olive baboons since the 1960s. Along with the paddock, new quarters were built, with an 8.5-meter-long bypass tunnel of metal mesh to connect them. The 293 m<sup>2</sup> paddock is integrated into the sloping forest terrain above the main visitors' route.

Our olive baboon group currently consists of four females, all of which were born in our zoo: Pusi in 1986; Poly in 1989; Puna in 1998; and Pipina, who is Poly's daughter, in 1995.

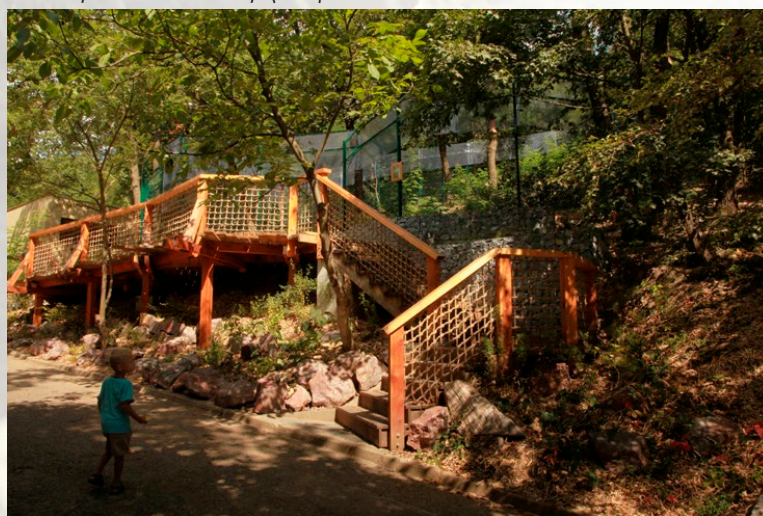
The olive baboon is a catarrhini primate of the family of Old World monkeys (*Cercopithecidae*). They live in savannas, veldts, semi-deserts,

jungles, and gallery forests or their edges on a large contiguous area in equatorial Africa. In the west, this area overlaps with that of the Guinea baboon (*Papio papio*); to the east, with the area of the hamadryas baboon (*Papio hamadryas*); and, in the south, with that of the yellow baboon (*Papio cynocephalus*). Olive baboons occasionally interbreed with all these species. They are also found in two isolated populations, in the Tibesti Mountains and the Air Massif in the Sahara Desert.

Olive baboons have thick gray-brown fur. On their rump, which is reddish in females, there are fat pads (calluses) which serve to help the monkey to sit, for instance, on a branch. The seating callous is a physiological feature, not associated with any disease. Bald, wrinkled skin around the genitals of females swells and reddens during the rutting season, thus signalling her readiness to mate.

Brno Zoo visitors walking to the monkeys' pavilions on the usual route from the administration building have been pleasantly surprised since the new paddock's inauguration. „It is nice here,“ they comment while resting on a circular bench under a full-grown oak tree and observing the baboons, which quietly come to their feeding places only a few meters away from the observer.

Another, much larger outdoor paddock will be built next year for the chimpanzees, which inhabit the second pavilion of monkeys.



A staircase and walkway leading around the paddock of the olive baboons





Photo: Wikipedia

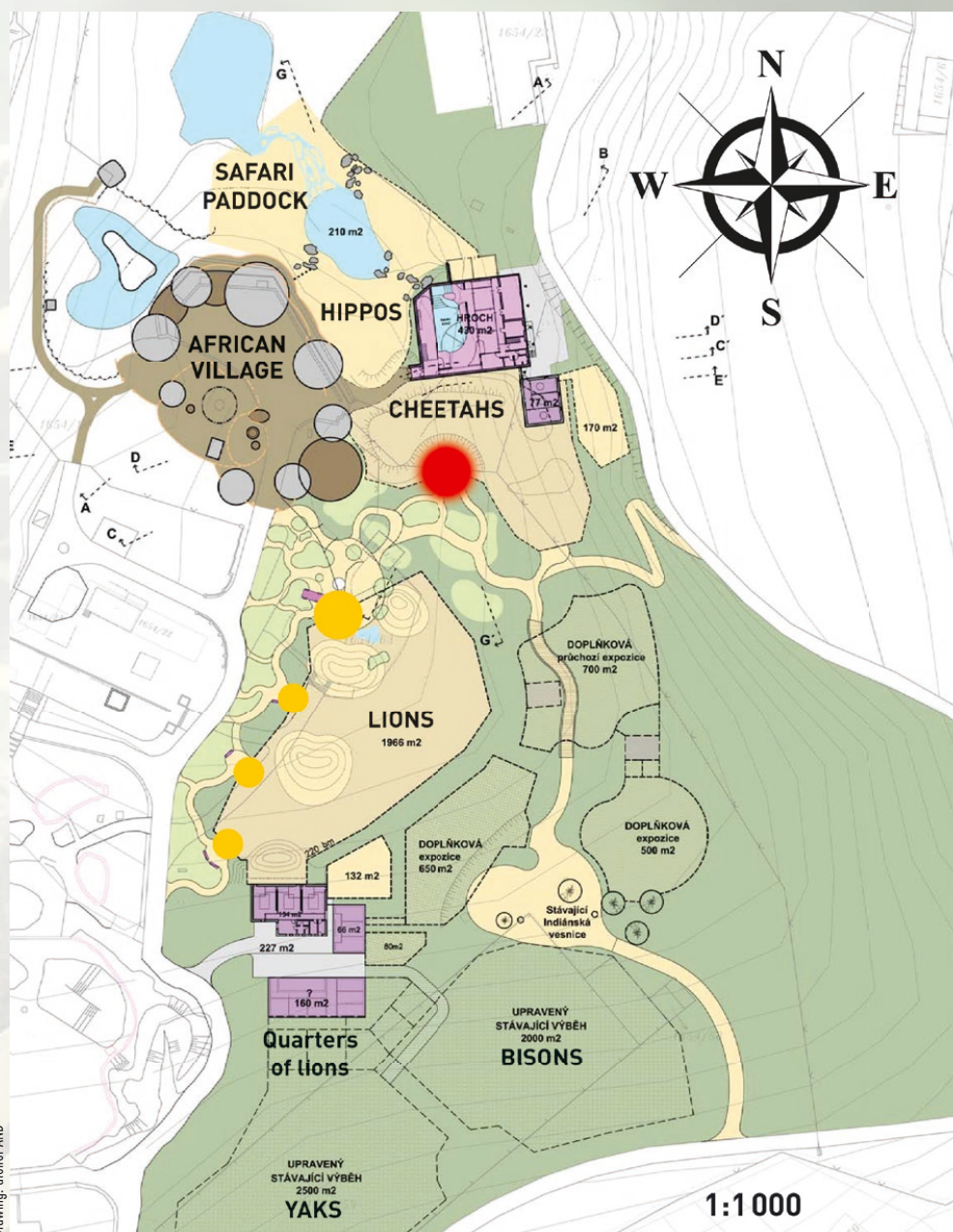
Lion illustration

### The Exhibition for Lions is to be Ready Next Year

This year, Brno Zoo will begin to build a new lion exhibition measuring almost 2,000 square meters in the space between the African village and the yaks' run. The estimated construction time is twelve months.

The construction site is located east of the main visitors' path leading from the petting zoo to the African village. Between this busy route and the new exhibition, a wide strip of greenery will be created, with four observation points overlooking the lion enclosure. A walkway between these points will take visitors to the gate of the African village and a planned cheetah enclosure. From there – through the cheetah enclosure – there will be a view to the safari paddock; and, in the opposite direction, it will be possible to watch the lions. At the far end of the lion exhibit will be a hidden exposure utilizing existing vegetation and enhanced by a few raised mounds of earth. Lions like to use these kinds of places as resting points and observation sites. In some of the valleys below the hill, there will be a waterhole. The four viewpoints into the lions exposure will be made to resemble a lone tribal hut, for example, or a vista among lush vegetation.

The lion (*Panthera leo*) is the only feline with a strong sexual dimorphism: Males are adorned with a huge mane. In the period before colonization, the area of occurrence of this species occupied almost the entirety of Africa and southwestern Asia to India; in ancient times, lions also lived in southern Europe. From the end of the last glacial period until around 10,000 BC, they also occurred in America. Currently



Drawing: atelier AND

A new exhibition of lions will be built in the space between the African village and the yaks' run. Animals can be observed from four observation sites (yellow marking on the map). From the highest point of this part of the zoo (red marking), it will be possible to overlook the whole range of lions; and, in the opposite direction, through the planned runs of cheetahs and hippos, the African village and the safari paddock will be visible

they are living in sub-Saharan Africa only. The area of occurrence of African lions is fragmented, and the total number of individuals is estimated at about 20,000. The loss of the area they had inhabited and the decrease in the number of individuals are caused mainly by trophy hunting, which is still allowed in Africa.

As for Asian lions, only a small population of the subspecies *P. l. persica* has been preserved in the Gir Forest National Park in northwestern India.

Zoologists recognize seven African subspecies. Given that our new exhibition will form part of the Kalahari complex, we will try to bring in a group of lions belonging to the Transvaal lion (*P. l. krugeri*) subspecies.

The lions will return to Brno Zoo after an absence of thirteen years, when the zoo lacked a suitable breeding facility. The last lion here, a male named Bali, went to the Les Sables d'Olonne Zoo in France in 2003. Previously, our zoo had kept lions continuously since its opening in 1953, with eleven cubs reared in Brno during the years 1962–1972.



# HALLOWEEN V ZOO

Svátek dýní oslavíme v brněnské zoologické zahradě v sobotu

**29. října 2016**  
**od 16 do 20 hod.**

Asi tisíc vyzrálých dýní bude volně k dispozici pro dlabání  
(nářadí je však třeba mít vlastní)

- ~ Občerstvení z dýňových specialit ~
- ~ Malování na obličej ~
- ~ Komentované krmení zvířat v halloweenském duchu

Pásmo mírně strašidelných scének na pódiu u Dětské zoo vyvrcholí vyhlášením vítězů v soutěži o nejstrašidelnější dýni a ohňovou show v podání souborů Duo in Flamenus a Palitchi

