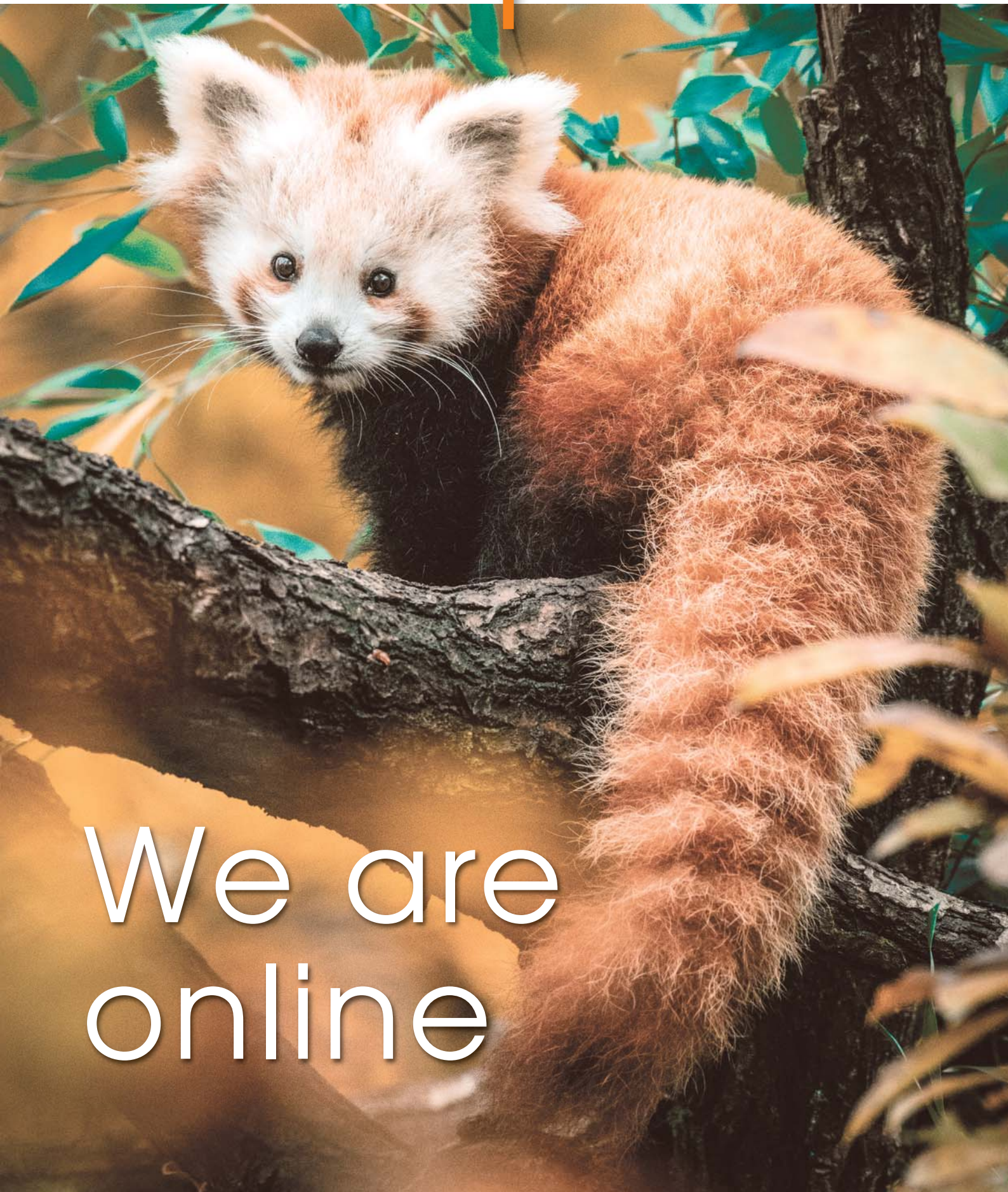


the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

Zooreport

No. 3
December 2020



We are
online

4 We are online

We have launched an e-shop



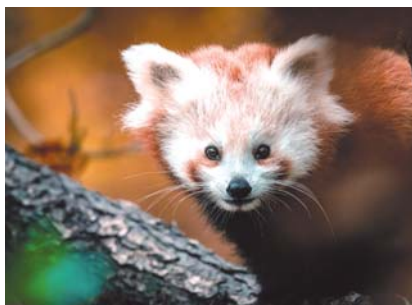
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Beautiful holidays!



the magazin for friends of the Brno Zoo Zooreport

December 2020

No. 3/20, volume XXII

publisher four times per year

MK ČR E 17723

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Distribution:

200 pcs in the English version
1,800 pcs in the Czech version

Cover photo:

Red panda.

Photo: Matyáš Slavík

UNSALEABLE

EDITORIAL

Dear woman readers,
dear man readers,

we have had difficult months behind us. Everyone was affected differently by the pandemic, but it is certain that it practically did not escape anyone. Some felt its presence more noticeably, others less so. We at the Brno Zoo also had to make some decisions to manage everything. In all this year's issues of Zooreport, I thanked you for supporting us. Thank you once again, your support gives us the strength and resources to overcome everything. And certainly, it wasn't the last thank you.

The whole course of the garden has changed to a large extent. In addition to the fact that we lost visitors, we adjusted the services of all employees so that in the event of potential quarantine or isolation, there should still be someone to take full care of the animals. Whoever could stay at home. Nevertheless, we do our best to stay in touch with you – we do online commented feeding, live broadcasts from exhibitions, quizzes, fairy tales for a good night. But we also need to make significant savings.

One of the things that were also affected by the savings is the Zooreport magazine. We usually ship four issues a year. After relatively long discussions, however, we finally decided that in 2020 only three issues will come out. The money saved will go into operation so that we can provide standard care for all our animals. I firmly believe that you, the adoptive parents, will understand this step and you will not be too angry with us. After all, the dropout from the entrance fee, the sale of souvenirs, rentals, and all programs is quite large and this is one of the ways to at least partially replace it. Unfortunately, we already



know that significant savings await us in 2021, so it can be expected that we to do the same. That is why I thank you again for being with us and understanding our steps. Thank you!

As you probably know, in the spring, there was the possibility of entering the zoo only after purchasing an electronic ticket. At that time, we were already working to purchase tickets, season tickets, and gift vouchers as easy as possible and so that you do not have to go to Mniší hora. Now we have finished all tasks and you can buy all these services conveniently online on the BrnoID.cz website. Adoptions are now also available at the same location. Details can be found on the next page.

In this Zooreport, we will not only deal with the issue of a viral pandemic

and its consequences, but we will look at the issue of danger from a broader perspective, of course in connection with the zoo. We will also tell you what lurks for irresponsible visitors, how they can endanger not only themselves but also our animals. In our beautiful landscape, the risks are not so high, but can you imagine the danger that awaits you when you sleep in the middle of the Amazon rainforest? We will ask Radana Dungalová, an employee of the Brno Zoo and an experienced traveler and photographer.

I wish you good health and, in 2021, as many reasons to smile as possible. Enjoy reading.

Michal Vaňáč

We sell tickets, season tickets, gift vouchers, and adoptions online

From November, it is possible to buy adoptions, gift vouchers, season tickets, and tickets to the Brno Zoo on the BrnoID.cz e-shop. All these services can be purchased online without the need to visit the cash registers on Mniší hora.



“We were looking for an opportunity to make it as easy as possible for zoo visitors to buy tickets, season tickets, and gift vouchers, which are always of great interest before Christmas. The extension of our module to BrnoID.cz was a logical step and we are glad that everything was done so quickly. Just because the zoo is still closed and it is one of the forms how people can help us if they are interested,” said Martin Hovorka, director of the Brno Zoo.

All types of one-time tickets (basic, family, discounted, for disabled, for dogs) are available on the website and for quick purchase. After payment, the buyer will receive a ticket or tickets in the form of a QR code by e-mail, which they will use to prove themselves at the entrance (when it is opened).

It is also possible to purchase not only annual non-transferable season tickets but also cheaper variants for five or ten entries. These are portable in the form of a barcode, while the unlimited annual season ticket is tied to a specific visitor who purchased it and has a verified account on BrnoID.cz. They cannot be used for another person and are tied to a carrier (contactless bank card, etc.). All season tickets are valid for one year from the date of purchase.

Gift vouchers can be used for the same length of time. “We have a whole range of them on offer. From a voucher for one entry to an annual one with an unlimited number of entries. All can be selected depending on whether it is a student, an

◀
You can also take a lion under your wings. It is the most expensive adoption in Zoo Brno.
Photo: Matyáš Slavík

Adoption is now possible on the brnoid.cz e-shop. Reprophoto: Brnoid.cz

adult, a senior, or the whole family. At the same time, it is a way to make someone happy with a practical Christmas gift, which will also help us when the zoo is closed. Similarly, we moved to BrnoID.cz for the opportunity to become the adoptive parent of our animals. Many thanks to all those who have already supported us in this way this year. We appreciate it," said Hovorka.

After all, the response to the adoption was huge after the zoo was closed again. Since October 9, we have registered three times more, adoptive parents, the following month than in the same period last year. The donated amount increased from 81 thousand to 281 thousand crowns. In addition, she found her supporters in animals to which no one had contributed for a long time – they were two-colored pigeons, Guyanese dragons, and Indian takins.

It should also be noted that the BrnoID.cz website is not only intended for the inhabitants of Brno but practically everyone. If someone does not come from the South Moravian metropolis and does not have a profile on BrnoID.cz, all you have to do is enter your e-mail and password and you can conveniently shop.

The BrnoID.cz project simplifies access to city services. It pays for waste, buys public transport tickets, extends the validity of registrations to the Jiří Mahena Library, buys a tourist card, or handles residential parking. There are

Photo: Matyáš Slavík, Richard Horák

also votes on projects involved in the participatory budget.

And speaking of online activities, we can't fail to mention living room com-

mented feeds and live broadcasts from the exhibits. You can find everything stored on our profiles on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

The panda cub was named Siddhi

Fans of the Brno Zoo have chosen a name for a panda that was born in May this year. On the International Day of Red Pandas and Baptism, we were able to announce that the little male's name is Siddhi.



The male born in May was named Siddhi. Photo: Matyáš Slavík

"I am glad that the Brno Zoo has been breeding red pandas for seven years now. Finally, a new cub was born. Red pandas are most at risk of environmental loss and hunting for their beautiful fur. I believe that the birth of a new cub by a female Oshin is only the first step and other offspring will not be long in coming for each other," said Petr Hladík, First Deputy Mayor of Brno, on the occasion of the baptism.

The voting took place on the Facebook and Instagram profiles of the Brno Zoo. People had a choice of three options – Joshua, Siddhi (perfection), and Bhoomi (Earth). In the end, the name Siddhi won with a large majority, which was chosen by 42% of those involved. Bhoomi received 10% fewer votes.

We showed the results to all those interested at the baptism, which took place as part of the International Day of Red Pandas. We regularly celebrate it on the third weekend in September. The whole event is organized by the Red Panda Network worldwide. Visitors to the Brno Zoo had the opportunity to walk a special trail that warned of the dangers of red pandas in their homeland (India, China, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal).

The adoptive parent and sponsor of the red panda are SPP.

Siddhi was born on Wednesday, May 27, in a maternity shed in the right part of the exhibition, later his mother Oshin transferred him to a hiding place. She hid him from everyone for about three months, the breeders checked him only a few times during this time for a short time. Oshin is a first-born, but in education and cares he did excellent on her offspring. As the saying goes, the future belongs to aluminum. We firmly believe that the future in the Brno Zoo belongs to the red pandas (and not only to them).

Red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*) in the Brno Zoo:

Oshin

*21/06/13, at Zoo Brno from 02/09/2019

Huan

*16. 6. 2013, at Zoo Brno from 31/5/2014

Siddhi

*27. 5. 2020

Pandora

*26. 8. 2012, at Zoo Brno from 24/10/2013, died 25/4/2018

The name was chosen by supporters of the Zoo Brno.

Photo: Matyáš Slavík



Mother Oshin looks after Siddhi in a pattern.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč



Since the summer, Siddhi began exploring the entire exposure. Both in the image with the male Huan.

Photo: Eduard Stuchlík



Dangerous animals

If we look at the issue of animal danger from a broader point of view, we realize that to some extent every animal is dangerous - from the smallest mouse to a giant bear. But if we only take into account animals that can seriously endanger our lives, without bizarre events like my friend, a squirrel killed him, bit his finger and he got blood poisoning, the most dangerous are, of course, beasts and poisonous animals. However, the lives of our breeders and caregivers can also be endangered by large ungulates, especially during periods of heat, or during periods when females raise young.

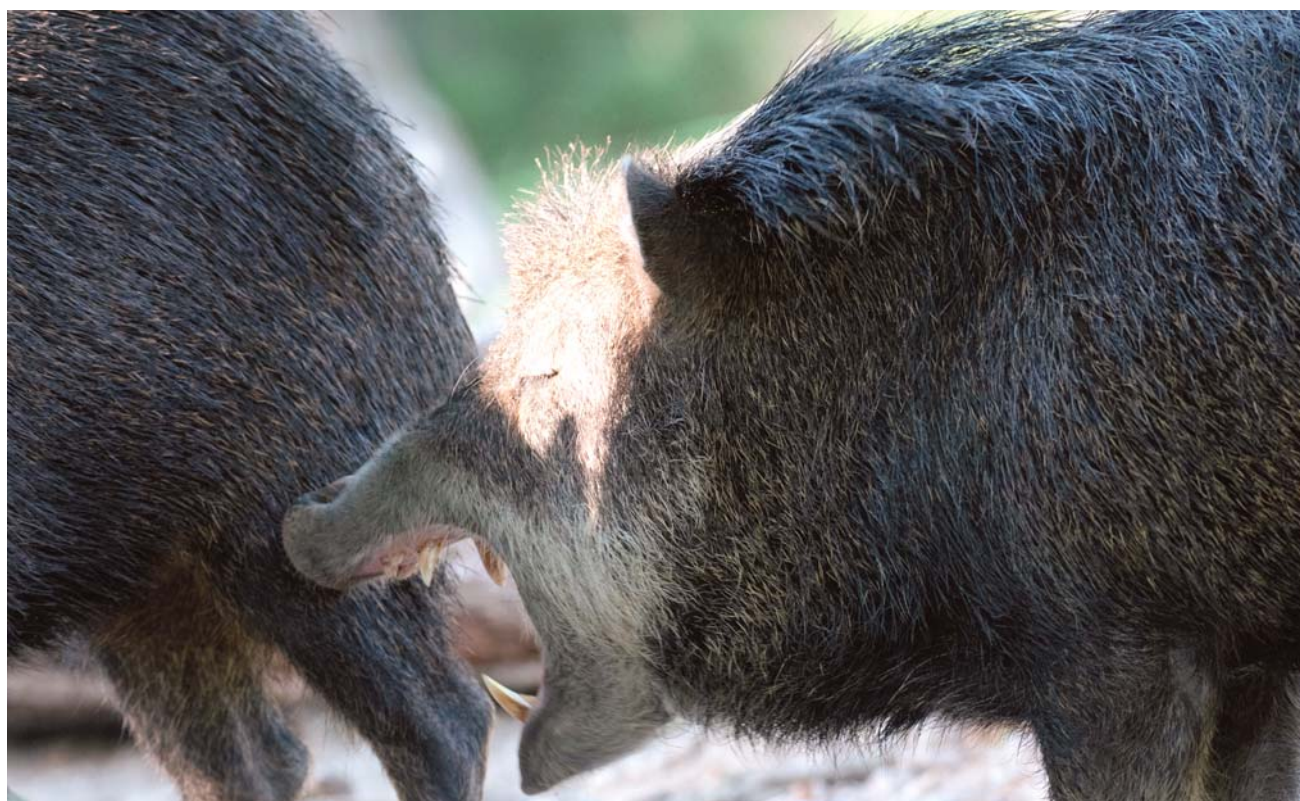
White-lipped Peccary

The aggressive creature, which at first glance does not look like it, is the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*). In their homeland of South America, these animals move in groups of up to hundreds of individuals. They are very

active in defending their territory and can defend themselves against the jaguar. They also have enough equipment for this – very sharp teeth, which together with their fearless nature terrify the South American Indians so that they gave rise to the legend of the

man-eating monster Aoao (half human and half peccary). This legendary creature is said to control the forest and eat hunters who hunt more game than they need. And he will not despise the daredevils who otherwise violate the order of the jungle. For the above-mentioned reasons, our breeders enter the peccaries only in the enclosure if the animals are locked in indoor quarters. Contact with them is not recommended and medical handling of a more complex nature is performed on anesthetized animals.

Often in our zoo, we meet the view that visitors are trying to pet or feed the “cute pigs”, which are located right on the main road. Due to their omnivorousness, bakers are less likely to be harmed by improper diet, but the risk of injury to a visitor trying to pet an animal is enormous. It is understandable that most people do not know their fighting nature and consider them ordinary pigs. But we believe that after reading these lines, petting animals in the zoo will certainly change their minds.



Peccaries have very sharp teeth. Photo: Matyáš Slavík



The Mexican beaded lizard's poison has neurotoxic effects and affects the nervous system.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč

rious consequences. The beaded lizards are also not very aggressive and use their worst weapon only in exceptional cases of danger. Due to their calm nature, it is not problematic for our breeders to take care of them. However, they must be constantly vigilant, and only the more experienced can access their exhibition. Because they are in a terrarium behind glass, there is no danger of contact with an uneducated visitor.

Komodo dragon

Before we look at the dangers posed by obvious predators, let's take a closer look at another representative of the lizard suborder. It is a Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), the largest representative of terrestrial lizards. The largest predator of the Komodo Islands, which can kill even a grown buffalo, is rightly called the Komodo dragon. For many years, even in scientific circles, it was thought

Mexican beaded lizard

Another creature that looks very innocent, but could endanger us, is the Mexican beaded lizard (*Heloderma horridum*). This reptile is one of the few poisonous lizards bred on Mniší hora. Its poison is similar in composition to carpet poison, has neurotoxic effects, and affects the nervous system. The beaded lizard has venom glands located in the upper jaws, from which the venom flows into the wounds with grooved teeth. Unlike snakes, the beaded lizard does not inject its venom but lets it flow freely into open wounds. So it has to bite into his victim and "chew" so that as much venom as possible gets into the body. Fortunately for humans, this method is relatively ineffective, yet the beaded lizard has enough poison to kill five adults. However, its bite is relatively rare. A healthy adult should survive the bite without more se-



The predator from the Komodo Islands is rightly called a Komodo dragon.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč

that a monitor lizard killed its prey with a cocktail of deadly bacteria that came from the remnants of rotting flesh between its teeth. However, recent research refutes this theory. Saliva analysis showed the presence of up to sixty pathogenic bacteria, but not in a concentration higher than other carnivores. Thorough hygiene by the testes after each feeding has also been documented. For a long time, they lick their mouths and wipe their heads

on the leaves and grass. Another piece of evidence that an effective Komodo dragon attack is not just the result of bacterial activity was magnetic resonance imaging, showing the presence of two venom glands in the mandible. The Singapore Zoo has succeeded in confirming that substances with anticoagulant effects are present in these glands. Their operation was substantiated by the case of a local breeder bitten by a monitor lizard. The

incriminated wound bled for about four hours, with no significant signs of clotting. So we can say unequivocally that the Komodo dragon is a dangerous creature, comparable to the mythical dragon after which it got its name.

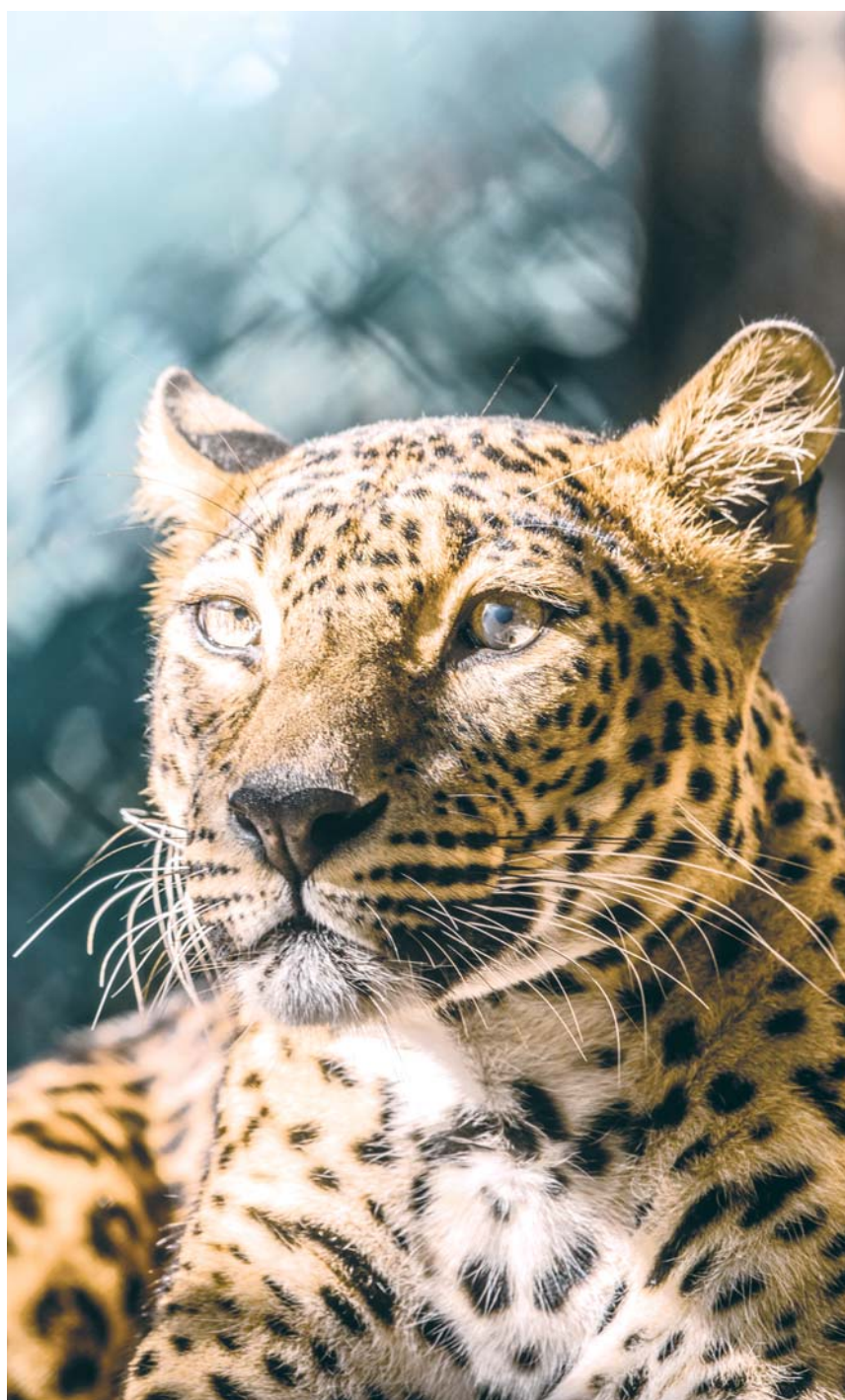
Due to its strength and relatively aggressive nature, the lizard is manipulated in the Brno Zoo only in the most urgent cases. The method of contactless breeding is practiced. Varan is trained to enter the box when opening the sliding door, which then closes and the breeder has the opportunity to clean the paddock and give him food. Visitors are not in danger because it is located in a terrarium behind glass.

Beasts

In addition to poisonous and aggressive animals, it is one of the most dangerous inhabitants of zoos without a doubt the beast. In the Brno Zoo, we can find Katanga lions (*Panthera leo bleyenberghi*), Sumatran tigers (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), Kamchatka and polar bears (*Ursus arctos beringianus* and *Ursus maritimus*), Ceylon leopards (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) or arctic wolves (*Canis lupus arctos*) and wolverines (*Gulo gulo*).

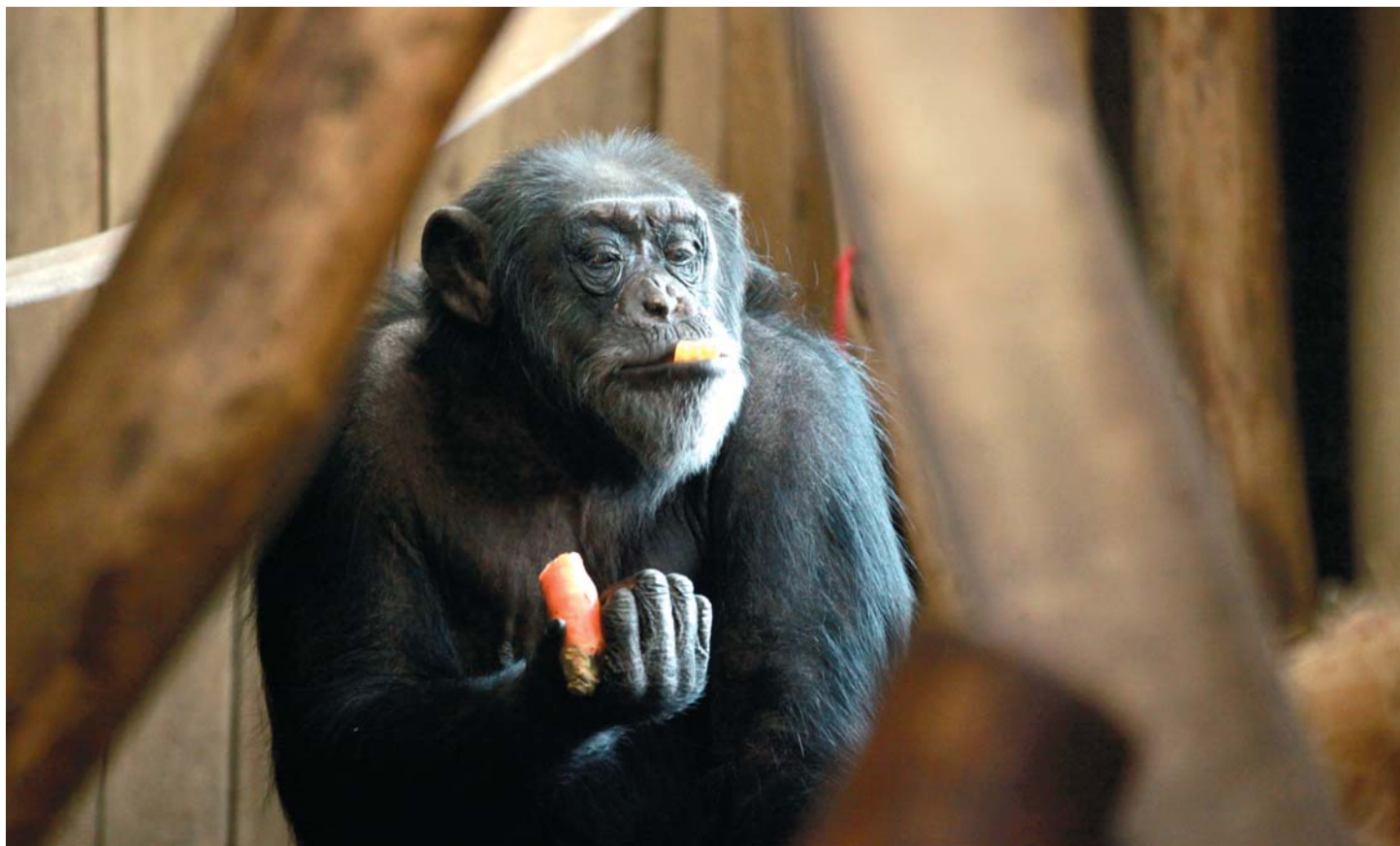
Although there are adventurers in the world who keep large carnivores at home and pet them even during their adulthood, most zoos practice contactless breeding or breeding in sheltered contact (through bars). Most veterinary procedures are then performed if the animal is anesthetized. The cleaning of beast expositions always takes place only when the animals are safely confined to another part of the breeding facility. Feeding takes place in the same way – food for the beasts is placed in the space when the animal is closed elsewhere.

Although beasts are accustomed to the presence of people in their surroundings in zoos, they are not raised or trained to be in direct or full contact with humans. In some breeding establishments, the beasts are trained by positive reinforce-



In the Brno Zoo, we can find Ceylon leopards (Panthera pardus kotiya).

Photo: Matyáš Slavík



Although it may not seem so at first glance, chimpanzees are among the most dangerous animals kept in zoos. Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

ment to be better manipulated, to handle arrivals and departures from transport crates or actions necessary for veterinary purposes. For example, if a tiger can push a paw out of a cage into which a veterinarian injects a sedative, the stress of the animal associated with its administration will be reduced. The Brno lion Lolek, for example, can enter a transport box on command. However, another type of manipulation and training is not desirable.

Chimpanzees

Due to their resemblance to humans and high intelligence, which in the past led to their widespread use for the entertainment industry, chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) can be considered funny and pleasant animals that one would like to play with. But this is a completely wrong idea – perhaps because of its intelligence, it is one of the most dangerous animals kept in zoos. Chimpanzees in groups in nature often show signs of aggressive behavior, which can be just

as easily manifested in human care. In addition to distinctive teeth, they also have understanding limbs in which they have enormous strength. It can easily happen that they catch a breeder (or an unruly visitor) who happens to get too close to the bars and break his limb. They can also use tools, they can throw various objects such as branches, stones, at best excrement.

Like humans, chimpanzees have different natures, moods, problems that make them react a little differently than other animals. The rule of all animals is that even if we think we know the animal, we can never know how it will react. For chimpanzees, this rule applies twice.

As has been said, chimpanzees are highly intelligent, so they can work very well under certain conditions and teach them certain routine behaviors that minimize the risk to breeders.

Chimpanzees have different natures, moods, problems. Photo: Michal Vaňáč





The biggest danger is ignorance, says an experienced traveler

Radana Dungalová, a photographer, traveler, but mainly an employee of the Brno Zoo, has been going on trips to the Amazon rainforest for many years, where the foot of an ordinary person rarely gets. That's why we asked her to tell us about her experiences and encounters with danger.

You have been traveling for a very long time, you have visited many countries, you have countless events behind you. What do you think is the greatest danger for an experienced traveler?

I would probably start by saying that I don't consider myself a traveler, I don't like the term very much and it smells like something bloated. I go on trips, hiking to nature, only sometimes quite distant. I fell into tropical South America. If you already have enough experience with similar paths, they are not dangerous at all, because I consider dangerous what I don't know can happen. So knowing the place, the people, the culture, but also the natural conditions and the animals in the place I'm going to eliminates a lot of unpleasant surprises. Of course, this does not

mean that it is a comfortable and easy "holiday".

So what is the biggest danger for an inexperienced "traveler"?

By analogy with what I have already said, the greatest danger is ignorance. Many times I met someone who, on a plane to Venezuela, started asking me what I would recommend in that country to see, that he bought a cheap ticket, drove through North America, was in Thailand, and now he wants to "give" And South America. He speaks English, from the point of view he is for the local "gringo" – a foreigner, and therefore basically a game. Any warning against the threat of robbery at the airport or on the way from it is despised by such people, and then, if they do not experience any-

thing worse, they will only see from that country where they can get without knowledge of local conditions and speech, so almost nothing. My husband and I took many years to develop relationships with the locals that allow us to travel, for example, to the deep forests of the Orinoco basin or the famous savannas and swamps of the Venezuelan Llanos. But without our Indian guides and today also good friends, we would not be able to do those trips even today. They are our eyes and ears, they can "read" the forest, they know what to watch out for, but also what can be useful for us when camping. I capture my encounters with wildlife in their natural environment in photos. I will not forget how I was fascinated by a strange "flower" in the branches on the shore on one of my first voyages on a boat after a small tributary of the Orinoco. He looked like the paw of a white bushy dog, just stroking. I threw myself into it with a camera, and then our once completely calm Indian guide knocked me back into the boat and threw myself at the "paw" with a machete. It turned out to be an extremely dangerous caterpillar of the genus *Megalopyge* and that the soft hairs are impregnated with a strong poison. On another occasion, I was not so lucky and after an inconspicuous contact with a similar caterpillar hidden in the branches, I spent 10 days in a fever and with painful sores on a swollen shoulder. There will be some

◀ *Neblina uakari. The first photograph of this primate from the wild at all.*

Photo: archive of Radana Dungalová

▶ *While searching for uakari monkeys in the rainforests of southern Venezuela.*

Photo: archive of Radana Dungalová

lessons for each trip, which will make the next one a little safer.

These are rather concrete examples. Do you have any other dangerous situations that you got into and would be worth mentioning?

By far the most dangerous situations, when it came to life, without exaggeration, have always been connected with people. The Orinoco, which in some places is the border river between Venezuela and Colombia, is home to a diverse mix of people with all sorts of intentions, from members of the Colombian FARC guerrilla units, groups of illegal gold diggers, and all sorts of other bandits, to members of the official armed forces. They work together in different ways. I am most afraid of this type of people on the road. When men from a fast-approaching speedboat fired automatic weapons at our clumsy ship one beautiful sunny afternoon on the Orinoco, the wit and execution of our Indian captain saved us. To this day, however, we do not know who the shooters were, who eventually folded their weapons with a cheerful "Mistake, we mistook you".

Animals are generally not dangerous, our behavior in their environment can be dangerous. Paradoxically, in practice, the most dangerous creatures are, unlike what people generally imagine, ants, for example. I am not afraid of an attack by a jaguar (which, by the way, is almost always a discreet and inconspicuous neighbor of our camps), I am afraid of an ant of the species *Paraponera clavata*, nicknamed "twenty-four" in the Amazon, in English "bullet ant". This is because the sting is a pain comparable to a gunshot wound, and especially the pain in unbearable waves increases and almost paralyzes after 24 hours. From one day in the truly terri-



fying pain of the Amazon, I pay special attention to these ants and look up with admiration at the Indians, where young men have to put their hands in gloves knitted with many irritating specimens as part of the ritual of adulthood, without expressing the pain significantly.

This brings me to the idea of whether there is a difference in how visitors and locals protect themselves in the rainforest.

To protect against ants, but also other insects and poisonous snakes, we always carefully clean the camp, especially under the hanging hammocks in which we sleep. Native American villages in these areas are cleaned and a thorough sweeping of all spaces is devoted to a lot of energy and time. We always move in the forest in long trousers tucked into tall canvas military boots and long-sleeved shirts and carefully fastened up to the neck. A hat is a necessity, in some places and seasons even a mesh over the face. And it's quite useful to watch where you're pedaling or what you're catching. The Indians, who, despite contacts with our so-called civilization, have scant clothes, and mainly move barefoot in the forest, face all these dangers with vir-

tually no protection. Despite the caution, death from the effects of venomous snake bites is still common in their communities. In general, however, the greatest danger for both Indians and forest-dwelling animals is endless looting, from which a few people connected to illegal gold mining or large-scale cattle farming become rich, while rivers are poisoned by mercury and healthy forests disappear irretrievably.



In 2020, when ringing young forest harpies as part of a program to save them.

Photo: archive of Radana Dungalová

Danger to animals

We must look at the dangers in the zoo from the other side. It's not just animals that are dangerous. There is a far greater danger to animals from visitors. If the animal bites the visitor, who pushes his fingers into the paddock directly under his nose, it is a completely natural reaction from the animal's point of view.



In the Arctic reindeer, even a handful of fresh grass can turn into a serious digestive problem, which is very poorly treated and can have fatal consequences. Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

Stress is one of the biggest threats to an animal in human care. The consequences of long-term exposure to stressors can manifest itself in changes in behavior, which can be self-destructive in nature, or health problems. Animals in zoos are relatively accustomed to humans because in most cases they live in them from birth. The normal traffic associated with the movement of visitors along the marked routes does not disturb them in any way. But what can cause them trouble are people who knock on the glass, shout at them and take pictures of them in the darkened pavilions with a flash. Such disturbance can be fatal, for example, for nesting birds, which is why visitors to the Brno Zoo may have encountered the fact that in the Exotarium pavilion, some exhibits are covered during the nesting season so that the animals kept in them have as much peace as possible. Many

animal species in zoos are threatened by extinction, each increment is desired and each loss is irreplaceable.

To our zoo, you are allowed to come with a dog on a guide. The garden is lo-

cated in a forest park-type landscape, animal enclosures are situated in such a way that farmed animals do not have to come into close contact with the dog at all, provided that the dogs have responsible owners. Access to the dog is prohibited in a few places and on several routes precisely to prevent excessive stress on farmed animals. A dog barking through a glass at a lion is not a "real" threat to the feline, but because our lions do not know dogs, they have never come into close contact with them, noisy barking and the movement of an unknown creature on the border of their "territory" can be very stressful for them. Even though when we look at how a pocket-sized dog bravely attacks a lion through the glass, which would be able to crush him with one paw, we will probably all smile, similarly irresponsible behavior does not benefit either the pets of visitors or our lions.

By far the most serious problem that threatens our inhabitants is the feeding of inappropriate food offered to visitors. Our animals receive a balanced dose of food, which is set for them by an animal nutrition specialist together with a curator of the given species. The diet of each animal is adapted to its age, health condition, and group composition of individual exposures. Hoofed animals have a constant supply of hay, in the warmer months also green pasture. The beasts receive meat according to their natural requirements – tigers are fed several times a week, while lions are fed only once because their digestion is adapted



Peacocks walk freely around Zoo Brno. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

to eat a huge amount of food at a time, which they then slowly digest. Tigers do not have such an adapted digestive tract and therefore do not feed differently.

Some animals pay for the stereotypes we have created about their behavior. When looking at a chimpanzee, everyone automatically thinks that they should indulge in a banana. However, few people have already guessed that bananas did not originally occur at all in their homeland, or that the fruit that chimpanzees get in the wild is more like our vegetables. If we fed chimpanzees the most bananas, as the stereotypical idea suggests, we would cause them serious problems, from obesity to decayed teeth to possible death. The “no bananas for monkeys” rule applies to almost all species of primates and apes. Therefore, even if you have the opportunity and the monkey looked at you hungrier and begged for yourself, do not give her a banana, and no other food.

We also come across the problem with feeding animals from visitors with such ordinary animals as peacocks, which walk freely around the Brno Zoo. They are also fed a diet that is natural for them, and if they offer peanut butter from an unguarded bag from careless visitors, for example, they may try to swallow the whole food whole and risk suffocation.

In Arctic reindeer, which has digestion adapted to digest nutrient-poor diets, such as lichens, even a handful of fresh grass can turn into a serious digestive problem that is very poorly treated and can have fatal consequences.

Arctic wolves, under the visitor's prospect, are talking about getting something good. However, they are also fed fresh meat and you will not do a good deed if you throw your snack into the paddock.

Probably the most attractive for feeding are our “cute pigs” by the main road. Thanks to the omnivorous lifestyle of bakers, it is likely that you will not cause them such major health problems, but you risk serious injuries when feeding these animals, as well as when feeding any other animals kept in the zoo. Therefore, when visiting the zoo, think about your safety and the safety of animals.



The barking and movement of an unknown creature on the border of “territory” can be very stressful for lions. Photo: Matyáš Slavík



The principle is that animals are not fed in the Brno Zoo. Not even arctic wolves.

Photo: Matyáš Slavík



Many traps are lurking for animals in Czech nature

It is so every year and this year was no exception. With the summer months, the intake of animals in our rescue station increases regularly. These are often birds that have fallen out of their nests or orphaned, injured, and sick young. Animals hit by cars or individuals caught in the pitfalls of human activity also reach us. These are especially dangerous traps for roe deer, such as the fallen nets of football goals, where they can become entangled. The gates of abandoned farms are also a threat, where the spacing of rods is not enough for the roe deer to stretch and thus get stuck in them. They are unable to free themselves without human help, and in the stress of being caught, they can beat themselves to death. The rescue of such captured animals, not only roe deer but also other species, can be dangerous for humans because individuals captured in this way are stressed by the very fact that they are restricted in movement, and they are also stressed by human presence and manipulation. They can thus defend themselves very actively.

Roe deer under stress can cause serious injury by kicking or pounding. Nets are often an obstacle to other wildlife as well. For example, the great eagle owl, which has become entangled in the net, will not free itself again without human help. Liberation itself is very dangerous. Because the bird is stressed and defending itself, it can cause deep wounds with its claws, which are poorly treated. This fact applies to predators and owls in general.

Nets and fences are also traps for nocturnal animals such as hedgehogs, martens, foxes, hares, and more. Electric fences on pastures are also dangerous, the horned game sticks into them, thinking that an intruder or a jerk is going and can get entangled in the fence and cause injury. Rescuing fallow deer wrapped in an electric fence is also very dangerous, and people should not go into such actions on their own. It is better to call for help at the nearest rescue station.

Dangerous pitfalls also lurk on hares.

Photo: Simona Blahoňovská

Nets and fences are traps for the kunas, too.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč



Human traps in the form of open wells, unsecured excavations, or uncovered pools are a clear trap for animals in which, if not found, they die of starvation and exhaustion. People should also be wary of open windows and invasions of summer bat colonies. Bats can pass through a hole the size of a matchbox and move into rooms, cellars, attics, and crevices on houses, cottages, etc. Window nets are reliable prevention. People can then have their windows open without fear of the night pilots moving in. We do not recommend catching bats with bare hands. If you do it, always only in sturdy gloves, over a cloth or paper – they are also afraid like you, and therefore they can bite. It is a good idea to call the nearest rescue station and get advice on how to proceed. Thank you for helping, it's worth it!

Simona Blahoňovská

Nets are often an obstacle also for other wildlife, such as owls.

Photo: Simona Blahoňovská



Bats can pass through a hole the size of a matchbox and move into rooms or cellars.

Photo: Simona Blahoňovská

Looking back on summer in SEV Hlídka



At the end of the holidays, the Playful Middle Ages event took place at Hlídka. Photo: SEV Hlídka

Summer at SEV Hlídka has traditionally belonged to suburban camps. This year's holidays were preceded by uncertainty and concerns about whether eight fully occupied tours would take place due to the covid-19 pandemic. In the end, everything turned out

well and the children did not see their favorite camps. This year's camp game was called Wandering with the Little Prince, and in addition to getting to know the animals, she also got to know the universe. That is why we visited the Brno Zoo and the Zlín Zoo, as well

as the Brno Observatory and Planetarium. The accompanying games were also aimed in this direction: children discovered new stars and planets, learned about the conditions on the planets of our solar system and learned to take care of animals because the Little Prince wants to populate his new planet (the original one was destroyed by baobabs) recognized on our planet Earth. Children learned responsibility towards animals and plants, towards all living things. They remembered what his fox girlfriend had said to the prince: "You become forever responsible for what you have attached to yourself" (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: Little Prince)

However, suburban camps were not the only events on Hlídka in the summer months. As before, the maternity center was in operation during the holidays, and after a forced spring break, it was again regularly visited by children and their mothers or grandmothers. On August 22, a big event took place within the festival Brno, a city under the walls, called Playful Middle Ages on Hlídka. Children could enjoy demonstrations of crafts, "medieval" tasks, and activities with costumed helpers, as well as small rewards and refreshments. In the end, everything fell well, and the children got to their favorite camps after all. At the very end of the holidays, SEV Hlídka lecturers took part in several events organized by other organizations in the city of Brno.

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Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year 2021
from



director of Brno Zoo
MVDr. Martin Hovorka, Ph.D.
and Brno Zoo Staff

