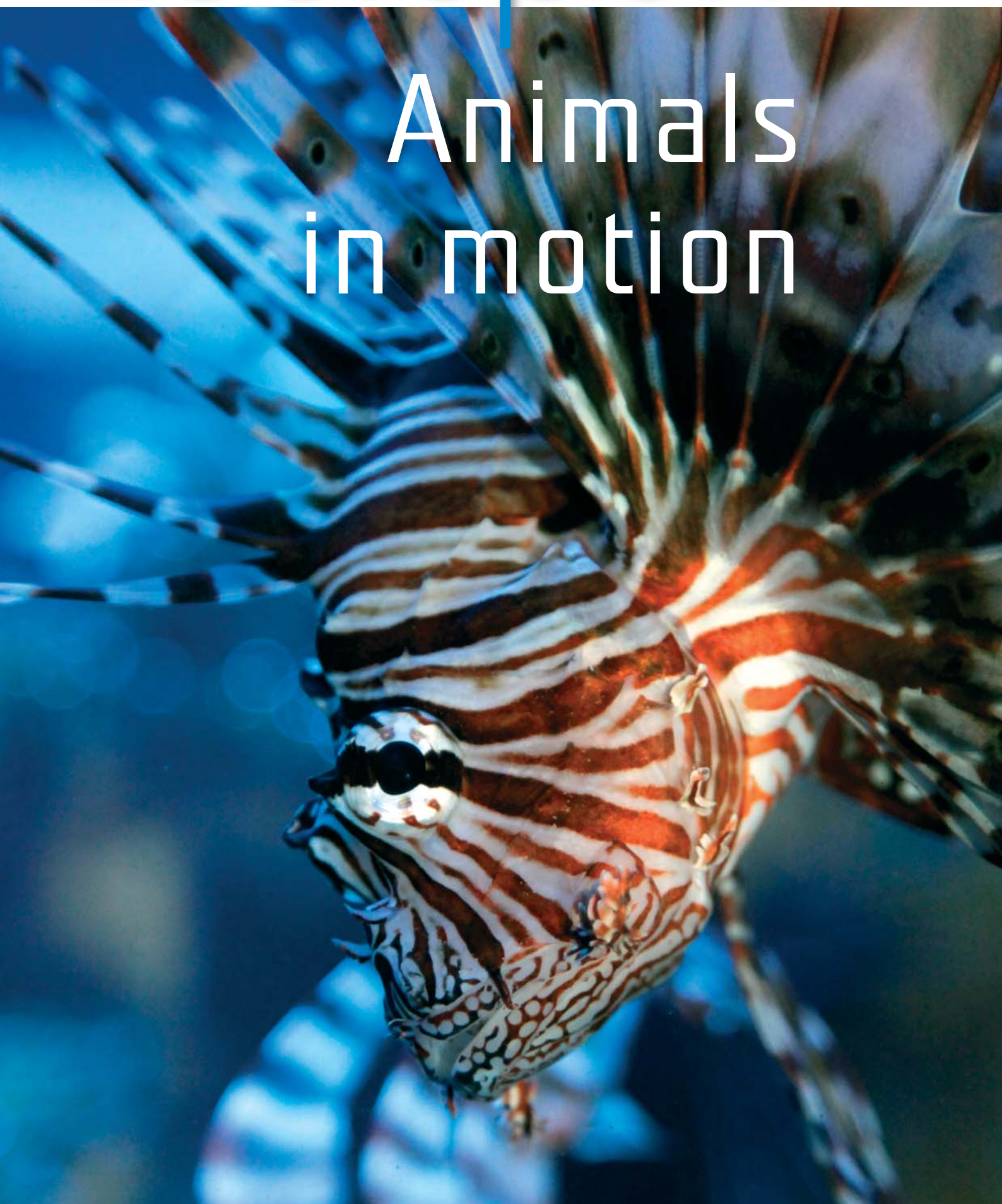


the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

Zooreport

No. 4
December 2019

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Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

UNSALEABLE

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

In this issue of Zooreport, we will focus on animals in motion.

Travelling animals set off as often as humans, often for similar reasons. Travellers can be found among all animal species. Insects, fish, amphibians, mammals, and birds make long journeys.

Bird migration is maybe the most mentioned one. In our country, there are storks, martins, swallows and other species of birds that warm us regularly every autumn. Their journey leads to warmer parts of the globe where they have enough food.

In the animal kingdom, there are also travellers – record holders. Among the birds, the long-tailed tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) certainly took first place at the distance travelling. This relatively small bird (the length of his body reaches a maximum of 40 cm, a wingspan of 80 cm and weighs only about 100 g) nests in the Arctic from where he regularly flies to the Antarctic. According to the latest knowledge, the reason is probably a polar day. Tern travels a 35,000 km long route to the south, flying 330 km a day. The journey back is 25,000 km and the fishermen can fly 520 km a day. If we add about 11,000 km flown in southern wintering grounds, we get to the number 71,000. This is respectable among of kilometres that this bird makes every year.

Among mammals, we could find record holders in the number of moving animals. Especially ungulates are champions between them. The greatest mass migration would be encountered in Africa. A living river of up to millions of wildebeest (*Connochaetes* sp.), wan-



dering for water and food from Serengeti to Lake Victoria, manage 380-kilometre long journey.

Concerning the largest animal kingdom of insects, we should not omit the migratory monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), whose migration is among the most beautiful ones in the world. This butterfly spends summer in North America and Canada, but each year sets off for a 4,000-kilometre-long journey to Mexico to hibernate. Huge flocks of butterflies that settle on trees upon their arrival and completely cover them are quite fascinating. The reasons for animal migration are discussed in the article on the next page.

An interview with the vet of the Brno Zoo and reports from the transport of the lion Lolek coming from Gdansk, Poland will give you an insight into the

travelling of animals kept in zoos. We will not forget the regular reports on past or future events in the Brno Zoo.

Migration is very demanding for animals and many individuals will not survive the long journey. Migrating animals are a welcome opportunity to be hunted by predators; they are also threatened by treacherous paths, exhaustion, and adverse conditions. Nevertheless, they regularly set off and we would like to invite you to accompany them with our Zooreport.

I wish you a pleasant read!

Michal Vaňáč
Head of PR



Red Lionfish. The invasive species are non-native in the area; they spread out of control and displace native species.

IN MOTION

When and how to move? The promise of more hospitable climatic conditions, better food sources, the possibility to escape from predators or the opportunity to reproduce can be an incentive to move. The mass or relatively long-distance movements are called migration.

Some animals save power and use their surroundings to move, so they move passively without effort. Physical phenomena can help them travel. Wolf spiders (*Lycosidae*) or crab spiders (*Thomisidae*) migrate over long distances as fluff suspended on wind-drifted webs. Anthozoa live their sessile lives and their expansions are facilitated by ocean currents; broken parts of corals or loose polyps (asexual reproduction) or released sex cells (sexual reproduction) can travel far from the maternal colony. Foretics animals use others to be moved. Pseudoscorpions are frequent 'hitchhikers' who set out for the new hunting ground on legs of larger representatives of the Diptera.

They are species that migrate daily (circadian). Every day in the seas and stagnant waters, plankton, microscopic algae, and animals move to the surface, retreating to greater depths each evening. They are attracted to the surface by more intense sunlight allowing photosynthesis. In the evening and at night, planktonophagous animals set off to the surface, for which the risk of predation is too high during the day.

Reproduction and migration of the larvae of the *Eunice viridis* are governed by the lunar cycle. Adult Palolo worms inhabit the crevices and cavities of the coral reefs of the South Pacific. During the period of reproduction, always in the same part of the year and

depending on the particular phase of the moon, their body is divided into two parts, and the posterior epithelium containing the genital organs floats to the surface where sperm and eggs are released and fertilized. Hundreds of epitokes releasing their content attract predators including humans; Palolos is considered by the locals to be a great delicacy.

Brown jumpers (*Rana temporaria*) make an annual journey up to several kilometres long in the early spring. At the same time, hundreds of individuals are withdrawing to water areas suitable for egg-laying and the development of larvae, tadpoles that take place in the aquatic environment.

Worse living conditions or local overgrowth of a species can lead to irregular mass movements, emigrations. The migrant population is no longer returning to its original habitat.

People and their activities significantly influence the migration possibilities of many species. While the expansion of human settlements and the thickening of the network of roads and railways hinder some animals from

natural travelling, other's migration is consciously and unconsciously supported by people Red Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), a predatory fish with high reproductive potential got to the Mediterranean from the Red Sea via the artificially created Suez Canal. If Lionfish thrive in the Mediterranean, their appetite may endanger the populations of many native species.



Misumena vatia. Photo: byrev, Pixabay.com



Azure Damselfish (Chrysiptera hemicyanea). Planktonophagous coral reef fish follow the circadian vertical migration of plankton, which includes their larvae.



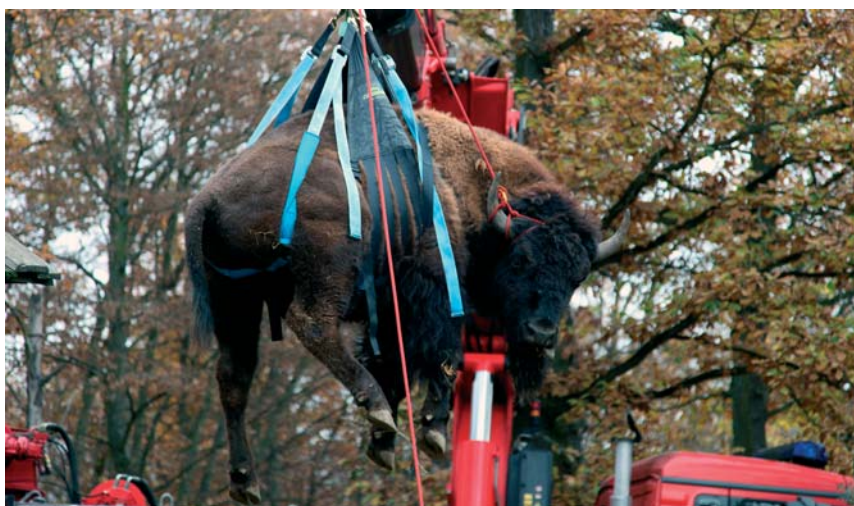
Brown jumpers make an annual journey up to several kilometres long in the spring.
Photo: cmelak, Pixabay.com

HOW AND WHY DO ZOO ANIMALS TRAVEL?

Transfers and changes of owners of exotic and endangered animals are subject to several regulations governing the conditions under which an animal can be transported, specifications of necessary examinations before the animal travel, and what a suitable container or box should look like. Such measures shall aim to prevent the inappropriate handling of animals, trade in endangered species or the spread of contagious diseases.

Animal transfers are an essential condition for maintaining healthy animal populations. It is not easy to transport exotic animal and breeders, zoologists, veterinarians, and civil servants are in-

involved in travel preparations. In the following interview, Stanislav Mazánek, DVM, Ph.D., a vet of the Brno Zoo will describe his experience with animal transport.



For the transport of the bison, we needed the help of firefighters and their equipment.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč



Good preparation plays an irreplaceable role in the vet's work. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

How is the veterinary surgeon involved in animal transport? ◀

After I have been informed about a planned transfer, I must ensure that the conditions set by the importing country are met. This may include excrement testing to verify the presence of parasites or bacterial infection, blood tests, or others. I have to prepare a European trade document, TRACES, for intra-EU transfers. I take an appointment at the regional veterinary authority, where I bring the prepared document, pay the administrative fee. We together fine-tune all necessary details, and if all turns out well, the animal can leave our Zoo.

How much time do you need in advance to prepare animal transport? ◀

It depends on whether the animal is moved only within the Czech Republic, within the EU or whether it travels to the so-called "third countries", such as Russia or the USA. Short-distance transfers are less demanding, for long journeys to areas where the epidemic situation is significantly different, it is often necessary to quarantine the animals.

These days (in November 2019, editor's note) we are working on the transport of two Palla's cats (*Otocolobus manul*). Problems with toxoplasmosis, a disease caused by the parasite *Toxoplasma Gondii*, are generally known in this species. It is, therefore, necessary to have a blood, biochemical examination and exclude some other cat diseases before they leave. The preparation must start at least a week, ten days in advance.

Do you directly participate in the loading of the animal? ◀

Sometimes a huge deal. When the animal needs to be under sedation or fully immobilized during loading and re-mobilized after loading, pharmacy and pharmaceuticals must be used. I play quite a crucial role in loading animal species that cannot be manually caught, loaded or just chased into a transport box.

(animal under sedation is under influence of substances, which calm the animal or make it easier to control, but the animal is able to stand and move; a fully immobilized animal is not conscious and cannot move, editorial note)

Which of the above do you prefer? ◀

There are no pros for putting an animal to sleep. Such an intervention is demanding for the animal and requires its recovery. The only advantage can be seen in terms of the protection and safety of persons and the possibility of taking samples. These are sometimes taken during this process. If the partner zoo agrees and if it is allowed by legislation, the samples are taken only when loading a fully immobilized animal and send the results of the examination additionally.

The sedation of an animal is different. It makes the whole situation more pleasant and such a calm animal can survive a long, monotonous transport. Today, there are substances that have prolonged efficacy, a few hours or even 14 days. It depends on the transfer distance.

Which phase of transport is the most challenging for you as a vet? ◀

When it comes to situations where I have to play an active role in loading, the most difficult thing is always to make the first shot so that the selected dose is safely and reliably transported to the animal body. The worst thing is when the dart bounces quickly. Then I don't know how much sedative has been applied and sometimes it is necessary to shoot again. It is best if everything comes out on the first shot and within 10–15 minutes, the animal calms visibly. If loading takes longer, it is unpleasant and there may be some complications.

Another key moment is when the animal must be woken up. After administra-

tion of antisedan (editorial note: a substance that acts against sedatives), we are nervous when waiting since the animal should travel at least capable of maintaining a chest position, preferably standing.

What is the greatest risk when travelling? ◀

This also depends on the nerve type of the individual. We had animals that were simply untransportable. Once we had to return back from the zoo gate with a male zebra because he began to tumble in the transport box. We just had to come back and release him. In general, we always make sure that we have a safe box so that the animal has no chance to get hurt. If the transport is long, the animal must have water or feed available. Then it is also necessary that the transport provider does not expose the animal to thermal stress, that is, excessive heat or excessive cold. Of course, a suitable means of transport is important. When you need to stop somewhere, the car must be parked under a shelter or somewhere where it is acceptable for the animal. Unfortunately, however, when an animal is sensitive and stressed out, myopathy (editor's note: muscle weakness) or circulatory failure may occur. But we aim to prevent this thanks to pre-transport medication and sedation.

Are there any animals you don't like to prepare for transport? ◀

It's always interesting with giraffes, these are very conservative animals. You can-

not force them to enter the crate. So the sedation is necessary. Then we try to direct them to a special transport box using some gentle means. It depends on the whole team around, the animals must be transported by experienced carriers. Giraffe transport is considered to be the most complicated due to their size and weight. Preparation plays a big role in it.

I can also think of our bison. They are difficulties with the area where they are loaded, so we must always proceed to full immobilization. Besides, the opiates etorphine and imobilon we used to apply are not currently available in the Czech Republic. Their advantage is that these substances have a specific antagonist. Immobilization and waking of these large animals used to be much easier. The immobilization protocol with new anesthetics is not yet perfect, something can always be changed a little nor have a more dramatic course. Ruminants are also complicated due to the anatomy of their digestive system, where immobilization can cause paralysis of complex stomachs.

I prefer beasts of prey, even in terms of handling. When good preparation and a starvation diet are well processed, the transport is smooth. The starvation diet is also prescribed for ruminants so that they are not mainly filled with fresh, green feed.

What is your strongest animal transportation experience? ◀

I always remember the gelada Heik. Although he did not move far, he prepared us a lot of a hard time. Once, when he escaped and came to a golf course in nearby Jinačovice, I had to immobilize him right on the green after almost a week of chasing (both of us were already much stressed). After applying the first dose I added a little more for sure because he started climbing the tree again and I knew that he just must not escape. We loaded it into a car, but when returning from Jinačovice, somewhere near Rozdrojovice, he stopped breathing. I had to use antagonists and analeptics, artificial respiration and chest compression. Finally, he began to breathe. When we entered the zoo, he was breathing again. At one point it was dramatic, but in the end, everything went well.



Zoo Brno Vet MVDr. Stanislav Mazánek, Ph.D. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

LOLEK'S JOURNEY TO BRNO

The transfer of the lion Lolek from Gdansk, Poland to Brno was carried out by the Brno Zoo itself. Large cat breeder Miloslav Walter and curator of mammals Dorota Gremlicová were present at this transfer. Let's have a detailed look at what such a journey, loading, next journey, and arrival look like.

12. 6. 2017 18:51

Finally in Gdansk. We completed 870 km and a 12-hour journey. We brought to our colleagues a transport box where the lion would be taken to Brno in a month. They wanted to practice organizing the lion's boarding to avoid using a tranquilizer gun.

13. 6. 2017 8:06

The first meeting with Lolek, a male Congo lion (*Panthera leo bleyenberghi*) awaited by a bride in Brno to restore the interrupted history of breeding this species of big cats. We are impressed because he is a beautiful and curious animal.

13. 6. 2017 9:37

On the road again. We leave the meeting with colleagues and animals full of optimism.

15. 7. 2017 19:17

The kilometres from Brno seemed endless and we were troubled by the bad weather. We are a little bit nervous that the torrential rain does not come again during the transport, but we look forward to seeing the lions again in the morning.

16. 7. 2017 5:45

Time to get up. Before we can go and see the animals, we need to take over all the necessary documents ready for transport in the office. In case the paperwork needs

to be corrected or something must be added before the journey.

16. 7. 2017 8:00

Great welcome in the lions' pavilion. Lolek had practiced going through the driving corridor and boarding. We all believed that the lifting would be successful. We spend the morning with lions' breeder Grzeszek. He teaches us commands that Lolek knows, so that we could continue his training at home: *leżeć* – lie down, *siądź* – sit, *w górę* – up (the lion stands on his back legs and leans against the bars so the breeder can check his belly), *łapa* – paw and the magical "*šuber*" command, which means that the door lock opens, and it's time to behave well and go to an adjacent box or go out into the enclosure.

17. 7. 2017 8:00

Today we practice the training under Grzeszek's supervision. Lolek is so relaxed that he practices with me and accepts a titbit, a raw egg. He gently and carefully grips the egg between his teeth, stepping back and dropping it to the floor. Then he carefully licks its contents.

17. 7. 2017 11:27

Time for the last preparations. We anchor the transport box to the driving corridor. We decided to lift the lion in the afternoon if the worst came and it had to use a tranquilizer gun.

17. 7. 2017 17:00

Grzeszek is luring Lolek into the box.

17. 7. 2017 17:11

He kept us in suspense for a while, but now he is in the box. He can sleep for a while and all of us will leave in the morning. As soon as possible.

17. 7. 2017 19:55

Last "bedtime" check. Lolek looks stunned in the crate but doesn't seem to miss anything.

18. 7. 2017 4:00

The ringing of the alarm clock. Almost in the dark, we are running to the car, as we



The first meeting with Lolek. Photo: Dorota Gremlicová.



The transport box is anchored to the driving corridor. Photo: Dorota Gremlicová.



From the trolley straight into the car. Photo: Dorota Gremlicová.

have a long way to go and we are impatiently awaited in Brno. Lolek is awake; the car is warm enough, so we let some fresh air in before we set out on a journey.

18. 7. 2017 6:17

The first stop. At the rest area by the motorway, we check how Lolek is doing. He is lively and even takes a piece of meat we were provided for his snack. He does not seem nervous.

18. 7. 2017 8:00

The traffic is getting heavier. There are a lot of lorries on the motorway. Their drivers are often ruthless, some drivers don't stick in their lane, it looks like they're falling asleep while driving. We were joking about how the reckless drivers would be surprised if the van door

opened and Lolek flashed his yellow eye on them.

18. 7. 2017 8:42

The next stop. Lolek stoically accepts his fate. He drank water from the squirt and took another piece of meat.

18. 7. 2017 10:19

We try to avoid a tailback but we are a little afraid that navigation will not lead us to the fields.

18. 7. 2017 11:20

The tailback is behind us. We scrutinize the billboards to choose a fast-food restaurant we would like to stop at the next break hoping that there will be no more delay. Lolek was overcome by the long journey. He is fast asleep, his paw is twitching; he is maybe chasing antelopes in his dream.

18. 7. 2017 12:31

The traffic is getting heavier again, but we are approaching the border.

18. 7. 2017 13:10

In the Czech Republic, we have to refuel, then we are checking up on Lolek. He is dozing.

18. 7. 2017 14:42

Test call from our Zoo. We are coming sooner than expected. Probably nobody believed that we would be able to get up in the morning. We stop to have the last cup of coffee and promise Lolek that we will soon reach our destination. He is squinting at us and does not get too excited about our talk.

18. 7. 2017 15:14

Lolek is in Brno. We pass through the garden directly to the exhibition, where



Lolek doesn't seem to miss anything.

Photo: Dorota Gremlicová.

colleagues and lots of journalists are awaiting us. We are anchoring the crate to the safety rings and leave the lion to move into one of the inner boxes. He walks out of the crate completely at the command of "Lolek, šuber!". He takes a few steps, looks around, and when he sees familiar faces, he comes to rub against the grate before he comes to the prepared meat and starts to feast.

The Lolek's transfer from Gdańsk, Poland was perfectly smooth despite considerable distance and traffic complications. The intensive work of colleagues from the Gdańsk Zoo, who had been involved in pre-transport training with the lion, was a great help, as was Lolek's calm nature and the fact that he could travel with people he had met before.



Lolek will be in his new home soon.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč



Lolek's first steps in the new indoor quarters.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč



The female Oshin was born in 2013 in Belgium. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY

September 21st was the 10th anniversary of International Red Panda Day. At the Brno Zoo, it was an extraordinary day. In addition to the traditional celebration of these endangered small carnivores, which includes a regular compe-

tition trail and commented feeding, we were delighted to welcome the desired new member of the panda collection, the new breeding female Oshin. She was born in 2013 at Planckendael Zoo in Belgium and came to Brno from

Łódź Zoo in Poland upon the recommendation of the Coordinator of the European Preservation Program (EEP). She got used to the new environment very quickly. In spite of the initial embarrassment, she and our male Huan have gradually become friends. Hopefully, the Brno pandas will celebrate the next International Panda Day with new baby-pandas. The idea of International Red Panda Day was introduced by the conservation organization International Red Panda Network. You can learn more about its activities at www.redpandanetwork.org



The new inhabitant at Monk's mountain came from Poland. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

EUROPEAN BAT NIGHT

On September 7, the Brno Zoo took part in the European Night for Bats awareness-raising event, which aims to enable the general public to meet experts who specialize in these mysterious creatures and the bats themselves, thereby enhancing general awareness of their wildlife situation.

The Brno Zoo hosted a series of lectures by Doc. Zukal. Visitors could learn not only how bats live and why they are endangered, but also and how they can directly participate in their protection. They could even see live animals from the immediate vicinity. An accompanying program was prepared for children.

Awareness-raising activities on the occasion of the European Night for

Bats take place in all the member states of the Agreement on the Conservation of the European Bats Population EUROBATS (the Czech Republic joined it in 1994). The main dangers to bats are the destruction of their habitats, the loss of forests, the drying of wetlands or the use of pesticides in agricultural and forestry management.



An accompanying program was prepared for children.
Photo: Archive Zoo Brno



One of the aims of the European Night for Bats is to draw public awareness of their situation in the wild. Photo: Archive Zoo Brno



Special commented feeding in March will be dedicated to dwarf caimans. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

EVENTS YET TO COME

This time again we have an overview of events that are worth visiting the Brno Zoo. And of course, we did not forget the Centre of Environmental Education SEV Hlídka. You can find more detailed information on our website or our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you!

Special Commented Feeding and Meetings

Every first weekend of the month during the winter season, special commented feeding and meetings take place in the Brno Zoo. Every month is dedicated to

a different topic. In January, visitors will learn about endangered animals that may not survive in 2020. In February they will learn about the Red Queen hypothesis, March is devoted to the issue of natural selection.



The workshops are a popular part of events at Hlídka. Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

Winter Nature

The first event for the public in the new year organized by SEV Hlídka is an annual meeting in half-year holidays (January, 31) for parents and children who would like to know something about winter nature. There will be art workshops and rooms for curious children.

Valentine's Day at the Zoo

Feast of Saint Valentine is also celebrated in Brno Zoo. Even in the cold February weather, visitors can look forward to warm commented meetings dedicated to love between animals and various competitions.

Blindman's Holiday (Černá hodinka)

Those who would like to start a spring break unusually are traditionally welcomed on February, 2 at Hlídka to enjoy Blindman's Holiday. Participants will try out some forgotten activities and crafts. Both adults and children are welcome.

Suburban Camps in the ZOO and at Hlídka

During the spring holidays, suburban camps will take place in Brno Zoo (17–21 February) and at SEV Hlídka (19–20 February). The application form can be found on the Brno Zoo website in the section Children and Schools and on the SEV Hlídka website in the section Children. Do not hesitate to apply for



Black-tailed prairie dogs. Photo: Zoo Brno



Colourful carnival at SEV Hlídka. Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

your stay, free places might not be available shortly.

Shrovetide Celebration

The Centre for Environmental Education Hlídka invites you on February, 21 to join our Carnival wedding. For children, there is a rich program including the production of instruments and masks, a carnival with songs, dances and games and a ceremonial bass fiddle burial.

Fancy Dress Party

In the afternoon on February, 29 all dancers wearing a carnival costume are invited to attend a fancy dress party in the hall of the administration building of Zoo Brno. The program is also suitable for small children and admission to the event is free for paying visitors to the Zoo.



Carnival costumes are taken for granted. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

Spring Welcoming

The Brno Zoo will welcome spring on March, 3. The visitors will experience the symbolic driving out of winter and summer decorating, there will also be competitions or workshops for both young and older children.

Awakening of Nature

The "Awakening of Nature" event organized by SEV Hlídka is dedicated to the responsible task of supervising the awakening hibernators, welcoming returning migratory birds and singing for the first spring flowers. On March 27, visitors can take part in creative workshops and activities devoted to spring topics.

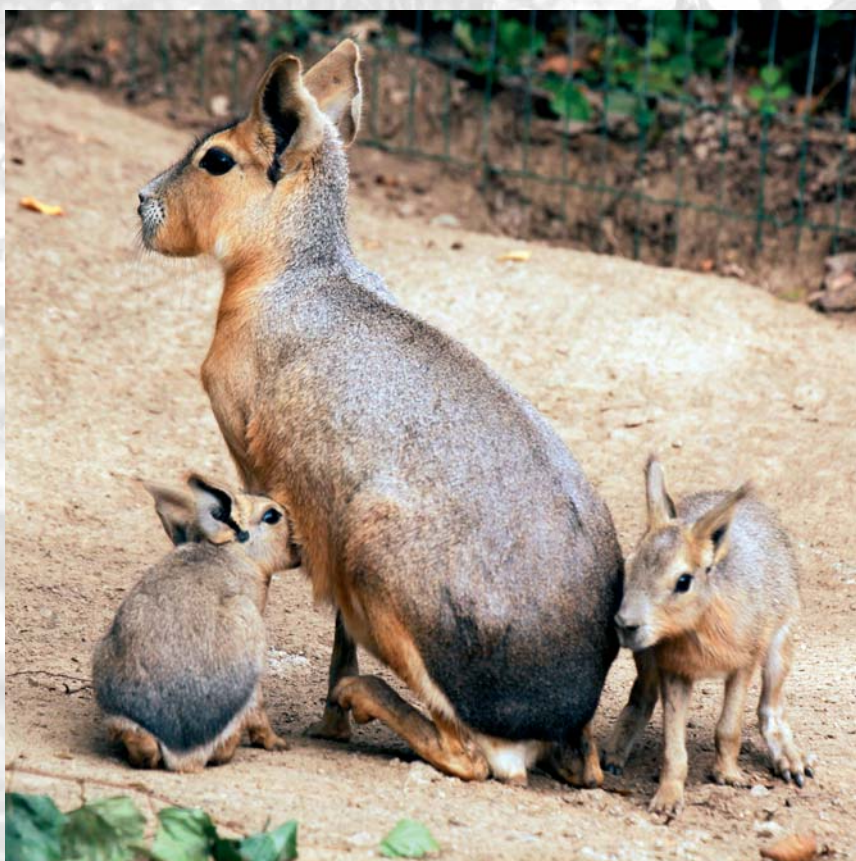


Morana and her expulsion will symbolize the end of winter during the Spring Welcoming Ceremony. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

YOUNG ANIMALS



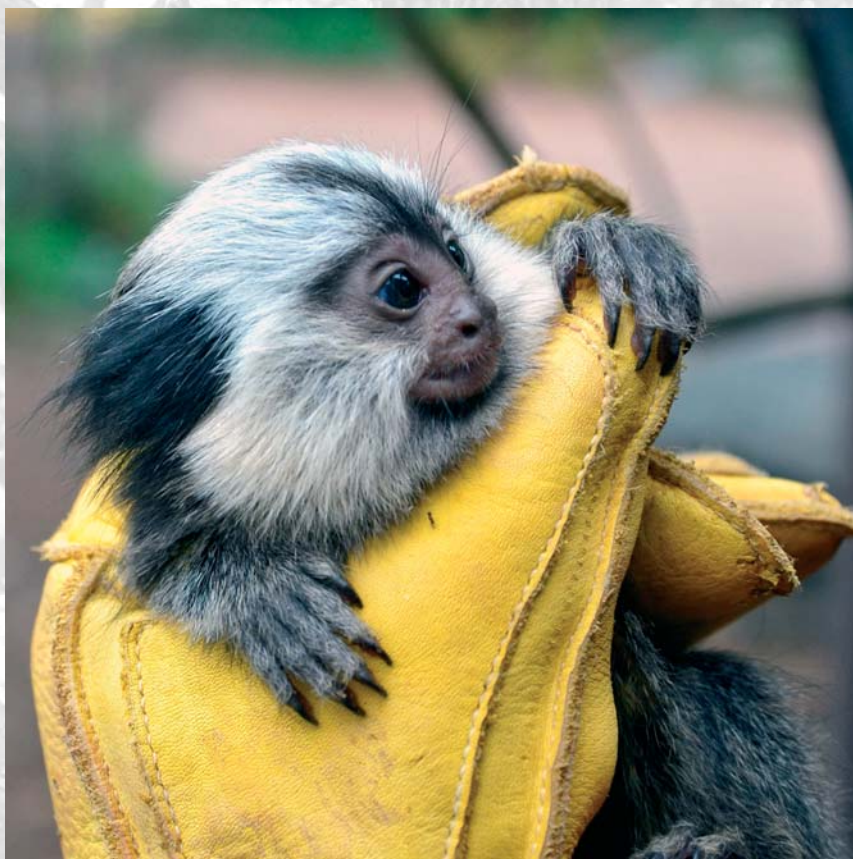
Southern three-banded armadillo (Tolypeutes matacus). Photo: Michal Vaňáč



Patagonian Maras (Dolichotis patagonum).
Photo: Eduard Stuchlík



Meerkats (Suricata suricatta). Photo: Eduard Stuchlik



Geoffroy's Marmoset (Callithrix geoffroyi).
Photo: Michal Vaňáč



There was also a demonstration of feeding small squirrels. Photo: Station for Handicapped Animals in Jinačovice

OPEN DAY at the Station for Handicapped Animals in Jinačovice

In mid-September, the autumn was slowly creeping in, but Station for Handicapped Animals in Jinačovice we could enjoy the sun on the Open Day all day long. The weather was good, therefore we were happy to welcome again around 500 nature lovers of the Czech countryside and animals.



Many of these green movement members are among our friends who cooperate with us and call us when they need advice on what to do in rescuing animals. Parents with children also visited our station to attain some knowledge. The program was designed so that everything went smoothly.

On our premises, we showed several owls and birds of prey living in our countryside. Visitors could also ask questions and take pictures of the birds. This year we invited a bat expert who answered questions concerning bats. The visitors saw basic manipulations with bats, got acquainted with useful procedures so that a found bat did not hurt them, they learned about basic ethology of the species, etc.

Visitors could also see aviaries in Jinačovice. Photo: Station for Handicapped Animals in Jinačovice

The day was livened up by two performances by a dog breeder who showed the training of her border collies. In this way, we pointed out the protection of wild animals, who very often become victims of our pets.

Throughout the day, guided tours of the premises took place, treated animals or animals kept at the station for some other reasons were shown. We have also prepared a few quizzes; our visitors could identify the antlers of our wildlife animals, fish and bird nests. A demonstration of feeding small squirrels and birds was certainly interesting. A documentary film on environmental protection was screened throughout the day.

Outdoor, there was also a travelling exhibition with stories of rescued animals. Interested visitors were registered on arrival because there were several draws during the day. The lucky winners were allowed to release a cured animal back into the wild with the assistance of a station worker. Both draws were without problems and the children could release two common kestrels. They then drew chalk pictures depicting their experiences.

Thanks to everyone who visited us, who will visit us, who help, and who cares about our nature. Thank you a lot.

MVDr. Radek Ficek



► *Hedgehogs are among the frequent inhabitants of our station. Photo: Station for Handicapped Animals in Jinačovice*

► *We also showed what to do when you find a bat. Photo: Station for Handicapped Animals in Jinačovice*

► *Photo: Station for Handicapped Animals in Jinačovice*



GIRAFFES IN BRNO ZOO WILL ENJOY NEW STABLES. There will also be a viewing tower for visitors



Visualization of the stable extension with a viewing tower. Photo: Zoo Brno



The extension is shown in yellow on the left side of the building. Photo: Zoo Brno



Four giraffes are currently bred at Monk's mountain. Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

Extension of the premises and addition for our visitors will be available in the giraffe pavilion in winter periods. These are the main advantages of the stable extension in the African village of Brno Zoo. The ceremonial tapping of the foundation stone took place in mid-November.

“The city has earmarked eight million crowns for the extension of the giraffe stable. Our visitors will appreciate the covered viewing tower to observe animals in indoor stables. Thanks to this, they will see the giraffes even in winter, which has not been possible so far,” described the first deputy mayor Petr Hladík.

The whole extension will consist of two main parts. The first one will include two new stables for giraffes that will, at first sight, fit into the already built buildings of the African village. “The plasters will be supplemented with natural materials such as branches or reeds. Drawings and symbols of native people of Africa will be pictured on the walls of the building,” explained Miroslav Janota, Head of the Technical Department of the Zoo Brno.

Besides, it is planned to build a feed board, service ramp or enclosure fencing. The most visible part of the extension, however, will be a viewing tower where visitors will be able to watch giraffes in the indoor stables. “We hope to make the garden more attractive in the winter months because it was only in the Exotarium and the Tropical Kingdom, where our visitors had the opportunity to hide in cold days. I firmly believe that visitors will appreciate that they have another opportunity to see giraffes,” Janota added.

The extension should be completed in autumn 2020.

Michal Vaňáč

Union of Czech and Slovak Zoological Gardens fights for migratory birds



According to information provided by BirdLife International, 25 million birds are killed every year in the Mediterranean, from small singers and waterfowl to birds of prey. The birds are illegally hunted and caught in nets, bird lime or traps. Some are considered to be delicacies, others are caught for home breeding or killed just for fun. As the alarming situation is not getting enough attention from the public or legislators, the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos (UCSZOO) decided to draw attention to the problem. During the summer, billboards have been installed in Prague in Evropská Street, further on Ivanská Road, at the airport exit, in Bajkalská and Vajnorská Streets and Trnavské mýto in Bratislava. The placement of billboards was chosen so that they could be seen by as many tourists arriving from the countries where the birds have been killed as possible. The billboards should, therefore, strike the bypassing tourists and generate the highest public and media interest. UCSZOO representatives also addressed Czech MEPs with a call to address the issue in the European Commission.

In the Mediterranean, 25 million migratory birds are killed each year.

Photo: UCSZOO



The placement of billboards was chosen so that they could be seen by as many tourists arriving from the countries where the birds have been killed as possible.

Photo: UCSZOO

PF 2020

Happy New Year 2020
from



Director of Brno Zoo
MVDr. Martin Hovorka, Ph.D.
and Brno Zoo staff



ZOO BRNO