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ZOO report

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

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special supplement
ZOO REPORT PROFI

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Zooreport

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Yellow-footed rock-wallabies

UNSALEABLE

What will ZooReport Magazine Be? Well, Better!

As we already announced in the last issue of our magazine, ZooReport will be issued in a new form starting next year. What form? Why, a better one! For now, however, let us look back on our past. It is said that without the past there is neither the present nor the future.

Our quarterly, which has been published since 1998, has tried to chronicle and record important events in the life of the zoo. The transformation of our formerly stagnant zoo into a dynamically growing institution is stored in our past issues. In the first year, we wrote about the Tropical Kingdom pavilion, which had then recently been completed as part of the start of that transformation. The zoo's rehabilitation was also supported by the then-new restaurant overlooking the paddock for tigers, which opened in 2002. Other building milestones were created by the zoo's breeding concept, which is based on the theory of the evolution of life on Earth. In our Nordic fauna exposition complex, Beringia, our visitors can see, for example, Kamchatka bears; and our Kalahari complex, containing an African village, is also gradually being built.

The magazine also celebrated the fiftieth and sixtieth anniversaries of the zoo, which opened in 1953. The zoo's history, however, as has been chronicled in ZooReport, goes back even to the interwar period. Our predecessors, the pioneers who built Brno Zoo, understood a zoological garden's importance in the broader context, and even in today's context: that a zoo is to entertain, but also to educate the public by displaying animals reared in conditions close to nature. They made sure that people were happy



Bc. Eduard Stuchlík

to visit the zoo (especially when the weather is nice), just as people are today. Some people, unfortunately, are subject to prejudices which probably cannot be eradicated. For example, there are those who think that zoo animals suffer from hunger. An emphasis on awareness accompanies our zoo, as it has from the beginning, and currently we offer educational programs for the public in the area of Mniší hora, and also in the Hlídka environmental education centre in the park under Špilberk Castle.

It is actually simple to prepare the magazine of Brno Zoo, as there is always something going on here: New exhibitions are being built, more young animals are being born. Although there could perhaps be even more exhibitions, for some animal species it would be better if they

had fewer offspring. (For example, in 2011 we wrote about the complications that had arisen in the wolf pack, which intuited that pups could be fed by two mothers, and so grew until there were twenty-four individuals.)

After eighteen years, it is surely time for a change in our magazine. We want to focus more on the ordinary visitor, to notice what is happening in the zoo itself and in its surroundings, and to feature stories of individual animals. The former special section will be replaced by a children's section. I personally look forward to giving my two little grandchildren the opportunity to read and paint in our new format of ZooReport.

Bc. Eduard Stuchlík,
Editor Manager of ZooReport Magazine

Bc. Eduard Stuchlík

was born in 1943 in Brno, where he graduated from high school and medical school. His original profession was as an X-ray technician. He worked from 1962 to 1969 in healthcare. In 1970, he accepted a position as a proof-reader for Rudé právo in Brno, and stayed with them until 1992. The following year, he became an editor of the Brno newspaper Rovnost, to which he also contributed articles on the arts, especially photography. His interest in this discipline brought him to the Silesian University in Opava, where, in 1997, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in creative photography. He has edited ZooReport Magazine since 2002; and, in his first five years there, he was also the spokesperson for the zoo.



Kamchatka and her cub take fish into the lair

It's a Male Again

The birth and the first months of life of the Kamchatka brown bear (*Ursus arctos beringianus*) cub, born on January 29th this year, were different from the birth of their twin brothers, Kuba and Toby, who were born in January 2012. This year's delivery was with the father's „assistance“.

Kuba and Toby started life in the birthing box. Their father (Jelizar) had already been isolated from them in another part of the breeding facilities so that the mother (Kamchatka) could have a peaceful time in which to rear her cubs, who then lived with her for almost three years, with the male remaining in the other part of the split paddock. The maturing offspring were sent to another zoo in November 2014, where zoologists decided that they would not be separated, and the breeding pair started living together again. They spent the winter together in the den which Jelizar had dug in the paddock in 2012 and which he and Kamchatka have since expanded.

They entered the den for their winter sleep on December 5th, 2015, and nobody saw them for nearly

two months. On the 29th of January, Jelizar suddenly appeared in the breeding facilities (the artificial den). It was clear that Kamchatka had given birth, had begun to defend the cubs, and had expelled the male from the underground hideout.

When we approached the paddock fence, which is only about three meters from the entrance to the den, we heard the strong distinctive sound of nursing cubs coming from below. There was, however, no way to know how many cubs had come into the world. We were curious, and started regularly to observe what was happening inside from a place at which visitors are not allowed and from which it is easier to see deep into the lair. At first, in the gloom, we saw only the massive female lying with her back facing the entrance to the den. However, on April 1st we noticed movement for the first time, and saw one cub moving on its mother's body.

Later, visitors could see Kamchatka popping out of the burrow next to her tiny cub. During this time, she did not eat, but was living off her own fat reserves. We then started throwing small portions

of fish in front of the entrance to the winter shelter. Kamchatka, followed by her cub, would come out to take the fish into the lair. Soon word spread that, at feeding time, visitors could see the little Kamchatka brown bear.

Until the end of April, Jelizar was allowed complete freedom of movement. He went to the base where he slept, moved around the paddock, and bathed in the lake. But on April 26th, a grim snorting male bear was seen thumping around the grass by the burrows, which told us that he had come to blows with the female. We lured Jelizar away with fish, and he is now once again separated from Kamchatka and the cub, who started spending more and more time above ground. By the end of May they had already begun to explore distant parts of the enclosure. On June 6th, we managed to entice them – as always, using fish – to the back of the enclosure, where we were able to separate them so that the vet could vaccinate the cub. Only then did we discover that the baby is a male.

Once Kamchatka and the cub were moved into the back area, the breeders succeeded in isolating Jelizar in a separate part there. This gave us an opportunity to quickly clean the enclosure, which was especially necessary near the entrance of the den. For a few days all three lived in the back of the enclosure, mother and cub in one part and father in the other. After returning Kamchatka and her son to the main enclosure, Jelizar remained in the back for about a week; but, from June 13th, visitors were able to observe the whole family in the paddock.

Klára Vondráková and Milan Šebesta,
Breeders



The little bear still has no name

A Paradise for Birds Is Being Created in Josefov Meadows

Josefov Meadows, the first private bird sanctuary in the country, is near Jaroměř in Eastern Bohemia. It is located in the island floodplain surrounded by the naturally meandering Metuje River, its artificially excavated side channel, and Jasenský Creek. The park can be visited for free by pedestrians and cyclists, and events for the general public are held there.

Two members of the Czech Society for Ornithology got the idea to establish the park about ten years ago. This company decided in 2006 to begin purchasing plots there with the help of sponsors and donors in order to implement a plan according to the wishes of its members. So far, about one third of the hoped-for approximately seventy hectares of flooded meadows has been bought.

During the realignment of the Metuje River about a hundred years ago, a system of locks, gates, and canals was established. This controlled the inflow and outflow of flood water according to the needs of the meadow farming community. After World War II, the system gradually ceased to be used. This unique technical monument has been renewed by ornithologists. With the arrival of seasonally regulated flooding, birds – especially those dependent on the water, but also other species – return to what had become dry plains. To accomplish this, ornithologists excavated several lakes in the park and set up small permanent wetlands. Their object is to retain the meadow management there so that the meadows will be available for mowing in early summer.

Dozens of bird species make a stop in the Josefov Meadows during their migration, some of which the locals have never before seen here. Examples of these are the bizarre duck; the northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*); the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) –



The common crane also makes a stop in Josefov Meadows during its spring flight.



After the repair of a century-old irrigation system, the flooded Josefov Meadows was changed into a bird paradise. The tower of the church in Josefov is in the background.

greatest beauty among waders; and the long-legged spotted redshank (*Tringa erythropus*). Experts also take delight in the common redshank (*Tringa totanus*), a bird which had practically vanished from the Czech Republic. In the period 2005–2016, ornithologists spotted 161 bird species on the Josefov Meadows. One particularly remarkable event of 2012, when an estimated 55 bird species were nesting there, was the discovery of three couples of northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). The bird park is one of the few nesting areas of this formerly common species in the grassland. The common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) nested there for the first time in 2015; and ornithologists assume the irregular nesting of the common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) as well.

After the introduction of controlled flooding, conservationists also recorded increasing numbers of amphibians. Hundreds of specimens of seven species live there now: the smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), the northern crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), the



The occurrence of the European fire-bellied toad in Josefov Meadows was confirmed in 2016.

common toad (*Bufo bufo*), the European green toad (*Bufo viridis*), the common frog (*Rana temporaria*), the marsh frog (*Pelophylax ridibundus*), and the European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina orientalis*).

Ornithologists regularly organize various events for the public, to which experts are also invited. The member of the team invited into the park for the event “Night Nature” on June 18, 2016 was also the curator of reptiles and amphibians of Zoo Brno, Mgr. Petr Šrámek, who managed to confirm the presence of the rare European fire-bellied toad. „It is fascinating how many species of amphibians we can observe in this wetland meadow,“ commented Šrámek. Other event participants, equipped with torches and boots, could also view representatives of the local fauna at close quarters.

Mgr. Břeněk Michálek,
Administrator of Bird Park Josefov Meadows



Ural owls

A Significant Change in the Species Spectrum at the Owls' Exposition

Significant changes have occurred in the species spectrum of the owls' exposition. From 2015, visitors have been able to see the great grey owl (*Strix nebulosa*), the Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*), the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), and the Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*) as part of the Beringia exposition complex, which represents the fauna of the wider area of both shores of the Bering Strait. The owls are near the new, massive



Great grey owls

aviary of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The owls' exposure is one of our oldest. It has existed since 1953, when the zoo opened to the public. Architect Otto Eisler designed it for Eurasian eagle-owls; so, among other things, he added nesting niches to bearing columns lined by quarry stone. Later, as the species composition changed, we added internal partitions which divided the aviary into four equal sections in an elongated rectangular plan. Birds coming from our rescue station for handicapped animals are now kept there.

Brno Zoo's collection of owls was expanded in June 2014 to include the Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*), which lives in coniferous and moist deciduous forests of the vast area that stretches in a broad belt from northern Europe across the Baltic region, European Russia, and Siberia to Japan and North Korea. Outside this contiguous area, there are isolated populations in central and southeastern Europe and central China, where they are considered post-glacial relics. The current taxonomy recognizes seven to ten subspecies. Our zoo's west Siberian Ural owl (*Strix u. uralensis*) is one of these. There are approximately 100,000 to 300,000 of this type of owl inhabiting mainly western Siberia; but the area of this subspecies also extends to the European part of Russia and east to the Okhotsk Sea. Oscar, who is almost one year old, arrived

in Brno with his sister Rikke from a breeding station in the Swedish Nordens Ark Zoo. We brought in an unrelated partner in the summer of 2015 from Ranua Zoo in Finland. Rikke then went to Liberec Zoo, where she lives with a new male. These birds are valuable for future breeding in terms of the genetic purity of the subspecies.

The western edge of the area of the central European subspecies of the Ural owl (*Strix u. macroura*) extends into our country. The center of its occurrence is located in the Carpathian arc. To strengthen the wild population, they were successfully bred for several years in Zoo Hluboká, Zoo Ostrava, and Zoo Chomutov, which significantly contributed to the return of this subspecies to its surrounding natural environment. While its numbers are slightly rising, the Ural owl is still in our country classified as a critically endangered species due to low population density (no more than 50 nesting pairs).

After being moved from another place in our zoo in 2014, the great grey owl (*Strix nebulosa*) couple sat on branches in a warning position for long hours watching the enormous aviary of eagles opposite. We introduced a new partner, a four-year-old male originating from the Dutch Zoo Veldhoven, to our five-year-old female from Antwerp Zoo in the summer of 2015. They are mutually sympathetic and often sit next to each other. The great grey



The western Siberian eagle-owl

owl occupies almost the entirety of the northern hemisphere boreal zone (subarctic coniferous forests, taiga). In Europe, we can observe them in Finland, the Baltic States, and northern Russia. (In the Asian part of Russia, the area of occurrence extends to eastern Siberia). The nesting of a small number of couples has been observed in Poland. The great grey owl does not build its own nest, but uses abandoned nests of birds of prey and ravens. Its world population is estimated at 190,000, of which Europe accounts for 4,000 to 15,000. Overall, this species is classified as only slightly endangered, and its population is growing a bit.

The breeding of the Eurasian eagle-owls (*Bubo bubo bubo*) in Brno Zoo was, for a long time, associated with the rescue station for handicapped animals, which often received individuals of the central European subspecies of this bird. The Eurasian eagle-owl inhabits much of Eurasia, and the current taxonomy distinguishes 16 subspecies. In the Czech Republic, where 600 to 900 pairs nest, it has the status of an endangered species. Whereas grey owls are tied to forests, eagle-owls are able to inhabit both forests and more open habitats. They nest on solid ground in hard-to-reach locations - ravines, abandoned quarries, deep canyons, etc - both on rocks and also in natural depressions.

We managed to get a couple belonging to

the subspecies *Bubo b. sibiricus* in 2015. Their area of occurrence stretches from the Ural Mountains to the river Ob. They differ mainly in colour from our eagle owls. While the basic color of the central European subspecies is brown, the West Siberian eagle owl is creamy white. A five-year-old male and a noticeably more robust female, one year younger, arrived at Brno Zoo in the summer of 2015 from Novosibirsk Zoo.

We acquired a mature couple of great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) from the bird park Avifauna in the Dutch town Alphen aan den Rijn. The origin of both birds is unclear. In 2005, they were confiscated from a private breeder and placed in Alphen until 2015, when they found a new home with us. The great horned owl inhabits the American continent across a vast area from Alaska to Uruguay. Its currently 15 recognized subspecies appear to be considerably variable in color. For instance, the base feathering under the dark striping on the belly can range from a creamy shade of white to a dark-brick or brown-brick color. The great horned owl uses old abandoned nests of other birds such as the great grey owl, and thus falls outside the so-called cavity species, under which classification owls often fall.

The owls' exposure, which is somewhat in the shadow of the mighty eagle aviary (one of the newest imposing structures in our zoo), is in fact



The great horned owl

only cloaked with the surrounding lush vegetation. Attentive passers do not overlook the mostly light-colored owls, which emerge from the shadows as almost fabulously mysterious objects with wide-open shining eyes. Many visitors come to the owls' exposure from far parts of the zoo when they hear their typical piercing screech.

RNDr. Petr Suvorov, Ph.D.,
Curator of Aviculture



One of the six stations of the competition trail was set up in the Zoo on Earth Day by employees of our rescue station for wildlife. Photo: Visitors identify animal species from pictures.

Let It Grow!

This year's menu of events staged at the zoo is varied. Thirty-five will be held this year, of which four took place in June. Two of them, Earth Day and the Day of Biodiversity Conservation, were associated with the campaign Let It Grow, which was launched by the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) for the period 2016-2018.

Under the auspices of the United Nations, people around the world celebrate April 22nd as the International Day of the Earth. In Brno Zoo, this year's celebration

was held a day later. Students of the Faculty of Business and Economics at Mendel University helped with its preparations. The program started with the announcement of the winners of the children's literary and art competition on the theme of biodiversity conservation, the main event of which was a competitive trail leading through the zoo. Six stations were prepared. One issued bonuses of small sweets to anyone who produced at least three stamps which had been earned for correct answers at the other stations.

In the Exotarium Pavilion, personnel of the rescue station for wild animals (which Zoo Brno operates in Jinačovice) set up a competition stand. For older children and their parents, we prepared a quiz to test their knowledge of our fauna. Pictures of animals accompanied by questions were hung on the surrounding trees, and contestants were able to improve their knowledge by participating. For example, they learned that the

European honey buzzard feeds on insect larvae, and that a hedgehog has 6000 quills on its body. Smaller children were invited to identify pictures of different animals. A three-year-old girl from Slovakia correctly named all twelve, shaming some older schoolchildren. With great enthusiasm, the children cared for "injured" plush velvet animals. A hare, squirrel, and bat were "attacked" by plastic ticks. The small attendants busily removed these parasites with tweezers.

This year on May 22nd, the International Day of Biodiversity Conservation (proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1992) was commemorated in our zoo by the establishment of a competitive trail aimed at discovering common species of our flora and fauna. Competitors performed a variety of tasks, such as determining by touch whether an opaque bag contained a spruce cone, a pine cone, or something else. At various places in the zoo, ten questions and tasks were prepared. Those who dropped a correctly filled-out response form into the ballot boxes in Kamchatka cottage after completing the trail were included in a raffle for small prizes. Also, the Day of Biodiversity Conservation in our zoo was enriched by the staff of Rescue Station Jinačovice. At the stand in Kamchatka cottage, they taught people how to attract various animals to their garden or balcony. They demonstrated the construction of birdhouses, bird feeders, and so-called "insect hotels".

The campaign Let It Grow highlights the importance of preserving the biodiversity of our continent and the need to protect nature from its non-native, invasive species.

Mgr. Jana Galová,
Head of Education



On Earth Day, the competitors also had to drag the bear.

Personnel of our rescue station for wild animals contributed to the program of the Day of Biodiversity. They advised visitors at Kamchatka cottage as to how they could attract various animals to their garden or balcony. The "residents" of the "insect hotel" choose the "room" with the substrate which suits them best. For example, ladybugs, which maintain the biological balance of a garden better than chemical preparations, successfully winter over in hay or moss.

K samičím klokana žlutohého přibyl samec

Samce klokana žlutohého (*Petrogale xanthopus*), narozeného v dubnu 2015 v Zoo Bristol ve Velké Británii, jsme z jeho domovské zahrady dovezli do naší zoo 27. května letošního roku. Ihned jsme jej vypustili do expozice, kterou od června 2015 obývají dvě samice téhož druhu, pocházející ze Zoo Mylhúzy ve Francii. Mladší samec je stále o něco menší, ale brzy obě samice vzrůstem dožene i předežene.

Klokani žlutozobí patří k unikátní skupině skalních klokánů, které naše zoo před rokem 2015 nikdy nechovala. Blíže o nich pojednává odborná příloha tohoto vydání Zooreportu.

Urban centrum uvádí nové stavby v zoo, mláďata i výukové programy

Výstava s názvem Lvi se vracejí, věnovaná brněnské zoologické zahradě, je od 21. června 2016 otevřena v galerii Urban centrum v areálu Staré radnice v Brně (vchod z Mečové ulice). Tematicky je členěna na tři části.

V hlavním sále se představují expoziční novinky chystané pro nejbližší roky, například už letos začne zoo stavět nový výběh lvů, který má být během jednoho roku dokončen. Král zvířat se tak na Mniši horu vrátí po čtrnácti letech. Chov byl přerušen, protože chybělo vhodné chovatelské zařízení.

Po dostavbě rozlehlého lviho areálu dostanou nový venkovní výběh šimpanzi; lidé je budou pozorovat také z lávky, která povede ve výšce



Mladý samec klokana žlutohého (vlevo) je blíž k objektivu, vypadá tedy přibližně stejně velký jako za ním stojící samice. Ve skutečnosti je menší, ale brzy je obě vzrůstem dožene i předežene

4 až 6 metrů nad zemí mezi korunami stromů rostoucích při okraji expozice. Vedle chystaných novinek Urban centrum také přiblíží tři nové velké expozice, dokončené v roce 2014: Africkou vesnici, voliéru orlů bělohavých a výběh skalních klokánů.

Výstava rovněž upozorňuje na současné chovatelské úspěchy, které se týkají nejen pravidelných odchovů například medvědů nebo vlků - v Brně se letos rozmnožily některé druhy vůbec poprvé.

Návštěvník Urban centra se v jeho předšálí seznámí s další významnou funkcí zoologické zahrady, s výchovou a vzděláváním veřejnosti, především dětí a mládeže. Zjistí přitom, jak pestrá je nabídka výukových programů, které probíhají nejen areálu na Mniši hoře, ale i ve Středisku ekologické výchovy Hlídka v parku pod hradem

Špilberkem.

Výstava v Urban centru skončí 9. září, poté se přestěhuje do Knihovny Jiřího Mahena na Koblížné ulici v Brně, kde bude přístupná do konce října.

Úspěšné prvoodchovy

Naši zoo v posledních letech zpopularizovala především mláďata medvědů ledních. Úspěšně však odchováváme mnohé další vzácné druhy, mezi nimiž se letos objevila v Brně dosud nevidaná mláďata. Vedle rosomáka, jemuž věnujeme 11. stranu tohoto vydání, a tři štěňat vlků hřivnatých (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), o nichž jsme psali v minulém čísle Zooreportu, patří k letošním prvoodchovům například čtyři mláďata manulů (*Otocolobus manul*), dvě samičky a dva samci narození 18. dubna, či sedm skunků pruhovaných (*Mephitis mephitis*) -



Mládě skunka pruhovaného



Mládě manula



Cora sits down, and Noria is about to begin suckling

Crowds Head to the Paddock of Our Baby Polar Bear

This year, hardly any visitors failed to stop by the polar bears. Who would miss a view of the frisky cub? The small polar bear, born November 24, 2015, moved at the end of March into the paddock with her mother, Cora. The father of the cub, Umca, remains in

his enclosure in the breeding facilities. The cub was christened Noria on April 16 by tennis player Lucie Šafářová. The name was chosen from proposals sent in by supporters of the zoo. Lenka Skutilová, who suggested the name, was inspired by the victim of global warming in the book *Guardian of the Spring* by Finnish writer Emmi Itäranta. According to Šafářová, the story of the book is well timed. „Global warming strongly endangers polar bears, and we must be reminded that we must do something to increase their numbers,” she said, throwing a cake filled with fish, carrots, and other treats into the bears’ paddock.

Noria is the fifth of Cora’s offspring. She is



Noria



Cora loves playing with a ball, just like her cub

much livelier than the previous twins, quickly mastering the entire paddock, climbing on her mother’s body, jumping after her, and munching her ear. With Noria, Cora was not afforded any rare moments of peace, as she had been when the twins played together. Cora was always careful with the twins, which could not swim right after leaving the den and continued to avoid the water tank. With characteristic snorting, she always pushed the inexperienced cubs away from the pond. But she did not have to watch Noria, who, despite her curiosity, manifested innate caution: She ventured at first only into the shallows, plunging just her nose into the water. Sometimes she would submerge her whole head, but the depths did not attract her. Eventually, of course, Noria learned to swim, but not before the end of May. Until then, her major entertainment was to slide beneath the ice maker.

Since the end of March, the exposition of polar bears has been almost constantly surrounded by visitors, as is evidenced by the number of things which have fallen into the enclosure. When the breeders enter to clean, they rescue hats and cell phones which, however, are useless by then. Unfortunately, sometimes visitors throw various objects deliberately into the paddock, perhaps as suggested „toys”; or they even try to feed the bears. Such behaviour unfortunately can endanger the animals’ health.

In warm weather, the polar bears spend most of their time playing in the pool, where they have a big blue ball. It seems that the mother grabs it with even greater vigour than her daughter.

The First Wolverine Born in the Czech Republic Graduates to the Paddock

The first wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) born in either a Czech or a Slovak zoo is a little male who was born March 2nd, 2016 in Brno Zoo. The proud father, Ivan, was born in Kristiansand, Norway in February 2008; and Natasha, the mother, who is two years younger, came from Moscow Zoo. Both adult wolverines have lived in Brno since the end of 2010.

Hints of sexual behaviour by our wolverines were noticed in 2012; in the following years, these signs strengthened, and they culminated last season. The breeding diary contains an observation of mating on 19th May 2015. Before the advent of last winter, the wolverines showed increased activity and voracious appetites, the female often staying in burrows which had been dug by both wolverines in the paddock.

During the checking of the breeding pavilion on 2nd March 2016, the previously tranquil beasts started to threaten the breeder through the bars. The cause of this behavioural change was immediately revealed by the camera installed in the birthing box: On the screen there was a small light-coloured ball lying on the floor. (Wolverines are born with white coats.) Because the male does not participate in the nurturing of the cub, he remained separated in the paddock in order to ensure peace for the female. Natasha and her cub inhabited the birthing box, its quarters, and the weaning yard. We were pleased that she did not choose to stay in any of the burrows in the paddock, because the breeding facilities allowed us a constant view of their activities.



The male wolverine (right) with her cub, born March 2, 2016

The regular daily rations for wolverines is made up of one kilogram of meat (beef, poultry, fish). We changed it for the nursing mother in order to supply her with more energy. Fish were replaced with rats and young goats; and only the very freshest poultry was given. When, at the end of April, the cub began to be weaned, he received minced meat and beef hearts.

Natasha, though primipara, nursed regularly right from the beginning, and generally behaved like a caring mother. She transported the cub to the neighbouring quarters so that he could play in the hay and straw there; and, when he later started to drink water, she removed any debris from the drinker. The cub had darkened a bit, a fact the breeder recorded on March 15th, when he also noted that the cub was “beautifully fat.” On the 27th of March, the cub began to see; and, on April 16th, he began basking with his

mother in the weaning yard. There he also could look at his father at the end of the corridor through the double bars from a distance of about three meters. But the cub had probably already surmised the proximity of the male based on his sense of smell.

During the vaccination on May 17th, the vet discovered that the little wolverine is a male. The cub had lost his milk teeth and already had some of his first permanent teeth. He weighed five kilograms. At the booster vaccination on June 2nd, he was nearly three kilos heavier (weighing 7.8 kg). The first direct contact with his father through the bars between the yard and paddock occurred on June 12th. Natasha calmly watched, curiously sniffing Ivan from afar. The baby was attracted to his father from the beginning and often teased him later, when they were not divided by any obstacle. The portcullis bars separating them were permanently opened on June 16th and the family of wolverines was reunited. Ivan immediately started to teach his son - who was then almost as big as he was - how to climb a tree. The young wolverine followed his father up, and was not afraid of heights.

Rearing wolverines is considered a great achievement, a testament to which are the congratulations sent to Brno by the Coordinator of the European Wolverines Rescue Program, Leif Blomqvist from Nordens Ark Zoo in Sweden.

Klára Vondráková and René Albrecht,
Breeders



The young wolverine (left) teases his father. Zoo visitors have been able to watch the whole wolverine family in the enclosure since June 16th.



VÝSTAVA V URBAN CENTRU
21/6 – 9/9 2016

LVI SE VRACEJÍ

Výstava v Urban centru představí nejen projekty nových významných expozičních stánků, které Zoo Brno chystá otevřít v nejbližších letech, ale také připomíná nejúspěšnější současné odchovy mláďat v brněnské zoo.

Zájemcům výstava přibližuje i významnou rekonstrukci a chod Střediska ekologické výchovy Hlídka v parku pod hradem Špilberkem.