

# **zoo**report

No. 1 / march 2011

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

## **BRNO**



special supplement

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### Zooreport

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Wolverine

UNSALEABLE



## I am leaving with the feeling of a job well done

**Immediately after the Velvet Revolution, my wife Inka and I took the first opportunity to visit the West Berlin Zoo. In the morning, Prof. Dr. Heinz-Georg Klös, the Director, welcomed us. This small, brawny man sat in his small office, with books and reprints everywhere, and no place for another chair. The big zoo God turned out to be a very pleasant colleague. We later became friends when he stayed in our house. We discussed the collapse of the Iron Curtain. He was vividly interested in our zoos and invited me to cooperate. "You have to found a common organisation. No cooperation is possible without it. People in zoos are one big family", he said then, and I remembered it.**

When we celebrated the anniversary of the local zoo foundation in Bratislava on 3 October 1990, I brought up the meeting with the Herr Klös. The positive response of my colleagues was quite a surprise for me. The next day, we met in a director's office and started discussing a common organisation. The Union of Czechoslovak Zoos (UCSZ) came to me as a possible name, and everybody agreed. Someone proposed that a president be elected. I thought of RNDr. Bohumil Král, CSc., the director of the Prague Zoo. As was later shown, it was a very good choice. Bohumil Král had what none of us had – he had PhD. Slavomír Plicka, as his secretary. He was a former senior officer at the Ministry of Culture who had not survived Communist examinations at the beginning of normalisation; therefore Prof. RNDr.

Zdenek Veselovský, DrSc., admitted him to the Prague Zoo. Slávek was a very good soul in our Union, and worked out all the fundamental documents. Plicka not only knew the problems of zoos, but he also had a lot of influential friends in authority. To a large degree, we thank him for the state subsidy, although it started very modestly.

But back to Bratislava: In 1990, RNDr. Josef Janeczek, the Liberec Zoo director, was proposed and later was elected a vice-president. We also elected another three members of the executive board for two years: Ing. Alexander Peter (the Zoo Bratislava director), PedDr. Ivan Pojar (the Zoo Dvůr Králové nad Labem director) and Ing. Vladislav Jiroušek (the Zoo Jihlava director). The Executive Board was charged with working out the Articles of the Union, ordering a graphic design for the production of header paper, and ensuring acceptance of the Board members by the Ministry of the Environment. We called a foundation General Meeting for January 1991, which approved the Articles of UCSZ. There were 16 founding zoos, and later we admitted another three. The Union started to live to the full.

After the split of Czechoslovakia in 1993, we agreed on continuing mutual cooperation with our Slovak friends. The change was only reflected in the name. We became the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos, while the abbreviation "UCSZ" remained. Thus we became an international organisation overnight, which brought about lots of advantages. The Union has gradually worked its way to the level of an important professional organisation, and state authorities consulted with us about important matters. As the only professional organisation in the Czech Republic, we managed to obtain a state subsidy and later to anchor it in law. The subsidy significantly contributed to the stabilisation of Czech zoos and, in particular, to the development of international cooperation.

The Union has gradually presented itself at the international forum. First, it was admitted as an ordinary member of



Vladislav Jiroušek

the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EZA), later as a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA). Then we became, as only the third organisation in the Czech Republic, a member of the most prestigious world environmental organisation, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

I was elected the second president of UCSZ for the first time in 1997. Due to an excessive workload, I took a break for a year and MVDr. Premysl Rabas, a colleague, substituted for me. After that year, I was elected again, and acted until I resigned in January 2011. I am leaving as president of UCSZ with the feeling of a job well done, and strongly believe that the coming generation will raise the reputation of the Union even higher.

Ing. Vladislav T. Jiroušek,

Honorary Member of the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos



Vladislav Jiroušek with a panda

### Ing. Vladislav T. Jiroušek

was born in Dvůr Králové on 21 December 1942. He graduated from the Secondary School of Agriculture Chrudim and the University of Agriculture in Brno. From 1963 to 1967 he worked as a curator of reptiles in the Dvůr Králové nad Labem Zoo. From 1967 to 1982 he was head of the Zoo Centre in Jihlava and, from 1982 to 2005, the Jihlava Zoo director. He held the office of president of the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos (with a one-year break) from 1997 to January 2011. He currently works in Cyprus as an adviser for the foundation of a zoo. He has been a nature photographer, journalist, and

traveller for forty years. He publishes his photos in the World Webphoto Gallery, has held numerous exhibitions, and has published five books. Vladislav Jiroušek is married and has a son.





Alpaca's young ones born in 2010

### The Third Season of Alpacas Has Started

The Brno Zoo ended many years of keeping domestic llamas in 2009 and their exposition was occupied by a more rare species of the domesticated llama – the alpaca [*Lama guanicoe* f. *pacos*]. We obtained three females from a private breed in Chile and added a fourth from the Ostrava Zoo. The unnamed alpacas were then called Peri, Tia, Viki and Xara. The leader of the herd came to us from the German Stuttgart Zoo, where he had been called Marcel, and we kept the name.

As early as his first year in Brno, Marcel gradually coupled with all the females. Dark brown Peri was the first of them, and she delivered the following year (2010), at the beginning of August. A young male stood up an hour after birth and started suckling. To assure the peace of the mother and her son, and with regard to the fact that the female was a primipara, we separated Marcel from the other alpacas. It became acquainted with its offspring in the run on the following day, but only smelled the baby and did not pay it any more attention. Light brown Tia was the second to deliver, on 23 August – and on the same day, Xara with black fur and pure-white Viki joined her. These deliveries, when only females were born, were also without problems, and, to be on the safe side, without the presence of the male.

After the last delivery, we rejoined Marcel to the herd permanently. He was afraid of the young at first and therefore did not attend to them too much. Then, he soon started being interested in the females, which gradually started rutting. During this period, the young stay close to the herd's females, and therefore there are often conflicts when a male tries to drive away the young. He sometimes finds a suitable moment when the young one is not near the others, and he then starts coupling with her. Alpacas do this lying down. Last year, Marcel coupled with all the females in August and September. There should therefore be deliveries again in the summer months.



Female Tia with her young one



Female Peri with her young one

Llama females guide their young at first, but they become independent soon, and all the young ones play together and graze. They only run to their mothers if they want to suckle. A male has a leading role in the herd and the young soon learn to respect it. Marcel was little bit disconcerted by the deliveries of the females at first. He was afraid of the new additions and even ran away from them. After a while, though, he started disciplining them. When one of them jumped the fence and returned to the run, Marcel caught it, pressed it to the ground with his abdomen and legs, and lorded it over the captured offspring until its mother came to help it. Never since did one of the young left the group to go outside the exposition. As in most families, the head of this one does not always treat all the family members in the same way. Marcel does not like Xara too much, nor her offspring. It may be because Xara is the smallest one in the group, and her baby was born with the same colour as light beige Marcel. There were times when



Male Marcel



Female Xara with her young one



Female Viki with her young one

he was hard on the young one, daily hunting and biting it. We had to separate this aggressive male from the other animals at that time. Perhaps he searched his conscience while alone, because he calmed down so that, after some time, the group could be complete again. He is still highly attentive to the keepers. When one of us enters the run, we have to close him in the stable because, as the lead male, he guards his females and his territory. Marcel honoured the reputation he had gained in Stuttgart: that he is a tough, and a good breeder.

So that type-identical Chilean females only can deliver in our zoo, we transferred Viki, who came from the Ostrava Zoo, to the Kosice Zoo at the end of the year. In the spring, the young ones will depart to other zoos, as well. We hope the year 2011 will be equally successful in the breeding of alpacas.

Lubomír Gala,

Gamekeeper at the Cervidoes Section



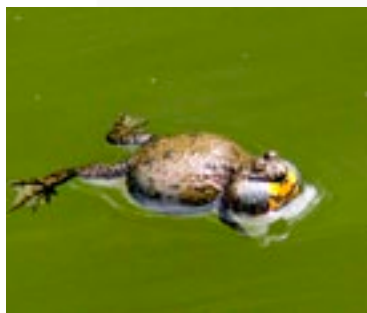


Photo by Jan Václavík

A calling male of the fire-bellied toad

### Rare Species of the Litovelské Pomoraví Include Fire-Bellied Toad

Most of our protected landscape areas or national parks are situated in mountainous parts of our republic. In lowlands which have been intensively used since medieval times, there are not many locations left with natural or close-to-nature biotopes. An exception to this is the Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area (PLA), which was founded in 1990 and consists of approximately 96 km<sup>2</sup>.

This territory is especially known for its still-naturally-meandering Morava River, with numerous permanently and periodically passing side arms and tributaries winding through floodplain forests. The unique preserved river system, which at times naturally floods the forest and adjacent alluvial meadows, not only contributes to the high species richness and productivity of ecosystems, but also acts as an efficient flood protection: The lowland landscape, which absorbs huge quantities of water, completely subdues smaller floods and, with bigger ones, at least mitigates the impact on municipalities.

The national importance of the lowland part of this PLA is highlighted by its status as an internationally important wetland within the Ramsar Convention (the Convention protecting important wetlands worldwide). Another part of the PLA is hilly Doubrava, which is covered with various forest types (mostly oak-hornbeam forests), and which gives a home to rare fauna and flora species – e.g., to the critically endangered clouded Apollo butterfly [*Parnassius mnemosyne*]. The biotope mosaic is completed by the lime ridge of Tresín, with its Mladec Caves, famous for its skeletal remains belonging to members of the oldest modern European population, from more than 30,000 years ago.

Of spectacular animal species occurring in the Litovelské Pomoraví, we can mention the European beaver



Photo by Ondřej Dočkal

### The naturally meandering Morava River

[*Castor fiber*], introduced by a repatriation programme at the beginning of the 1990s. As far as birds are concerned, we can see the common kingfisher [*Alcedo atthis*] or the common sandpiper [*Actitis hypoleucos*] on the banks of the Morava. At some better preserved alluvial meadows, there are still populations of the dusky large blue [*Maculinea nausithous*]. The common European mantis [*Mantis religiosa*], a representative of thermophilic insects, can be found at locations with more sun.

Besides a wealth of invertebrates, we can find numerous amphibian species in pools. We would like to mention at least one of them – the fire-bellied toad [*Bombina orientalis*]. This is a small toad confined to sunny pools at lower elevations above sea level. It is almost unknown to the general public. However, if we remember the “Na samote u lesa” film by Jiří Menzel with the talk of the mill-man (performed by Ladislav Smoljak) caught unaware with the dreamy sound “u.u.u.,” this exactly is the way fire-bellied toad males go, and we realize it is in fact known to everybody. Unfortunately, we can listen to this croaking even more rarely at present. The species, as most amphibians, is currently endangered by changes in the landscape, such as drying out, pollution etc. The Litovelské Pomoraví is one of few locations in central Moravia where fire-bellied toads still occur.



Photo by Jan Václavík

A dusky large blue

The management of the Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area focuses on the stabilization and renewal of biotopes, and the preservation of living conditions for those flora and fauna species whose numbers are decreasing in the surrounding landscape, or which have disappeared from it.

Mgr. Ondřej Dočkal,

Zoologist of Litovelské Pomoraví Protected Landscape Area





North American beavers

### Reasons Why We Should Love Beavers

Visitors to our zoo can currently watch three adult beavers – a male and two females – in the North American beaver [*Castor canadensis*] exposition. We caught five young ones, who were born in June 2010, at the end of last year and moved them to other zoos. The little beavers grew a little, so that a single breeding place started to be too small for all of them. One of the young was moved to its new home in the Cheong-Ju-Land Zoo, Seoul, South Korea, before Christmas; the others should move to other zoos. We started breeding the North American beavers in



The beaver is browsing the vegetation in the surrounding of the exhibit. "Isn't there something to chopping down?"

our zoo in 2003, when we brought five young animals from the Chomutov Zoopark. We prepared a brand new run with a 12-m-long pool for them. From the pool, a lodge leads to a beaver castle situated in a building where visitors can watch the beavers through a glazed partition. North American beavers can hardly be distinguished from European beavers [*Castor fiber*]. They are little more robust, and their fur is of a higher quality. The main difference is that the North American beavers are diurnal, while the European beavers are active at night.

A keeper who is in daily contact with them in the zoo soon became attached to them and, after some time, compared the beavers' behaviour to that of humans. It seems to me that when nature gave beavers their character traits, it forgot to give them an important ability – to be afraid. These animals seem not to be born to be afraid.

We needed to catch them many times, which we usually did by draining the pool in the run and catching animals in the bottom with a net. At such times, the sweet beavers did not seem to mind that a giant in boots and with a net in his hand was rushing at them. They watched what was happening with peacefulness and no fear, only sometimes flapping their tails against ground, which can be vaguely interpreted as intimidation. When we released the beaver after a veterinarian inspected it, instead of being frightened and running away, it came right back to us.

There are many more reasons for falling in love with beavers. They are devoted, usually forming monogamous couples for life, which is unique for gnawing animals. Beavers are connected by very strong family relations. It is amazing to watch how important bodily contact is for them. They frequently touch each other, comb their part-



◀▶ Catching of beavers for the blood sampling



ner's fur, and sleep firmly pressed to each other. Potential conflicts are manifested outwardly only by the fact that an animal which is currently "unwanted" stays away for some time. Later, we can see it sleeping together with the others again in a single pile of bodies. Young beavers play an important role in the beaver family. The care of them is shared among all family members. Beavers born in previous years are most helpful in bringing up the new additions. Before they leave the lodge to found their own family, they try out parenting themselves. A small beaver is a kind creature, and everybody is surprised that it is able to weep when in discomfort, with a voice similar to a small child's. When we had only two females in the zoo, some time ago, they were always very tender to each other. And when we brought in a male, joyful excitement prevailed in the lodge, and the relationship between the females was not damaged in any way. Briefly, the law of a beaver's lodge is general peace and well-being.

When they are in water, beavers are almost invulnerable. On dry land, they become victims to many predators, most frequently wolves. Beavers are very strong, and are able to drag heavy pieces of wood. They are characterized by the purposeful work they do, and are able to relocate huge quantities of soil and wood, and build wide dams, thus significantly changing their surroundings. The beavers' activity in the landscape is not only destructive though, as many people think. That they regulate water courses, e.g. in Canada, has a positive influence in the countryside, where they form wet biotopes where water could be otherwise missing. By making the flow slower, they also mitigate soil erosion. As they primarily cut fast-growing trees and bushes, they create space for the growth of slower-growing wooden species, and thus ensure a wider species diversity which can be used by other animals. The beavers' activity can only be seen as destructive in a landscape which has



An adult beaver with a young one

been modified by humans, "artificial" landscape, such as the chateau park in Lednice.

The peaceful character of beavers is also shown when they are bred in captivity, which is not a demanding job. If you offer a sufficiently big pool where they can swim, and a lodge leading from the pool to a den and food, they do not leave. The favourite food of beavers is the bark and buds of willow-trees. They also like grazing on the green grass, and love browsing dandelion flowers. They make a stock underwater from branches for winter use and, when the water surface freezes, people usually do not know that a beaver family is very active under water as they come to "sweep out" their pantry. Beavers are protected from the cold water by dense fur, especially by its short fluff, which has air in between the hair strands. This ensures that the skin remains dry at all times. An interesting organ is a beaver tail, which serves as a helm when it is swimming; the beaver also leans against it when cutting down a tree.

Beavers can swim immediately after birth but, because of their aerated fur, they are not able to dive

yet. This means that they move on the water surface like a piece of cork, with the bigger part of their bodies above water, while their small tails helm. As beavers start appearing in our countryside again, there may sometimes be young ones which have lost contact with their family during a flood. Human care for a beaver orphan has many drawbacks. A small beaver easily gets attached to a person, and this is a stumbling block. The beaver starts to consider him as a member of its family, and concentrates all its inherited need for bodily contact on him/her. The person usually is not a substitute for an animal in this respect, and the disappointed young beaver often becomes aggressive and unable to adjust to the life with other beavers later.

I only wish that people would learn to live with these nice creatures when they return to our countryside again, and that people would forgive them their woodchopper actions and their lodges, which might weaken dams built by humans. Beavers simply have a different opinion about what the countryside should look like. They definitely belong to nature, and they have made the first step: They are able to live with people.

*Ing. Miloslav Walter,*

*The gamekeeper at the Beast of Prey Section*

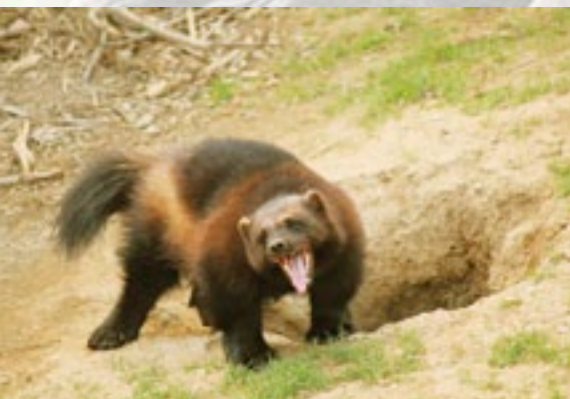


◀ Young beavers





▼▲▼ Wolverines in new enclosure



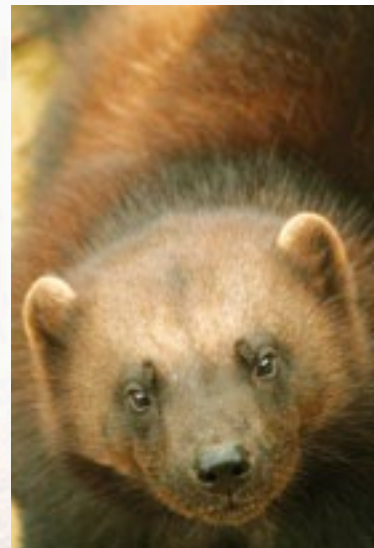
### **The Wolverine Is Not A Devil, but A Smart and Watchful Beast of Prey**

Two wolverines [*Gulo gulo*] have been living in our zoo in an exposition at the new entrance to the Beringia complex since last autumn. The male came from the Kristiansand Zoo, Norway, where it was born in February 2008; and a female, younger by two years, comes from the breeding station of the Moscow Zoo.

They created a harmonious couple in Brno. They go together to the run, which they reshaped according to their own ideas: They gradually took apart piles of brushwood that we had prepared for them as a hide, nibbled the thicker sticks, and spread them over the ground. They then used them for various games, pulling against each other with passion to secure them. They did not dare to do

anything with the other decorations, which were big tree stumps with a mat of the remaining root system sticking up. It serves them as a place with a good view, suitable for resting. They sometimes also climb a tree. They do not go swimming, but like drinking water from the pool which supplements the run. They created their own hiding places, having dug out dens at several places.

They are smart and watchful animals. During games in the run, they always grow rigid for a while, and stare at any person watching them or at a place which draws their notice. When they do not like something, they respond by grumbling noisily, or they run a little distance away but stay watchful. They are sometimes curious and get as near as one meter to a visitor. They spend a part of the day lounging around at more-or-less hidden places. When they are active, they search everywhere. They can manage to escape from any trap or cage by using their active ingenuity. They exert a lot of energy in the zoo in seeking the weakest point in the exposition. They are able to work on a way to freedom for hours, days, and weeks. In doing so, thick branches or a thinner metal fence is no obstacle for them. That's why breeding wolverines in captivity is so difficult. If they are kept individually, they will probably try to escape; but, if we breed them in a large enough exposition, they do not tend to do so. Although they live a reclusive life in the countryside, they do not like staying alone in zoos.



Wolverines, which are said to be able to kill a moose, are surrounded by stories giving them enormous power, similar to that of bears. Their nicknames, such as 'hyena of the north' or 'forest ghost', show that they are sometimes attributed with almost supernatural abilities. There is probably no other animal living in Eurasia which has so many myths and superstitions attached to it.

And what is the reality? The wolverine is the largest representative of the weasel family. It is no giant. It is similar in size to the badger, but it is really forceful. If it feels in danger and cannot escape, it responds by a powerful attack. Winter is a season when it is really able to kill an animal the size of a red deer. The secret of such performance rests in the weather. When it starts freezing again after a thaw and an ice crust forms on the snow, the hungry beast chases its heavy prey, which breaks the crust and sinks into the snow, which tires it. The lighter wolverine, which moves on the surface, then bites the exhausted animal's neck and pulls it down to the ground.

To meet the wolverine in the open countryside is a rarity because of its hidden way of life. We might be lucky to see it in Scandinavia, northern Russia, Alaska, Canada, or Greenland because it mostly lives in Arctic areas. It only occurred in central Europe during the Ice Ages. It is not a devil, nor an animal to avoid. On the contrary, it needs to be provided with protection, as it is classified as a vulnerable species, according to IUCN.

*Ing. Miloslav Walter,*  
Gamekeeper at the Beast of Prey Section



## We Have Introduced an Ape Protection Campaign

The traditional Spring Opening of the Zoo took place on 9th April this year. During the rich cultural programme, we allocated some time to introduce the ninth EAZA campaign, which focused on the protection of great apes. Unfortunately, almost all apes are endangered, some even critically, due to deforesting, hunting, and diseases. They are going to die out without our help. Brno Zoo tries to help mainly in the field of education. We have placed informative panels about the campaign in the atrium near the souvenir shop and in the Tropical Kingdom pavilion. We have hung nine panels about the life of apes and their protection in the Apes' Pavilion. We have created an educational programme closely related to the campaign. The protection of apes was also a theme of the competition for pupils of the infant school that took place on 10th May; one for older pupils will take place on 9th June. We offer key pendants in the form of an ape for 60 CZK in the souvenir shop, ten per cent of which goes to the protection programmes. (red)

Photo by Pavel Hruška



The zoologist speak on the EAZA Ape Campaign

veillance, text materials, and a small present. During their one-day stay in the zoo (from 8 am to 4 pm), the children learned how to treat the animals they have at home, what is good or bad for them, which food to prepare for them, etc. (red)

## New Service of Our Zoo: a Birthday Party

The zoo offers a novelty for public – children's birthday parties for parties of three to ten children who range from six to ten years of age. The celebrations can take place in the non-traditional zoo surroundings from Monday to Friday between three and five pm. The price is 250 CZK for each child, and it includes the entrance fee, a guide to a chosen route, refreshments, and a small present for the birthday girl/boy. The groups may be accompanied by a maximum of three adults (according to the number of children), who enter the zoo for free. The first party took place at the end of April, and six other groups are already booked through the end of June.

The party programme has two variations: One, which can be done year-round, includes Tigers' Rock and the Apes' Pavilion, where the keepers tell the children stories from the animals' lives. Then a refreshment is served in the restaurant, and Eda, the parrot, gives a present to the birthday girl/boy. After that, the group may continue through the zoo on their own. A second variation can only take place when the weather is favourable. In this, the party members take the little train up to the Children's Zoo, where they see

the stables and ride ponies. After the ride, they move to the Indians' Village, where they light a camp fire, grill pork sausages, make Indian war bonnets, and draw Indian patterns on their faces. Also in this variation, the birthday child gets a present and the group may go through the zoo till it closes. (red)

## Day for Adoption

Brno Zoo, together with students of the Mendel University, organized a Day for Adoption on Saturday 30th April for the first time ever. Some of our animals were put on the stage. At the Camel's, every 30 minutes, and a singer of the band, Nevers, told visitors how they could adopt them. The students of Mendel University took charge of another "recruitment," preparing various entertaining competitions and games for children at four sites in the zoo. The number of applications for adoption noticeably increased after 30th April. (red)



A student of the Mendel University inform the visitors about the options of animal adoption and sponsorship

## Brno Zoo Annual Report 2010

The Brno Zoo annual report 2010 is already available on [www.zoobrna.cz/cs/o-nas/vyrocnizpravy](http://www.zoobrna.cz/cs/o-nas/vyrocnizpravy).



## Do You Know How to Treat Your Pet?

A popular educational programme for children called "Do You Know How to Treat Your Pet?" took place again during the Easter vacation on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd May. It was focused on eight- to twelve-year-old children in groups of five to ten. The price was 400 CZK for each child, and it included the entrance fee, lunch and drinks, a lecturer, health sur-

Photo by Marek Sláma





View to bear's enclosure from observation point near the Kamchatka cottages



▲ The bear started enjoying a young pine



### Bears Are Now Accustomed to Their New Home in Brno

The Siberian brown bears that have lived in our zoo since last October, male Jelizar and female Kamchatka, are getting more and more accustomed to their new surroundings, enabling visitors to see them more often now.

They stayed mostly active during their first winter at the Brno Zoo. In the wild, the bears would sleep in a so-called false hibernation but, in our zoo, they fell into that state only for a short time – for several days in February. Kamchatka slept deeply in the maternity box, and tired Jelizar snoozed near the den entrance. We didn't disturb them, and stopped feeding them at that time. However, for most of the winter, the bears went out for short times – for instance, to roll around in the snow, which was evi-

dently was a pleasure for them. These really hardened animals (well, they come from Kamchatka!) enjoyed even paddling in the pool in winter. The bears sleep much longer in the wild because they have nothing to eat then, and so they try to minimize their energy expenditure.

The keepers had an important task in the spring: to teach the bears to know and to use their outdoor run-out much more. Their acquired habits from their previous home, where they used to live in a small concrete yard, passed away slowly. Sometimes at first they stayed outside in front of the door the whole day, waiting until it opened again to let them back into the inner part, which remained in their minds like their beloved old small concrete yard. To wean them from this bad habit, the keepers had to teach them that the outdoor run-out is a beautiful and interesting place. They made a feeding site near the pool, and the way to the site was usually lined with goodies – fish pieces or other appetizing food.

The "bear training" met with good results. The animals no longer stay in front of the door so often, but more and more venture near the pool or between the trees inside their large natural run-out. It is obvious that they have an appetite: As partial vegetarians, they graze the lawn and eat the leaves or needles from the trees. Such a giant from Kamchatka can eat a whole young pine tree at one sitting!

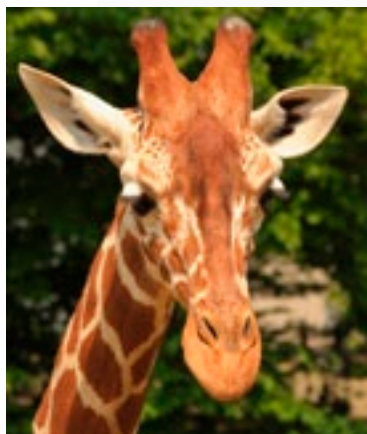
Our bears are a well-matched pair. They twice already started a family at their home zoo in Rostov-on-Don, where they had been brought as small orphans found in wild Kamchatka. We have already observed their mating in Brno, too...

*Eduard Stuchlík*



Guests can see the bears in their enclosure also during winter





Reticulated giraffe

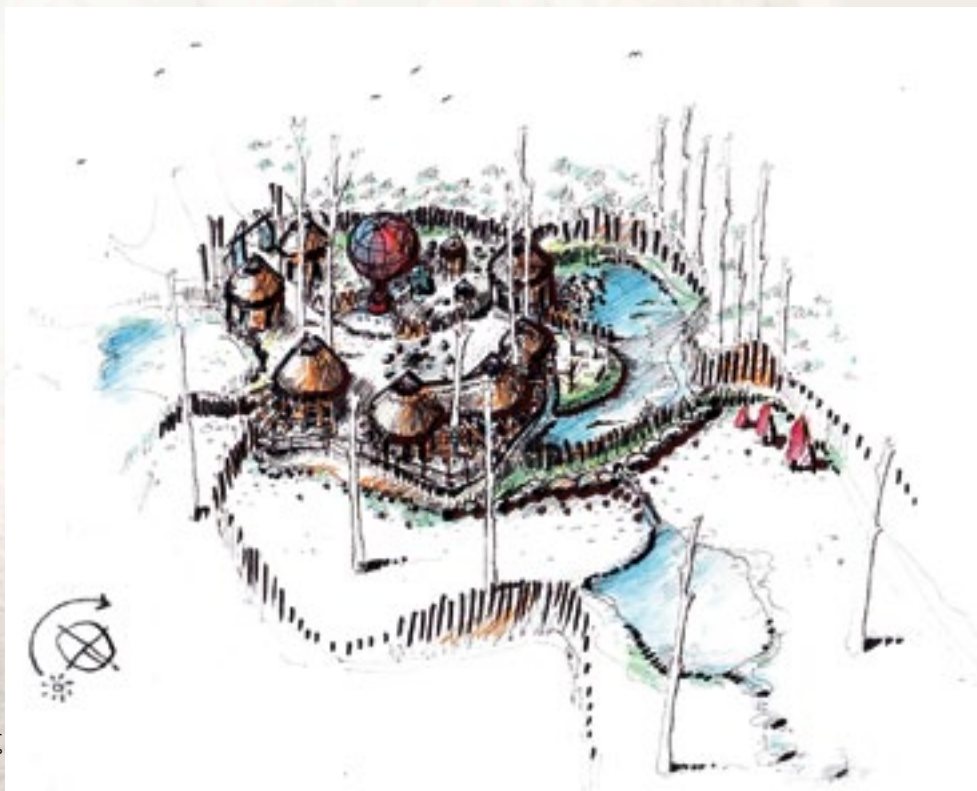
### Europe May Contribute to the African Village

After the last year's successful finishing of the entrance area of the Beringia exposition complex, construction on which the European Development Fund financially participated, Brno hopes to gain subsidies from Brussels for other improvements in the zoo as well. The Magistrate has now sent four applications focused on the development of the zoo to the Regional Operational Programme Southeast. They will be considered along with other applications concerning tourism in the territory of two regions – the South Moravian Region and the Vysocina Region. Our three projects which we hope will be funded are: new expositions of the bald eagle and the rock wallaby, and an African village set of structures.

The bald eagle exposition will be situated in the free area between the Haida Indian tribe log cabin and the Canadian lynx exposition. A big eagle aviary which can be entered, consisting of a steel structure enclosed by a nylon web, will be supplemented by smaller expositions of the North American porcupine and striped skunks. This all will become another part of the Beringia complex, which introduces animals from a wider area around the Bering Strait.

The rock wallaby exposition will fill in the last empty space at the main road, which does not yet have any animals on display. The walking route rising along the road from the At Tiger Restaurant up to Monk Mountain will cross the wallaby run at its upper part, near the exotic bird pavilion. Visitors will thus be in direct contact with them.

Drawing by Jaroslav Huiáček



### A lay-out of the African village

Eight huts of the African village, called Sambura, will be built at the Safari run. Nearby, there will be a lake with nesting areas for the greater flamingos, with an island for the ring-tailed lemur. Visitors will find a classroom, fast food, and toilets in the huts. The environment will be authentically enriched by poultry from Africa. A hydro-globe which has protruded from this place high into the sky since 1973 will change its look to that of a hot-air balloon which landed in the centre of the native settlement. Sambura will become a part of the future Kalahari exposition complex, introducing animals of the arid part of Sub-Saharan Africa.

If any of these prepared projects obtain European subsidies, we will finish the design preparation this year and we could start building next year.

Using financial funds from the budget of the City, we would like to finish the second stage of the Chimpanzee Pavilion reconstruction, where a new large run will be created. (Chimpanzees have to use old ugly cage runs to walk in the open air.) We also want to add a new run to the second ape pavilion, where we breed, e.g., the anubis baboon, which would provide better conditions for the animals. After finishing the addition, their group could be

extended with other individuals, and this part of the zoo would become more attractive. Early in the spring, we started building a new run of leopards (*Panthera pardus kotiya*). It is situated on a gentle slope between the office building and a nearby smaller building with a long history: It originally belonged to the chimpanzees, when it was entered from the currently demolished vivarium pavilion; then, until recently, it housed the European lynxes; and now it is temporarily being used by the coatimundi. The building is thermally insulated, and we will make internal modifications so that leopards can have their lodgings there. After moving leopards to this place, Tiger Rocks will only be reserved for Sumatran tigers. Tigers and leopards are competitors in nature, and their adjacent runs at Tiger Rocks could be the reason why we have not managed to reproduce these two big cat species during the previous two years.

However, what we most need is a large-capacity car park at a new entrance to the zoo, against which a part of the Knínický inhabitants are protesting. We expect prolonged preparatory proceedings. Therefore, we would like to reconstruct the present entrance and establish a smaller car park there.

Eduard Stuchlík



# ARKTIDA

PLUS s.r.o.

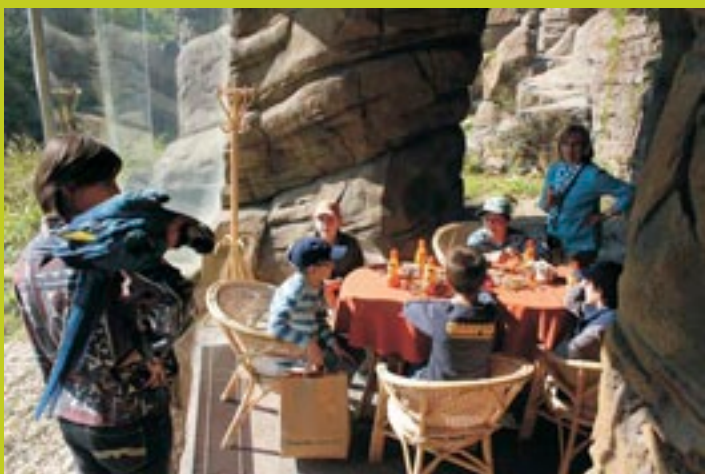
V roce 1999 jsme se stali kmotry ledního medvěda Umky. Od stejného roku dodnes jsme jeho hrdými adoptivními rodiči.



ARKTIDA PLUS s.r.o. - koncesionář zmrzlin Algida a distributor mražených a chlazených potravin

**V roce 2011 jsme pro své příznivce připravili nové aktivity, které jim pomohou spojit příjemné s užitečným. Jednou z nich je**

## DĚTSKÁ NAROZENINOVÁ PÁRTY



Skupiny tří až deseti dětí ve věku od šesti do desíti let mohou v netradičním prostředí plném setkání se zvířaty uspořádat narozeninové párty. Oslavy v zoologické zahradě se konají ve všední dny mezi 15. a 17. hodinou. Cena 250 Kč zahrnuje vstup do zoo pro jedno dítě, průvodce po dané trase, občerstvení a malý dárek oslavenci. Kolektivy dětí doprovázejí nejvýše tři dospělé osoby (podle počtu dětí), které mají vstup do zoo zdarma. Více informací najdete na stránce [www.zoobrna.cz](http://www.zoobrna.cz), složka Připravili jsme pro vás.