

No. 3 / september 2011

# **ZOO** report

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

## **BRNO**



special supplement  
**ZOO REPORT PROFI**



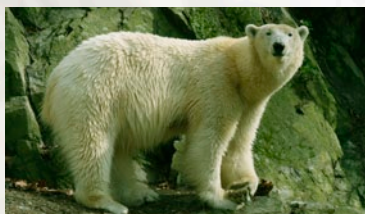
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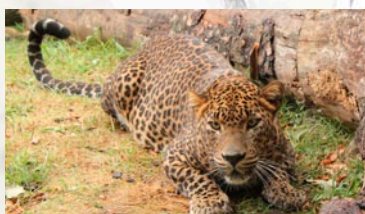
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## Zooreport

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Steller's sea eagle

UNSALEABLE



## Embassies of the Wild

***I participated in the general meeting of the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos in May 2004 for the first time. I went there with a little anxiety – the idea of meeting top officials of the professional organisation raised some nervousness. I have always honoured authorities and responsibilities. And although I am honoured to preside over our Union since this spring, I am still little bit nervous...***

My life has always been full of paradoxes. According to my parents, I was born with a genuine worry of everything hairy. I could not even have a furry teddy bear in the pram or crib: it is said I always made a crying scene. However, I have been strangely attracted with animals, which is proven by family album photographs where my older brother enthusiastically strikes a small Dalmatian donkey or a Tatra cow and I am standing at a short distance off scowling with my hands firmly clenched behind the back. I liked watching animals but I have never felt a need to impose my favour on them. I have the same attitude at present although I have often had to closely look to a big number of animals of all species using an X-ray, ultrasonic device or scalpel.

If a person is really interested in something, they will approach it in the end: this is how I gradually lost fear of the contact with domestic animals. I got a dog by begging for a good school certificate and later, at the secondary school, I made friends with a lot of livestock. During my studies at the Veterinary Faculty and an eight-year lasting practice of a vet I have lost fear of wild as well as exotic animals. Scars and seams on my body are the proof.

Multicoloured relationship of animals and people attracted my heart to the world of zoos in the end. That I rather watched animals than spoiled and nursed them



**David Nejedlo (second from left) in the Talarak rescue centre for endangered animals on the Negros Island, Philippines, shows an autopsy of dead birds and methods of photo-documentation that should determine cause of death from distance**

enabled me to observe the behaviour of people moving around them in stables, halls and farm sheds, parrot aviaries, exotic snake vivaria, homes for lost animals, stations for handicapped animals, vet surgeries and zoos. I was both sought at the clinic by owners of dogs and cats bred to be dependent on the human and often overwhelmed by requests for cosmetic adjustments to the bodies of pets, and I learnt that zoos were going in the contrary direction - from satisfying the human need for control over somebody to paying respect to wild animals, i.e. in the direction I wanted to go as well.

If I omit the basic relationship between the man and an animal, the hunter versus the kill relationship (when the man can be both the hunter and the kill standing helpless face to face to a predator), the main motivation for the man to stay near animals is trade, financial trade as well as trade with feelings. Both can be noble, both can cause harm. While hobby breeders, work-

ers of the centres for injured and handicapped animals and traders are individuals in most cases, zoo professionals are interested in whole populations, preferably the populations of endangered species understandably bred with obvious respect to every individual.

Zoos should keep animals while applying reasonable cooperation with other breeding facilities. This is the only way how the population of the given species can be viable in human care, how it can create a functional, non-degrading back-up reserve for animals wildly living in their original environments. This is the main mission of zoos playing the role of embassies of the wild in the human society.

*David Nejedlo*

MVDr. David Nejedlo,

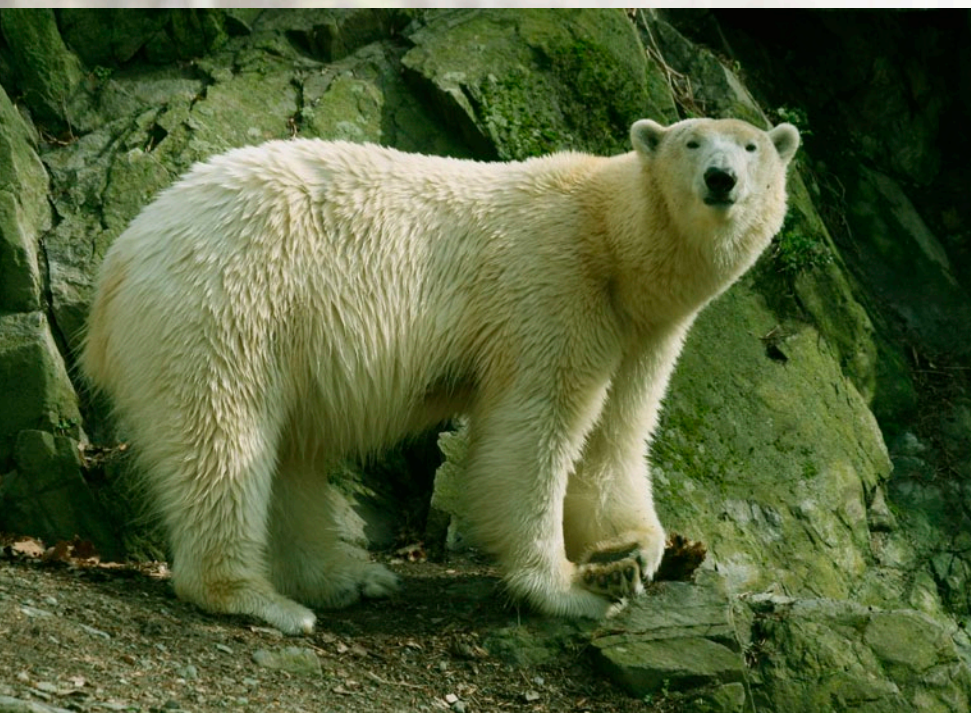
The President of the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos and the Director of the Liberec Zoo



### **MVDr. David Nejedlo,**

born in 1971. He studied livestock farming at the Secondary School of Agriculture in Brandýs nad Labem (1989) and general veterinary medicine at the Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University in Brno (1995). During the studies he worked as a consultant for special nutrition of carnivores and vet consultancy. During the military service he worked as a vet of patrol dogs. In 1996 he commenced the practice at a surgery in Český Dub where he worked as a vet of small animals and livestock. Later, he opened a surgery in Hrádek nad Nisou and worked on clinic in Liberec-Růžodol. He was an external teacher at the Brno Veterinary Faculty and a vet of the Liberec animal home and the Zoo Liberec. He became the director of the Liberec Zoo in 2004. In the same year the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos admitted him as an individual member. He became a member of its council in 2007, the vice-president in 2009 and this spring he was elected its president. He works in a consulting authority of the Minister of Agriculture for welfare and a consulting authority of the Minister of the Environment for zoo issues. He co-founded a public service company called Veterinarians without Borders Czech Republic in 2009. He says people, animals and the environment cannot be taken apart. He does not only care for animals in the zoo to be well but also for the people, animals and landscape of the territories where exotic zoo animals come from to prosper as well.





Umca

### ***Cora Stays in the Den, Umca is in the Background***

The run-out of the polar bears was abandoned at the end of October. Cora, the female, who is probably pregnant, has stayed in the den, which is equipped with a birth box and three other inner lodging rooms. At this time, she needs absolute peace (she is not disturbed even by the keepers) and is preparing for delivery. Umca, the male, the presence of whom would disturb the female, has gone into to a newly built lay-by run-out.

Umca's run-out, with an area of 150m<sup>2</sup> surrounded by a 3.6m-high wall with an electric fence, leads from the den opposite the big common run-out, and is situated outside the visitors' area. Umca's lodging is separate from the other parts of the den. If breeding is successful,

Umca will live there for a little bit longer than a year. He will not have to move to a different zoo or to the brown bear exposition during Cora's pregnancy. This temporary dwelling is much closer to his usual one, which obviates the need for difficult transports when the animal has to be narcotized.

A pregnant polar bear must always be treated with great care in the zoo. During the summer, she received a higher feed ration. We served her as much meat as she was able to consume: She daily consumed about 10 kg of beef, horse meat, venison, and fish. She also got carrots, apples, red beets, grapes, rye bread, olive oil, sour cream, cream and, occasionally, even honey. The daily ration

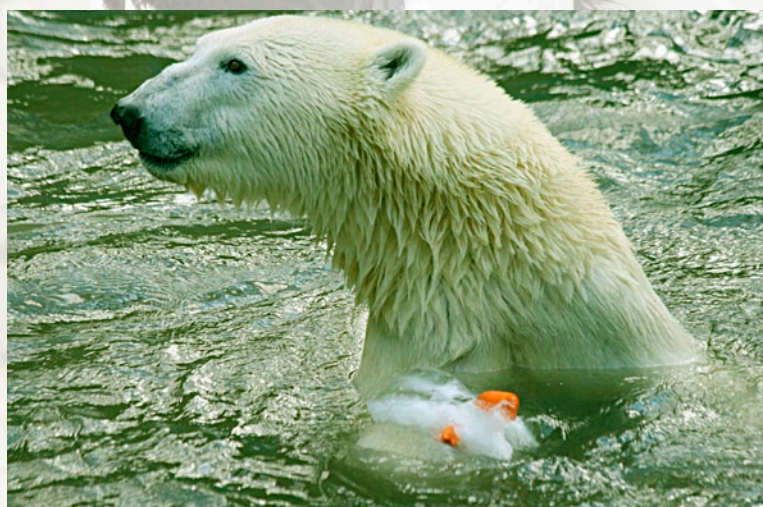
was supplemented with a spoon of fish oil, a teaspoon of vitamins, and the same quantity of calcium. Since the end of July, the ration has been gradually reduced. At the beginning of October, she only ate apples and, before the den was closed, she stopped eating at all. During the whole stay in the den, a female bear does not eat and does not excrete; and during this time she loses up to 200 kg in weight. To survive this period, she needs to gather as much subcutaneous fat as possible. To breed successfully, an environment as close to natural conditions as possible must be created in the birth box. This can be achieved by providing lighting which suggests the colour and intensity of light transmitted through an ice layer. Everything that will happen in the birth box will be recorded by an infrared camera transmitting the image as well as the sound to the screens of zoologists' computers. When the young is (are) born, the recording will be broadcast on the Brno Zoo website.

Breeding polar bears is not always successful. According to statistics, only 8% of live bears born in captivity survive to become adults. (This percentage is not much higher in the wild, either.) Despite this fact, we hope Cora will repeat her big success of 2007, when she delivered two young bears and took good care of both of them. Bill and Tom, the twins, became very popular and attracted a lot of visitors to the zoo. They moved to other zoos at the age of fifteen months: Bill to Gelsenkirchen, Germany; and Tom to Prague. In these zoos, it is hoped that, after two or more years, these Brno-born bears will help to reproduce more of these rare beasts of prey, the numbers of which have gradually dropped in the wild.

*Eduard Stuchlik*



Twins



Cora



Photo by Svatopluk Šedivý



Beaver dam

## Czech Forest – the Green Shoal of West Bohemia

A part of the Czech Forest range situated at the southeast border of our country was declared our latest protected landscape area in 2005. It has an area of 473 km<sup>2</sup>. The many years of the closure of the territory behind the iron curtain paradoxically enabled the preservation of numerous natural values. Nowadays, the Czech Forest is characterized by a sparse population and widespread forests with numerous islands of self-seeding plants where there formerly were villages. The non-stocked forest land only takes 15% of the area and mostly serves as pastures for cattle. The most valuable parts of the region include virgin forest-type pinewoods which have been preserved at the hardly accessible slopes of the Haltravský Ridge which, in the Czech Forest, is dominated by Čerchov Mountain (1,042 m above sea level).

The deep forests ensure refuge to many animal species. Black storks [*Ciconia nigra*] nest in the crowns of high trees; and, for instance, the stock dove [*Columba oenas*], whose simple, short cooing is heard almost at every step in the spring, and various owl species nest in hollows of big old trunks. During winter counts, we have found the plentiful presence of the grey owl [*Strix aluco*], the pygmy owl [*Glaucidium passerinum*], and Richardson's owl [*Aegolius funereus*]. Of rare mammals, we can meet the European lynx [*Lynx lynx*] or a small rodent - garden dormouse [*Eliomys quercinus*] - in the Czech Forest. This approximately 12-cm-long markedly coloured small animal with a clear-cut black stripe has found its refuge in the ruins of former villages, which look like its original habitat - light talus forests.

The border of the Elbe-Danube dividing ranges passes through the Czech Forest. Small rocky streams,

some of which take water to the Black Sea and others to the North Sea, are rich in aqueous invertebrates as well as vertebrates. We can find both species of our original crayfish - the European crayfish [*Astacus astacus*] and the rarer stone crayfish [*Austropotamobius torrentium*]. A European important location has been declared on a part of the Radbuza River to protect the latter. Another European protected species, a primitive vertebrate - the European brook lamprey [*Lampetra planeri*] - lives in fine sand and muddy banks.

Since the 1980s, the European beaver [*Castor fiber*] has settled again in the streams of the Czech Forest. It spread from Bavaria. Its population has grown in the 1990s and, in 2000, it crossed the border of the Elbe-Danube dividing range and got to the Úhlava, the Radbuza, and the Mže rivers. Nowadays, about 144 families (about 220 individuals) live in the Czech Forest.

A beaver family is comprised of a parent couple with offspring from one or two deliveries. Young beavers stay with their parents until they mature. A common family thus has five to six individuals. The diet of these herbivorous animals is very rich because it includes more than 150 herbs and more than 80 species of wood. In spring and summer, they live on aqueous and land herbs; in autumn and winter, they cut trees to reach leaves, small branches, bast fibre, and bark. They prefer deeper or slowly flowing water in big rivers, in the high banks of which they burrow their lodges. However, this is different in small streams in the Czech Forest. There, they have to create a permanently high-water level for themselves, and therefore they build robust dams made of sticks, pieces of turf, mud, and stones. They flood the surroundings, thus creating suitable living conditions for numerous other animals such as frogs, newts or

Photo by Stanislav Wieser



Landscape of the Czech Forrestr

Photo by Ladislav Vogelhanz



European beaver

dragon flies. These were previously rich in numbers but, at present, after significant modifications to the landscape, are rare animals. The beavers' activity also causes conflicts with humans, as their creativity can result in clogged gutter bridges, flooded roads, eroded pond and flood-protection dams, etc.

The beaver belongs among the highly endangered animals in the Czech Republic, and several European important locations - one of them in the Czech Forest, the Kateřinský and Nivní Streams - have been declared for its protection. According to our legislation, we must not catch, disturb, injure, or kill beavers. Their constructions as well as biotopes are protected. Conflicts between the human and the beaver are therefore difficult to settle.

RNDr. Milena Prokopová, Ph.D.,  
Administration of the Czech Forest Protected





Adult bird with a young one in the feeding place

### An Offspring of the Steller's Sea Eagles

The birth of a young Steller's sea eagle ranks first among this year's breeding achievements in the Brno Zoo. It hatched on 14th April and it was the first time our zoo has managed to reproduce this species.

Steller's sea eagle [*Haliaeetus pelagicus*], sometimes also called Kamchatka eagle, eastern eagle, or white-winged eagle, comes from Russian Far East – from Kamchatka peninsula, coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, Sakhalin Island, lower reaches of the Amur river basin and the Primorskaja region. Part of the population overwinters in South of the Kuril Islands and on the North of the Hokkaido Island in Japan. It belongs to the largest birds of prey; its wingspan may reach 240 cm. The wild population is being estimated to 5000 specimens and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ranks it among the vulnerable (VU) species. Some zoos reproduce this species also because in its natural area may oil extraction process be started.

Eagles were originally kept in our zoo in an old large aviary where the Indian hut now stands (built in 2003). There, among other birds of prey, we also kept two White-tailed eagle females [*Haliaeetus albicilla*]. At the same time, the zoo started breeding a Bald eagle male [*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*] where the current beaver exposition now is. As we did not manage to establish a viable breeding couple, we decided instead to breed

Steller's sea eagles in accordance with a long-term breeding concept which focused on birds of a wider area around the Bering Strait. The white-tailed eagles and the bald eagle left for other zoos. We used some material from the old eagle aviaries in the structure of the new Steller's sea eagle aviary which, since 2003, has been situated in the former quarry above the polar bear run-out.

At that time our zoo had already been participating in a large international Steller's sea eagle protection programme, managed by the Eurasian Regional Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EARAZA) and partly financed from USA. In connection with the mentioned programme, in December 1999, we achieved two young specimens born in wild in the Amur River basin in Khabarovsk region in May the

same year. (Taking away the second-born bird from a wild eagle's nest is common practice with endangered beasts of prey because it usually would die in the nest before maturing.) The first projection was that it was an unrelated, perspective breeding pair. However genetic sex determination proved that they both are males. After one of them died in 2000, management of the programme started to search for a suitable preferably proven female. It was found at the Tallin Zoo, Estonia, where it lived without a partner, but it came through a mating call and laid eggs every year. This female was also born in the wild in May 1994 in the same area as out male. It was brought to our zoo in July 2008.

It took a long time for the couple to get acquainted. The initial lack of interest, when both the birds used to sit far away from each other, only changed in February, 2009, when eagles start mating calls. At first, however, the interest shown was tentative. The eagles tried to bring to the nest some small branches that the keepers had put into the aviary. To assist the eagles as much as possible, we built two nests there. One of them was at the bottom of the aviary, the other being near the ceiling at a height of 4 meters. We equipped the upper nest with cut, robust branches to enlarge its area. We had to secure the lower nest against flood or earth slippage from the slope behind the aviary. The eagles, which we continuously observed and monitored, favoured each nest in turn. The upper nest finally won only after we had significantly enlarged its area and made its vicinity suitable for nesting. Since 2009, the male's aggressiveness has increased a lot during mating, which was a good sign in that the eagles started protecting their territory. However, we did not see a copulation.



Young eagle tries to ford



At the beginning of 2010, the relationship of the eagles became even stronger. They would sit close to each other and, during the mating season, they issued quite a rich range of otherwise unusual sounds. The female started adjusting the nest again, and carefully placed the small branches we brought in. This activity, together with attacks against aliens, strengthened the cohesion of the couple. We lowered the position of the upper nest a little to enable the easier landing of the birds, and we lined the wall of the aviary behind the nest with a mat to provide more privacy. At the beginning of March, the female spent most of her time in the nest but she did not nest steadily. At the end of March, we noticed her sitting on the nest, probably warming eggs. We were very glad. A quick security measure followed: We limited the flow around the exposition, and visitors could only approach up to a certain distance from the aviary. The couple collaborated excellently. At the moment when one of them left the nest, the other immediately replaced it. This nest protection was accompanied by loud crying. Their sitting on the eggs continued throughout May. As the probability of hatching a chick decreased, the female's cries also decreased, and she took over most of the initiative on the nest. A very strong nesting instinct made her to sit on the eggs and defend the nest for much longer time than the nesting period should take. At the end of May, the last possibility of an embryo's hatching expired and, at the beginning of June, the eagles left the nest unguarded from time to time. It was only



Young in a nest (1st July 2011)



Young eagle

then that we managed to determine the number of eggs: There were two of them. In the middle of June, we took the eggs from the nest, which the eagles still strongly protected. The examination confirmed that the eggs were not fertilized.

This year's mating of the eagles started as early as January. The female spent a lot of time on the nest again. At the beginning of March, she started sitting and, on 9 March, we could confirm that there were two eggs again. The female sat on them most of the time and, when the male took over, she spent time on comfort issues – cleaning herself and bathing in the pool. On 13 April, we noticed the female aerating the eggs and carefully walking around them. The following day, the first chick finally hatched out. It was 39 days since the moment when the female started sitting on the nest.

We completely closed the way around the aviary to visitors. The second egg, which still was in the nest at that time, disappeared after a while (the adult birds most probably ate it). Both the parents took care of the nestling. They fed it with rich food consisting of hens, chickens, fish, beef, and venison. The eagles brought the food to the nest, where they tore and fed it to the chick, who was soon conscious and curious about its surroundings. After a warning cry of the adults, it cowered in the nest without moving. In June, it had grown to the size of its parents, and was walking around the nest. At the beginning of July,

it left the nest for the first time and started perching on a pole next to it. Its movements in branches and poles gradually extended in radius, and the small eagle started flying – first within the nest and later outside it as well. It has almost reached their parents' size, but it differs in colouring. It is mostly black and it still hasn't the typical large parts of white feathers, which the adults of this species mainly have on their wings, legs and tails.

The small eagle cannot stay with its parents for long. We will move it to the Tallinn Zoo this year, from where it will be moved to another zoo within the protection programme. After its departure and yet before another nesting season, we would like to improve and extend the aviary. We wish to create ideal conditions for the further breeding.

*Ing. Miloslav Walter,*  
Gamekeeper at the Beasts of Prey Unit



Adult bird with a young one in nest (24th June 2011)





Photo by Pavel Hruška

Participants of the Holiday at the Zoo during commented feeding of giraffes

### **The Zoo, a Great Place to Spend Part of Your Holiday**

Holiday stays for children in the Brno Zoo had their premiere in 1997. Since then, they have been regularly repeated every summer. We hold eight week-long stays, which cover both the holiday months, and, since 2005, we have also organized a week's stay in March during the spring holiday.

In 2011, during the spring and summer holiday, children between the ages of 7 and 12 came to the Brno Zoo from Monday to Friday at 8 a.m., with their parents collecting them at 5 p.m. of the same day. Children spent their time in the zoo under the supervision of a worker from the Promotion-Educational Department and two external assistants – usually students of the Faculty of Education.

The programme for each individual day is always prepared in advance. Children familiarize themselves with the whole zoo, and its background. Keepers tell them about

their work and the animals with which they are entrusted; and the children leave with a much deeper experience than a common visitor. In the Tropical Kingdom pavilion, for example, they learn that snake's skin feels like smooth velvet when touched. Or, they are surprised with the robust Kamchatka bears, which are seemingly clumsy animals, when they prove to be fast and ready hunters of the fish thrown into their pool by their keepers. When they eagerly witness the feeding of the animals, they learn what a rich menu marmosets have: Besides fruit and mash with honey and other ingredients, they also wolf down flour worms!

Another favourite attraction is pony riding. First, a keeper explains to the children which breeds are kept in the zoo. Small spotty mini-Appaloosas win the biggest enthusiasm, but robust piebald Irish cobs also are applauded.

Children play various games, participate in contests and quiz games, and they can also show their art skills by, for instance, painting the whole area in front of the Tropical Kingdom pavilion with chalk. Face-painting is also very popular. Clubrooms in the office building or at the Station of Young Scientists are also available to them. They can watch cartoons about animals as well as nature films made by National Geographic, which show the life of animals of all continents, in the lecture room of the office building.

One day is usually reserved for a trip outside the zoo. In 2011 children visited the western city in Boskovice, where they enjoyed all of the local amusements. Their stay in the zoo ends with an Indian Day, with a competition trail along which the children test their knowledge that they have learnt from keepers and camp leaders during the previous week. Children learn about the life of the original American inhabitants in a replica of a log cabin of the Haida Gwaii Indian tribe built at the run-out of the wolves and beavers, and in the Indian village near the run-out of the American buffalos. Children then paint their faces like Indians, make an Indian headband, take photographs together as a remembrance of the part of their holiday that they spent amongst the animals, and receive small gifts.

The holiday in the zoo is very popular with the public. There is a huge demand for it, which exceeds the supply many times over. Unfortunately, the zoo cannot hold the event for more children because it does not have adequate personnel and technical equipment. More children would require more employees to take care of children, as well as more clubs and more extensive sanitary facilities than are available in the zoo.

Zuzana Sommerová,  
Promotional and Educational Department  
of the Brno Zoo



Face painting also belongs to the Indian Day



Collective photo at the end of the holiday stay at the zoo



## Children from "Klokánek" Spent a Day at the Zoo They'll Never Forget

We had invited the Klokánek (Little Kangaroo) children's home, which is a facility of the Fund for Children in Need, to see our zoo. We welcomed a group of about 20 children together with their teachers on 29th August. We had prepared a lot of experience for them: commented feeding of the Siberian brown bears and Lowland tapirs, train ride, pony riding and grilling sausages in an Indian village. A report from the visit at the Brno Zoo was broadcasted in the Czech television in a programme called "Good Morning" on 31st August. (red)

Photo by Pavel Hruška



Children from the Klokánek children's home watching commented feeding of the Siberian brown bears

## Expression of Thanks to Adoptive Parents and Sponsors

Meeting of adoptive parents and sponsors at the Brno Zoo takes place the last August weekend every year, at the anniversary of the zoo founding; it has been 58 years this year. This way we want to express our thanks for an unselfish help of our supporters. Actors of the Mimi Fortunae theatre, Abanico group with their western dancing, the Koráb theatre with a fairy tale and judo fighters from the Sports Club Královo Pole performed their shows during this year's rich programme. The performances were accompanied with music of the Kronek Alband band. Commented feeding took place in several run outs, children could ride a pony and a stand with various products of nature as horns, antlers, furs, feathers, eggs and the like was opened. A fireplace in the Indian village flamed up after 3 pm and adoptive parents and sponsors grilled sausages. (red)

Photo by Bystřaník



Photo by Pavel Hruška

Abanico dance group often involves the visitors in their performances

## An Offspring of the Critically Endangered Giant Hispaniolan Galliwasp

24 young Giant Hispaniolan galliwasp, critically endangered lizards from the Hispaniola Island, were born on 24th August at the Brno Zoo. We have been breeding a group of five galliwasp brought from the Jersey Zoo since this year's May. One of the males may be seen in a terrarium at the Tropical Kingdom, two breeding pairs are kept in the background of this pavilion. (red)

Photo by Pavel Hruška



Young Giant Hispaniolan galliwasp

## Eda, the Parrot, and Cobs at the Bystrc Rally

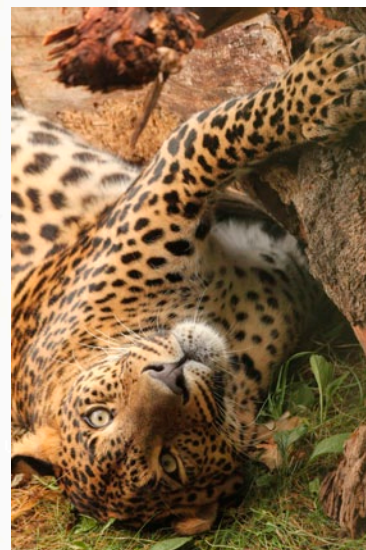
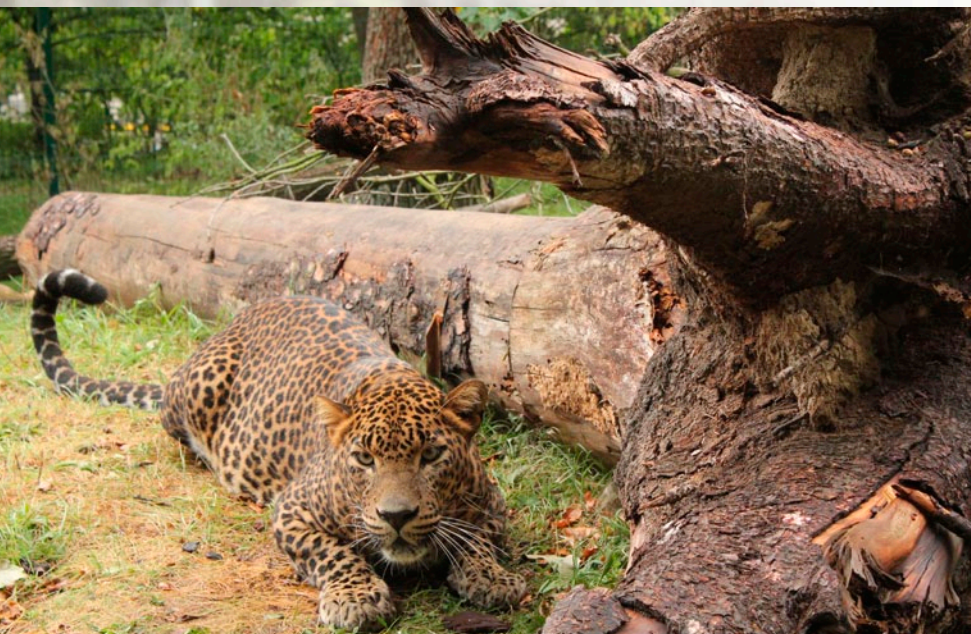
The city district Brno-Bystrc, where the Brno Zoo is also located, organized the 17th year of entertaining afternoon called the Bystrc Rally on Saturday 10th September on the Horní Square in Bystrc. Boy scout centre Vrbovec, the Brno Zoo and other organizations also participated in organizing this event. A parrot called Eda, showed by a Brno Zoo worker, belonged to the most interesting attractions. There also were horses from the zoo there: two Irish cobs accompanied by their keepers met the children and took them for a ride. (red)

Photo by Bystřaník



Cobs during the Bystrc Rally





◀ Bala, the leopard, in a new exposition



Facility of the leopards was made by rebuilding an older object

### **The Leopards Have a New Exposition**

We have moved our five-year-old Sri Lankan leopard male called Bala from Tigers' Rock, where he has lived since June 2010, to a new exposition near the administration building. Bala, born at the Jihlava Zoo in 2006, is now waiting till we find a partner for him. Then we should be able to start reproducing this rare subspecies, for which a breeding programme was established by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

The Tigers' Rock exposition, equipped with two spacious run-outs, three dormitories, and two birth rooms, has served for two species 2000 – the Sumatran tigers and the Sri Lankan leopards – since it was built in 2000. Now it is reserved only for tigers, and they should feel more comfortable. In one part

we keep a male, in the other a female; and we put them together only during the rutting season. In future, it will be more easily possible to breed more tigers there. The last change is also helpful to the leopards and tigers because these two species, that are rivals in the wild, will no longer live so close to each other.

The new leopard run-out of about 300 m<sup>2</sup> is enclosed with a wire mesh and electric fence, and is covered with a net. An insulated background for leopards was made by rebuilding one of our oldest breeding facilities, which was originally from 1962. It used to be an extension to an even older pavilion of vivaria for chimpanzees, but that no longer exists. When the chimpanzees left for the Apes' Pavilion in 1965, several species succeeded them at one time or another – jaguar, puma, or lynx. The adapted building now contains three connected dormitories, from whence the animals can go to a small cage run-out, which is opposite the new run-out.

The Brno Zoo has been trying to breed a pair of leopards, which were brought right from their home in Sri Lanka, since 2004. The female, Ruwani, who reportedly whelped in Sri Lanka, could not get pregnant with the male, Maga, for a long time. Therefore, we sent Maga to the Arnhem Zoo, in the Netherlands, in 2008. In that same year, we brought over a male called Arnold, who was born in the Fuengirola Zoo, in Spain, in 1995. Ruwani, a carrier of rare genes who was born in the wild, didn't get pregnant with this male either; so Arnold

was replaced by the above-mentioned Bala, and left for the Jihlava Zoo in 2010.

Ruwani and Bala lived together without conflicts from the beginning, but they didn't mate. The female's continuous refusal provoked Bala. His aggression was rising; it resulted in an attack that had to be stopped by a keeper, who divided him from the female. Then the animals were kept separated for a long time and had to get used to each other again. After the female showed no fear of her partner again, the animals started to sleep near each other, divided only by a grating through which they could see each other. Only then did the keepers decide to try allowing them to mate. However, during another attempt in May 2011, Bala killed Ruwani. Even though the keepers were on the alert with a hose to calm the male down, and even though a vet with a signal pistol was ready to shoot, the animal ignored both the water and the warning shots. Bala's lightning strike lasted only few seconds. A leopard's sexual act sometimes ends this way both in captivity and in the wild. Luckily, the irony of fate was not as cruel as it seemed to be, because Maga fathered several descendants in Arnhem. The rare unrelated blood will boost European breeding after all.

As for breeding in Brno, hopefully it will get a new start once a female is introduced to the new exposition. Let's hope that the new female – unlike Ruwani, who was a bit fragile – will get along better with Bala.

*Eduard Stuchlík*





The Brno Zoo has been breeding the Red-necked wallabies for approx. 30 years and there will be a new species in the planned new exposition – the Brush-tailed rock wallaby

### Three Projects Have Obtained European Subsidy

All of the three projects for the Zoo's improvement that Brno sent to the competition for obtaining a subsidy from the European Union this year were successful. We wrote about sending them to the competition in the first issue of this year's ZooReport and now we can state with certainty that, by the end of 2011, preparatory work on the construction of a rock wallaby exposition, bald eagle aviary, and African Village will have started. To implement this plan, which is expected within the next two years, the city will pay nearly CZK 68 million, obtaining about three quarters of the amount back as a subsidy from the Regional Operational Programme Southeast, i.e., approximately CZK 51 million.



We have moved this male of the Bald eagle to another zoo temporarily. We have to find a partner for him before he returns to a new exposition.



A group of flamingos is not at the Brno Zoo yet, but a lake with these wonderful birds should become a part of the African Village within two years (our photo is from the Riga Zoo, Latvia)

The rock wallaby exposition will be entered through an artificial stone passage decorated with imitation rock paintings with Aboriginal motifs. A nature trail will pass through the entire widespread wallaby premises covering the previously unused hillside under the pavilion of exotic birds, where visitors will have direct contact with the animals. Wallabies will fill in the last empty area along the backbone road connecting the lower and upper parts of the Brno Zoo. Ten years ago, there was only a single exposition of llama glama. In the near future, visitors walking this way from the At Tiger Restaurant to the exotic birds pavilion can enjoy viewing Patagonia cavy, suricates, white-lipped peccaries, alpacas, llamas guanaco, and rock wallabies.

The bald eagle aviary will consist of a steel structure with pre-stressed tendons enclosed by a nylon network. The visitor will be able to pass through the aviary as well as the

wallaby run-out. The entrance will be through a corridor carved in an artificial rock built next to the Indian log house. After going through the rock wall, a visitor (together with flying eagles) will be in a vast space bordering the run-outs of the Arctic wolves and the Canadian lynxes. A single exposition unit will be created by a free connection with two smaller breeding facilities, for striped skunks and North American porcupines. (Visitors will meet the skunks at the beginning of the tour, and the porcupines after leaving the aviary.)

Three aforementioned North-American species will become part of the gradually expanded Beringia area, and will complete its Canadian-Alaskan section, which contains the finished expositions of Arctic wolves, Canadian lynxes, and beavers, supplemented by the Haida Gwaii Indian tribe log houses. The Steller's sea eagle exposition is situated nearby (next to the polar bears). This species lives in the Asian part of the wider vicinity of the Bering Strait.

Besides Beringia, which introduces northern animal species in the Brno Zoo, we are building or planning more units which will be devoted to other zoogeographic regions, such as the Caribbean Islands or the Indonesian Wallace area. The African Village, which will be built near the safari run-out for giraffes, Chapman's zebras, blue wildebeests, and ostriches, will become part of the Kalahari unit showing the fauna of the arid part of sub-Saharan Africa. A village with eight huts will be the home of flamingos and lemurs.

We can only wish that the City of Brno gains further subsidies in future to help place the zoo amongst the most advanced institutions of its kind.

*Eduard Stuchlik*



# VÁNOCE V ZOO BRNO!

PŘIJĎTE OZDOBIT A ROZSVÍTIT VÁNOČNÍ STROM PRO ZVÍŘÁTKA!

4. 12. 2011  
OD 10.00 HOD.

VSTUPNÉ:  
9 - 13 HOD.: 50,- Kč  
OD 13 HOD.: ZDARMA

10.00 - 14.00 JEŽÍŠKOVA DÍLNA  
(CENTRUM SLUŽEB, RESTAURACE U TYGRA)  
VÝROBA VÁNOČNÍCH OZDOB



14.00 - 16.00 VÁNOČNÍ PROGRAM  
(NÁMĚSTÍČKO PŘED EXPOZICÍ BERINGIE)  
V PROGRAMU VYSTOUPÍ:

- ILONA CSÁKOVÁ
- KAREL GOTT REVIVAL
- S DĚTSKÝM SBOREM BRNO
- FOLKLÓRNÍ SOUBOR KOMÍŇÁČEK!



SLAVNOSTNÍ ROZSVÍCENÍ VÁNOČNÍHO STROMU V 16.00 HOD!