

zoo report

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Editor:

Zoologická zahrada města Brna
U Zoo 46, 635 00 Brno, Czech Republic
tel.: +420 546 432 311
fax: +420 546 210 000
e-mail: zoo@zoobrna.cz

Publisher:

Peleos, spol. s r.o.
e-mail: info.brno@peleos.cz

Editor's office address:

Zoologická zahrada města Brna
Redakce Zooreport
U Zoo 46, 635 00 Brno, Czech Republic
tel.: +420 546 432 370
fax: +420 546 210 000
e-mail: stuchlik@zoobrna.cz

Editor manager:

Bc. Eduard Stuchlík

Specialist readers:

RNDr. Bohumil Král, CSc.
Mgr. Lubomír Selinger

Translation:

Mgr. Ilja Kašík
Rosalind Miranda

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Photos by:

Eduard Stuchlík

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Blue wildebeests

UNSALEABLE

A Zoo is Both a Knowledge Island and a Noah's Arc

The history of the Earth runs from the beginning of the planet followed by the birth and extinction of both animal and plant species. Mass extinction has always been a consequence of sudden climatic changes or of great natural disasters. However, with the rise of civilization, an unprecedented decrease of biodiversity began. Thus, zoos serve as places of knowledge, as research areas, and also as an imaginary Noah's Arc saving the endangered species of our planet.

Zoos have been built all around the world for centuries. Zoos are places that help us, the ordinary mortals, to observe the life of hundreds of various species from every continent without extensive travel. They also help scientists and conservationists study endangered species, reproduce them, and return them to the wild. It is probably not much known, but it is worthy of note that the very first zoo was also called "A Garden of Knowledge". It was in China, about three thousand years ago.

The Brno Zoo doesn't have a history counted in hundreds of years. Nevertheless, it is well known to experts and to several generations of visitors. As a young boy, I spent several beautiful moments there, admiring both well-known and lesser-known animals. Perhaps the hill in Bystrc district, the Mniši Hora Hill, seemed to me a bit smaller than now. I see with pleasure that our zoo is gradually changing, becoming larger and more modernized. Run outs for Sumatran



Roman Onderka with a dog called Chris

tigers, Canadian beavers, Arctic wolves, or Siberian brown bears bring the authenticity of exotic nature to the city surroundings. And the Children's Zoo, for example, enables city children to meet common domesticated animals, which often is more attractive for them than seeing an exotic kangaroo or giraffe.

A new member of my family, a one-year-old pug-dog called Chris, follows me during my visits to the animals from all around the world at the Brno Zoo. He is a faithful friend in all ways. He always warmly

welcomes me, no matter what time I come home, always accepts my arrival, and never tells anyone. He only would like to meet all the animals at the zoo personally, but I resolutely told him not to do so! It is allowed to observe the animals, but it is forbidden to feed and disturb them! Everyone knows that...

Bc. Roman Onderka, MBA
Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno



Bc. Roman Onderka, MBA

was born in 1965 in Brno, and he is a Brno patriot, heart and soul. Nowadays, he is the Mayor of his native and beloved city for the second election period. However, the way up to this position was not direct.

His original profession was as a mechanic and, later, a rolling-stock mechanic within the railway, which still is his love. He also worked as the territorial secretary for transport in the South Moravian Region and the Highlands Region of the Railway Trade Union. Only in 2002 did he start his political career after many years of being interested in public events. He was an elected member of both the Board of Representatives of the Brno-Starý Lískovec town district, and the Board of Representatives of the City of Brno. He was released from these Boards to take up the position of the Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno in 2006.

He graduated from Karel Engliš College in their bachelor study programme in Economics and Management, in the branch of Economics and Business Law. Later he graduated from the Faculty of Business and Management, Brno University of Technology in their study programme of Master of Business Administration (MBA).

His close relatives – a son, a partner, and a dog – are what make him happy. If he has some time left, he likes to participate in sports, read books, and go to the theatre.



Tymián with its mother



Gin with its mother and a breeder

Three Mini Appaloosa Foals Born in the Children's Zoo

This April, three mini Appaloosa foals were born to the mares kept in our Children's Zoo. The mini Appaloosa is a very small breed raised in Europe (the Netherlands) which comes from the Indian Ap-

paloosa horses of North America. Its typical feature is a very attractive colour, ingeniously dappled on its fur. The small height of mini Appaloosas – their height at withers is only about ninety centimetres – came from various pony breeds. Mini Appaloosas serve for rides for the youngest children visiting our zoo. We imported three couples from the Netherlands in 2010.

The first foal of this breed to be born in the Brno Zoo Brno is a male named Tymián. One of our females, Tessa, gave birth to him on 6 April 2011. Tessa is an experienced mother, and behaves calmly and serenely. She does not show any unnecessary fear of people and the surroundings. That's why we could play with Tymián from his first days and, in playing, teach him the basic habits of raising his legs or accepting a head halter. The small Tymián is a very bright foal which soon started to come for the head halter because he knew he would be praised a lot for doing so.

Another male was born to our Lisbeth a week later, on 13 April. It was named Lord Berry. This was Lisbeth's first delivery and therefore we hoped to watch over it. However, we were caught unawares. When our male Belfigor was in rut, Lisbeth went into the run with him. It is difficult to determine the precise date of pregnancy in free natural breeding. Lord Berry

became a healthy and strong foal, although its birth weight was only about 15 kg. He belongs to a very small variant of mini Appaloosas. With regard to his small dimensions and low weight, we carried him from the stable to the run on his first days. To begin with, he was perplexed and cumbersome, but knew very well what he wanted: When he did not find milk forthcoming from his human friends, he angrily stood up on his back legs and immediately resolutely hoofed. Once he understood that he needed to go to his mother for milk, he followed her joyfully and self-assuredly. Lisbeth, Belfigor, and Lord Berry spend their days together in the common fenced area, and seem to be a satisfied family.

The third foal this year is another male, born on 19 April. He is called Gin, and his mother is Geisha. Geisha was strict and even hysterical after delivery. She did not allow Gin to go even a meter from her. Being desperate, and curious about what his legs were able to do, Gin only circled his mother; then he turned and circled her in the opposite direction. He did not seem to be too bright but, rather, slightly retarded. Everything changed when distrustful Geisha came to her senses and gave more freedom to the young foal. Gin suddenly changed into a very sociable young foal, answering to his name and proudly coming for his blue head halter. He no longer walks around Geisha, but plays with Tymián. The young foals banter with each other, race together, and think of capers to do with their mothers all the time.

All three of them are doing well, healthy and strong. Each has a different character, height, and colouring, but they all like learning new things. They bring a lot of joy to their breeders and keepers.

Lenka Zelinková,

Breeder at the Children's Zoo



Lord Berry (in front) with parents

Poodří Offers a Piece of Countryside at the Outskirts of the City

The Poodří Protected Landscape Area (PLA), declared in 1991, is situated in the northeastern part of the Moravian Gate between Vražné (situated near Odry) and the southern edge of Ostrava, a distance of 34 km. The width of the territory, which covers an area of 81.5 km², ranges from 0.5 to 4.5 km. The protection applies to the preserved alluvial meadows with scattered greenery, an unaltered meandering flow of the Odra river and its tributaries, as well as dead channels and lowland forests. Rare fauna and flora species can be found at all of these biotopes.

The Odra regularly overflows at high water levels to the surrounding meadows, where it does not cause any serious damage. This situation, which has been suppressed at many locations of our country, ensures that wetland populations typical for Poodří are preserved. The territory of the PLA is so remarkable that it has been included in the European important locations and bird areas as a whole. The status of protection has been granted to species which are characteristic for the area and occur in representative numbers there, such as the fire-bellied toad [*Bombina orientalis*], mud loach [*Misgurnus fossilis*], hermit beetle [*Osmodeira eremita*], March harrier [*Circus aeruginosus*], common kingfisher [*Alcedo atthis*] and gadwall [*Anas stopera*].

We would especially like to mention the March harrier, a dominant wetland species which has become a symbol of the PLA and figures in its logo. The March harrier is a beast of prey which needs flooded littoral zones of ponds, pools, and wetlands which are covered with common reed or reed mace for its nesting, which are rarely available nowadays. To feed, the March harrier flies widely in the vicinity of its nest, to hunt rodents in meadows and fields, thus preventing their becoming too



Photo by Václav Čsmník

Kačírek pond, with its preserved littoral

numerous. Another important bird species in Poodří is the common kingfisher, our flying treasure, which builds nests in the perpendicular clay banks of river courses. The Odra provides sufficient nesting opportunities but, as it often overflows its banks, it endangers the lodges containing young birds. That is why the common kingfisher uses tributaries in Poodří rather than the strong river itself. It often finds an uprooted tree with its root ball on the bank of a pond, and there it digs a lodge and nests. A classic lodge is 50–80 cm long but, in an uprooted tree, the common kingfisher must usually make do with a length of about 30 cm. Sometimes one will dig with such energy that it gets through to the other side of the root ball!

There are about sixty ponds in Poodří. Some of them are fully used as fisheries; others have set such rules of management that they provide a suitable environment not only to many other bird species, nesting or passing, but also to amphibians. These use the ponds for reproduction, with some species even wintering there. Such ponds create basic conditions for preserving local populations. In the evenings, it is possible to listen to choirs of fire-bellied toads, edible frogs [*Rana kl. Esculenta*], marsh frogs [*Rana ridibunda*] or European tree frogs [*Hyla arborea*] singing in the Bažantula or Kotvice nature preserves. The European tree frog has the strongest voice. If we spot it in reeds, for instance, it surprises us with its small dimensions compared to its loud voice.



Photo by Jana Kristianová

Young March harriers, partly fledged

All of these amphibians feed on various insects, including mosquitoes, which they hunt both at the larval stage and the developed stage. Therefore, they represent an important part of the food chain. Other important insect hunters at ponds and in lowland forests are bats. When walking on a dam at dawn, you can see bigger common noctules [*Nyctalus noctula*] flying at a height of several metres above the pond, or smaller Daubenton's bats [*Myotis daubentoni*] hunting insects along the banks close to the water level.

All of the fauna species mentioned above and many others can be easily watched during inspiring hikes in the preserved countryside of the Poodří Protected Landscape Area.

Mgr. Jana Kristianová,

Zoologist of the Poodří PLA Administration



Photo by Pavel Hruška

Giant Hispaniolan galliwasp in an exposition terrarium



Photo by Pavel Hruška

Exposition of the giant Hispaniolan galliwasp A box that contained a zoological treasure is empty now.

A Treasure Has Arrived from Jersey: Giant Hispaniolan Galliwasp

On 19 May, we impatiently opened the lid of a box containing an enormously valuable zoological treasure. A truck imported it from the Durrell Wildlife

Conservation Trust on the British island of Jersey, which was established by Gerald Durrell, a well-known writer, traveller, and zoologist. His zoo is famous for successful reintroductions of endangered animal species. Inside the small box there were five fabric bags which served as a hide for five giant Hispaniolan galliwasp (*Celestus warreni*) during their short trip. These lizards are one of the most endangered animals of the present time. We released one of the females from this rare shipment into a newly adapted exposition vivarium in the Tropical Kingdom pavilion. The remaining two couples were settled in the background of that pavilion to breed.

The giant Hispaniolan galliwasp is a lizard of the Anguillidae family and the Diploglossinae sub-family that includes about twenty species living in the Antilles and in Central and South America. Quite recently, it lived in widespread areas in the north of Hispaniola, one of the Greater Antilles islands, where two countries are situated – Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It lived there in wet lowland forests, where it searched for hiding places under leaves, fallen trees, and stones. An incredibly rapid and sharp drop in its population during the last approximately twenty years caught both zoologists and environmentalists from the entire world unaware.

What are the main reasons for the drop? There are several: First, it is a loss of their natural environment. Massive deforestation of large areas

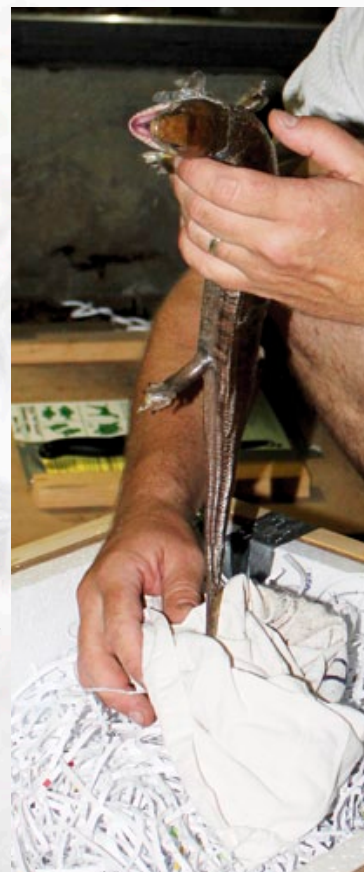


Photo by Pavel Hruška

Each galliwasp came in a cloth pouch.

has been in progress in Hispaniola the purpose of which is to extend pastures and agricultural fields. Continuous predation of wild dogs, cats, and imported mongoose (a small beast of prey, which had been introduced in the island fauna to reduce the snake population) were destructive to the already very weak population of galliwasp. Another blow also came from humans: The natives consider giant Hispaniolan galliwasp poisonous, and they kill them without mercy. (Some reports even suggest that they form part of a secret voodoo cult).

In recent years, giant Hispaniolan galliwasp can only be found in Haiti in an area of approximately 100 km². However, this part of the island is also changing, so the population is fragmented and lives only in an area of a mere 10 km². It was found in the region of Puerto Plata, in the Dominican Republic, in 2004 for the last time.

An alarming situation of the giant Hispaniolan galliwasp resulted in its inclusion in the Red List of Threatened Species issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Red List).

Photo by Pavel Hruška



Stomach part of a giant Hispaniolan galliwasp

Since 2004, it has been listed as a critically endangered species there. The institutions which became involved in its conservation include the Nashville Zoo in Tennessee, U.S.A., and the Jersey Zoo (as the Durrell Trust is sometimes called) in Great Britain. The most individuals bred with human care are in these zoos, and most of the basic biological data were also obtained from there. The giant Hispaniolan galliwasp, the Czech name of which - "double-tongue lizard" - is derived from the shape of its tongue which divides into two parts at its tip, is an ovoviviparous type of lizard. A female of the giant Hispaniolan galliwasp delivers 8-30 young during a humid season. These are 46-49 mm long and weigh from 1.4-1.8 g. Their first food is small insects. Besides insects, adult individuals like small worms, molluscs, and also the young of the smallest mammals, especially rodents. Their sexual maturity is reached at 3-4 years of age. Most herpetologists and top breeders in zoos think the giant Hispaniolan galliwasp can live for 25-30 years, and maybe even longer.

The Nashville Zoo was the first to breed giant Hispaniolan galliwasp. The two specimens that our zoo has now were born at this zoo, and it was followed by the British Jersey Zoo. The bred animals from these two institutions have gradually moved to other zoos in the U.S.A. and Europe. The European conservation programme for the critically endangered giant Hispaniolan galliwasp has only started,

Photo by Michal Balcar



Even a galliwasp can bite

Photo by Michal Balcar



A galliwasp sloughing old skin

but we can already see them in Barcelona Zoo (Spain), Penkridge Zoo (Great Britain), Budapest Zoo (Hungary), and in two Polish zoos (in Plocko and Wroclaw). The International Species Information System (ISIS) has registered 280 specimens in captivity, 44 of which are in Europe. I can gladly announce that Brno Zoo has also participated in the fight for preserving this dying-out species. Brno Zoo wants to join other zoos that prefer the breeding of critically endangered species to that of common or even domesticated animals, the value of which is negligible for biodiversity conservation.

When sending on the bred individuals of the rare giant Hispaniolan galliwasp, the professionals

of parent zoos thoroughly consider to whom they would entrust their animals. Brno Zoo has won their confidence by its successful breeding of the Grand Cayman ground iguana and the rhinoceros iguana which comes from the same Caribbean territory as the giant Hispaniolan galliwasp. Therefore, the Jersey breeders were ready to share this rare gift from Nashville. I believe that we will manage to create optimum life conditions for these rare animals in Brno, and that we will soon see the birth of their first young.

Michal Balcar,

The gamekeeper at the Vivarium,
Aviary and South America



▼▲ Young blue wildebeest with parents



The Homeland of Wildebeests Rescued

Blue wildebeests appeared at Monk Mountain in 1974 for the first time when the Brno Zoo obtained a male and three females which belonged to a group of animals imported by Josef Vágner from the African wild. Continuous breeding, enriched by exchanges of older young individuals for unrelated animals has lasted without interruption since then. The current group consists of a male, three females, and a baby born on 19 May 2011.

Wildebeests are generally known probably because they are a popular topic for nature photographers – who,

however, do not see them plunging down a slope into a river with crocodiles during a migration in search of food and water, or migrating in huge numbers accompanied by zebras and other animals through endless plains. Surprisingly, wildebeests as well as other antelopes, behave rather quietly in zoos. The Brno wildebeests mostly sit in a corner of the wide Safari run, only occasionally running quickly through a pool. They live as if in the shadow of the majestic giraffes and the markedly striped zebras with which they share the run. Together, all of them form an authentic atmosphere of sub-Saharan savannas.

Blue wildebeests are the largest of five sub-species of blue wildebeests which occur in several separated regions of various sizes in the east and south of Africa. The number of these animals is estimated to be 1.55 million, of which 1.3 million belong to the population which migrates through Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. This is situated eastwards of Lake Victoria, and covers an area of 14,763 km². (Its population density was counted at 35 wildebeests per km².)

The high number of individuals, and the fact that a part of them live in reservations, suggest that there is almost no danger for the blue wildebeest. The international list of endangered species (IUCN Red List) ranks it in the category of least-concerned animals (LC). The environment where the wildebeests live can, however, change for the worse, e.g. due to the development of agriculture. Outside protected areas, wildebeests get into conflicts with farmers whose fenced areas for their

livestock interrupt migration routes. The most drastic case noted is that of a fence for veterinary purposes, which caused the death of thousands of wildebeests which were heading for Xau Lake in the northeast Kalahari in the dry season of 1980. Fences have made some wildebeests change to a settled way of life in reservations which provide water and food all year round.

The species protection will depend on the regime in Serengeti, where a majority of wildebeests live. There, water is only available in the western section of the park for part of the year. A proposed highway, which was slated to go through the centre of Serengeti, would cause a drop of the wildebeest population from 1.3 million to a mere 200,000 individuals. Other migrating animals would also die in huge numbers as well as would predators, which depend on migration at many places. Scientists estimate that the highway would kill one and quarter million animals. The huge natural treasures of Serengeti would be lost for future generations; the breathtaking theatre of nature, the yearly migration of herds of thousands, would disappear forever.

In June of this year, the Tanzanian government decided, after protests from scientists and environmentalists (e.g. the Zoological Society of London) and some countries (e.g. the U.S.A.), that the route, which should serve 800 cars a day by 2015, would be diverted to outside the park. According to estimates, a million cars a year will be driving on it in 25 years, and pressure for a denser road network will increase. It is highly probable that the proximity of an industrial agglomeration which would be founded at the banks of Lake Victoria after the highway is finished will affect the reservation. Those who rescued Serengeti this year will probably have to go into battle again.

Eduard Stuchlík



Young blue wildebeest

Photo by Pavel Hruška



Little Owl

Little Owls Ringed

Six Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) young were born at the end of May and the beginning of June, the offspring of our two breeding couples. They were ringed on 8th June, and samples for genetic determination of their sex were taken. Brno Zoo has, in cooperation with the Břeclav branch of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation, been involved in a Little Owl protection project since 2006. However, this year we will be releasing the young into the wild for the first time ever. However, before that happens, the young owls will have to learn to hunt for live prey in the free-flight aviary. (red)

Aquariums are Being Moved

The Permanent Aquarium Exhibition, a part of Brno Zoo which has been located at Radnická 6 since 1969, is closed to the public from 1st August, as the historic building at that address is undergoing extensive reconstruction. The aquariums and terrariums will be moved to the zoo premises at Mniší hora during August, where they will be exhibited at three locations: in the atrium of the administrative building, in the terrarium building (which is next to the Tropical Kingdom pavilion), and in the terrarium building's atrium. It still isn't clear whether the exhibition will return to its original home. The director of the zoo will be discussing the future use of the building at Radnická 6 with the city management. (red)

Our News in 2011

Our group of meerkats has grown: Four young females were brought here in April from Twycross Zoo, Great Britain. They have reinforced and extended our long-term breeding of the popular little predators from the Kalahari Desert. The meerkats, which have been inhabiting the new spacious enclosure by the main visitor route since 2009, will surely enchant and please everyone who passes by.



Meerkats

By the end of June, over fifty young of twenty-five species had been born. Probably the most visible ones are those of the South American coati. Their four young can be seen endlessly frolicking with their parents in the enclosure near the boarding station of the train. In the nearby run, two young are hopping amongst the adult Patagonian maras. Beavers and wildebeests are written about elsewhere, so we will just briefly mention a few other additions. Visitors can see two older youngsters in the enclosure for Pygmy marmosets. These, the smallest monkeys in the world, reside in the Tropical Kingdom Pavilion. There are another two older youngsters in another exhibit of tiny primeval forest monkeys, that of our South American squirrel monkeys, which enrich the Exotic Birds' Pavilion. As every year, our antlered animals have bred: four Pere David's deer, two reindeer, two elks, and two Siberian elks. A pack of Arctic wolves, which have been breeding regularly since 2008, is looking after nine cubs which were born to females named Alex and Claire. The bird world is also keeping up: Apart from the above-mentioned six little owls, four tawny owls and one Steller's sea eagle have also been born. (red)



Young Pygmy marmoset



Young Arctic wolves



Elks



Overview of the Children's Zoo



Animals on the farmyard

Two White Elephants Have Come to Stay

As far as Czech and Slovak zoological gardens are concerned, Brno Zoological Gardens probably has the nicest children's area. Its Children's Zoo actually won First Prize in the White Elephant 2010 competition in the category Reconstruction of the Year. In fact, Brno scored twice this time, as the breeding of five North American beavers came third in the category Breeding Success of the Year (mammals).

The competition, in which a total of nineteen Czech and Slovak zoological gardens took part, was announced by the Czech Zoo (Česká zoo) civic association. The prize was handed over to the deputies of Brno Zoo by representatives of the host town and the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos in the hall of the Cultural Centre (Kulturní

dům) in Štramberk, the place where White Elephants are traditionally awarded, on 24th May 2011.

Brno's Children's Zoo is an attractive world of fairy-tale characters cut out of wood and supplemented with climbing frames, slides, and swings. We can also find a farmyard with animals that can be touched, and a 'ponydrome'. It was created in 2001, and underwent fundamental reconstruction in 2006. The current appearance of the themed stable building comes from 2007, and the latest adaptation, in 2010, is the access thoroughfare.

The Children's Zoo is located in the top part of the gardens, not far from the disembarkation point of the tourist train. The open area on the mild south-west slope, amidst the forested hillsides of Mniší hora (Monk Hill), has been transformed into a small children's paradise. Climbing frames, slides, and suspended footbridges are anchored to high, richly-carved wooden columns, supplemented with carved wooden characters from a fairy-tale about animals and bandits.

This area is dominated by three exhibits: a guinea pig run, a rabbit run, and a lake with turtles. A firm net hangs over the lake. Children can climb on it and observe the life below in the water. The oval runs for guinea pigs and rabbits are surrounded by stony terraces over which children can climb to get inside and cuddle the animals. They can also get into the runs via footbridges and climbing frames. The animals have their burrows in the middle of the runs, where they can find peace whenever they desire it. The inside of the burrow is sovereign animal territory.

Behind a high stone wall, there is a farmyard enclosed by a mock-up of a village house and stables. Larger domestic animals such as goats, sheep, llamas, and sometimes even a calf – the offspring of domestic cows – can be seen in the farmyard. This sample of a Czech cow can serve as proof that cows aren't purple. You can also look into a sty for small domestic pigs.

The stable building is equipped with, among other things, ten pens for horses, and there is also a hayloft and facilities for the keepers. Mainly smaller or medium-height horses are bred at the Children's Zoo, e.g. Irish cobs, Shetland ponies, ponies for riding, and mini Appaloosas, but we also have two Friesian horses. Zoo employees will saddle a horse for children to ride for a small fee. This service is very popular, and it is certainly the biggest and most attractive part of the Children's Zoo. We are also planning to give rides to children in a horse-drawn carriage, for which we are intending to acquire a horse Boulogne horse.

As far as young beavers are concerned: Even though ours have now left for other zoos, their exhibit is still definitely worth seeing, as five more young were born in June 2011! North Canadian beavers are, unlike European ones, mainly active during the day, and thus we can frequently see both big and small beavers feasting in their 'castle', swimming in the lake, or climbing onto its banks...

Eduard Stuchlik



North American beavers



Reticulated giraffes, last year young ones on the right

A New Chapter in Breeding Reticulated Giraffes Has Started

Charming and Hesitant, these are the names of two young reticulated giraffes born in the Brno Zoo in 2010. In fact, these are only translations of the names given in their birth certificates. The breed documents contain Swahili originals: the female, born on 5 September, is called Ta-Bita; the male, born on 10 November, is called Verst. The Swahili names were selected by the public by a vote carried out on Facebook or on the Brno Zoo website. A ceremony at which champagne was poured over the birth certificates was held at the lookout to the Safari run in the presence of numerous visitors on 7 May 2011. The giraffes were christened by Karel Krtička, the Marketing Director of Radio Petrov, and Martin Hovorka, the Zoo Director.

The history of breeding giraffes in the Brno Zoo is quite complicated. It started in 1976 when Igor and Linda came to the Mniší Hora Hill (Monk Mountain). Both of them were born in the Prague Zoo in the same year. They were Rothschild's giraffes. In 1978, Max, who was also born in Prague, joined them but he unfortunately died after two years. The original couple remained without offspring, and Linda died in 1983. In 1987, the zoo obtained Valika, a pregnant reticulated giraffe from the Dvůr Králové Zoo. Unfortunately, her first young, born the following year, only lived for a single day. As we did not manage to find a partner for Valika, she was covered by Igor. In 1990, Valika gave birth to her second young, and the cross-bred result left

for Polish Katowice after two years. In 1991, Valika lived to see Dhaifu, a male of the same subspecies, obtained from Stuttgart. Unfortunately, Valika died the following year, and Dhaifu lived alone in Brno until 1998. Then it went to Dvůr Králové as a genetically suitable individual for four females there. According to an agreement with both zoos, the Brno Zoo was to get part of the results of the breeding. This happened in 2000, when a young couple, Isiolo and Janin, appeared at the Mniší Hora Hill. These two were later joined by Janin's younger sister, Janette, which made possible the breeding of reticulated giraffes for Brno. We changed Isiolo, who was a relative to our females, for Jamie, a male from the British Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, in 2003. This genetically strengthened both Whipsnade's and our breed. Tosha, a third female, came to Jamie in 2008. She was again obtained from the herd in Dvůr Králové. However, Janin died later.

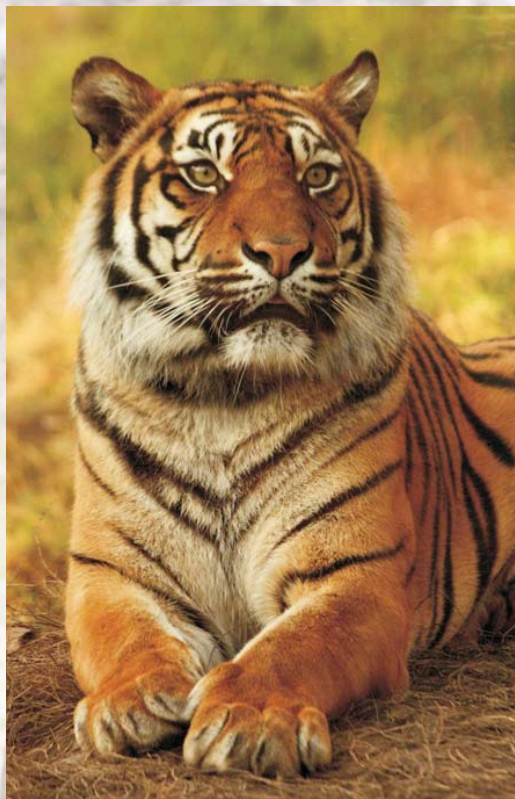
Jamie, a bearer of the valued non-relative genes, fulfilled his duty of strengthening the breed of reticulated giraffes in the Czech Republic although, in a way, it was at the last minute. He fathered three offspring, a male and two females, in Brno. We transferred Julia, the oldest of them, born in 2006, to the herd in Dvůr Králové in 2008. In return, we obtained Tosha. Only after Jamie's death, in the summer of 2010, were Ta-Bita and Verst, born as his posthumous offspring. Janette, born in the Dvůr Králové Zoo in 2001, is the mother of Julia and hesitant Verst. Tosha, born in the Dvůr Králové Zoo in 2006, delivered a single baby, beautiful and charming Ta-Bita.



Two-year-old male M'Toto does his first mating attempts

Our herd consists of five members now. At the time of christening Ta-Bita and Verst, the future partner of our giraffes moved into the run. This is a male with a Swahili name, M'Toto, born in the Cologne Zoo (Germany) in January 2009. M'Toto's behaviour shortly after his arrival in April of this year gives us hope that he will be a good breeding male. One of our adult females has already provoked him - despite his young age - to the first indications or attempts at mating during the rutting season. A new chapter of the Brno reticulated giraffe breeding has been started by the arrival of M'Toto.

Eduard Stuchlik



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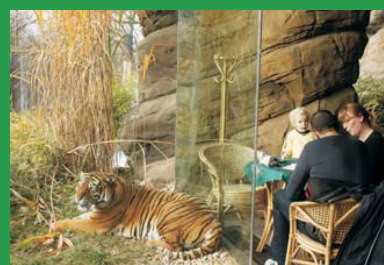
nabízí
příjemné posezení s výhledem do výběhu
tygrů sumaterských

U Tygra nemáme zavírací den
a obsluhujeme po všechny dny v roce!
Otevřeno denně 9–18 hod.
Organizované akce mohou probíhat
i mimo provozní dobu zoo

- kapacita 50 míst
- připravíme obědy pro školní výlety
a turistické zájezdy
- umožníme konání firemních akcí,
rodinných oslav, svateb, promoci
a obchodních jednání
- zajistíme odborné konference -
k dispozici je přednáškový sál
s kapacitou až 100 posluchačů,
vybavený moderní audiovizuální
technikou
- připravíme ranní a odpolední
coffeebreak a oběd formou rautu



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NOVINKA! Pro skupiny do 30 osob připravíme
prohlídku zoo s odborným výkladem a občerstvením.
Prohlídka se může uskutečnit i ve večerních
hodinách v zahradě osvětlené loučemi

Kontaktní osoba: Petr Holinka,
vedoucí restaurace
tel.: 546 432 316
mobil: 725 176 311
e-mail: utygra@zoobrno.cz

**Zoologická zahrada města Brna
zve všechny své příznivce na tradiční**

SETKÁNÍ ADOPTIVNÍCH RODIČŮ které se uskuteční v sobotu 27. 8. 2011



Ani tentokrát se neobejdeme bez bohatého kulturního programu. Na pódiu U Velblouda vystoupí mj. taneční divadlo Mimi Fortunae, taneční skupina Abanico, divadlo Koráb zahraje pohádku, představí se judisté ze Sportovního klubu Královo Pole. Jednotlivá vystoupení propojí hudba kapely Kronek Alband.