

# zoo report

No. 3 / september 2009

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

**BRNO**



special supplement

**ZOO REPORT PROFI**



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*Roman Onderka*

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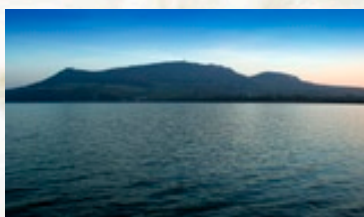
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## Zooreport

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo  
september 2009

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Sand cats

UNSALEABLE



## Our Guest, Our Lord

**An interesting neighbourhood of two gardens – zoological and botanical – appeared on the Mniší hora Hill in Brno-Bystrc in the 1950's. Another locality had been later found for the flora, therefore only animals stayed in the wonderful nature near the Brno Dam. At least the third generation of visitors comes to see them now. I am very glad they have such opportunity in Brno – every important or big city has its own zoo.**

Rare flowers and herbs in the botanical garden also have their favourers. Return of the botanical garden to the Mniší hora Hill might come pat. Visitors are right after the animals and plants the ones, who the directors care for and want to attract.

I don't know if the following simple mathematics could work: one garden = one income, two gardens = double income. Nevertheless it is sure that increasing the numbers of visitors is the basic problem, especially nowadays. The last year's success, when the bear twins Tom and Bill attracted a record number of visitors, can be repeated in future again. However there are several conditions – news that would convince both the young and adult Brno citizens and tourists of visiting the zoo more than only once. Modern expositions, where the animals would feel good and be closer to people at



Photo by Milan Křiz

Mr. Roman Onderka, the Mayor of Brno (second from left), during a ceremonial christening of young wolves on 30 June 2009.

the same time. Wide offer of perfect services, such as restaurants, inspiration programmes for children, little train or commented feeding. Does the Brno Zoo offer this? I think it does.

The zoo continuously upgrades its breeding by animals that are born here or come from other Czech or European zoos. Building of the first exposition of Beringia, which will show the nature of Kamchatka and East Siberia, is in process nowadays. Reconstruction of the chimpanzees' pavilion has started in August and

a study of new entrance area and high capacity parking has already been prepared. And our young visitors can try e.g. pony riding or trampoline centre.

The zoo is an allowance organization of the city therefore the city participates in financing of the reconstructions and other activities. We take it as a matter of fact, although we carefully control, whether the finances are used efficiently and whether we could save some money on ineffective services or overpriced works.

However we can not save money on quality, thus the Brno zoo constantly conceives plans and takes actions to upgrade the comfort and attractiveness of the zoo. Birth of the Polar bears was a real magnet, but expensive reconstructions of the obsolete expositions are simply necessary even if little bears or e.g. tigers would appear every year.

That is why I invite everyone who wants to meet the world's fauna and help the zoo at the same time to visit the Brno zoo even during the Indian summer or early fall. It's always beautiful there.

Roman Onderka,  
Mayor of the City of Brno

### Name and surname: Roman Onderka

Born on: 11<sup>th</sup> November 1965 in Brno

Education: University

Marital status: Divorced

Children: 2

- The Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno
- Vice-chairman of ČSSD (the Czech Social Democratic Party)
- A shadow minister of transport for ČSSD
- The member of the Government Council for Sustainable Development
- The member of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg



### Job profile

- For the electoral period 2006-2010 – released for the position of the Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno
- For the electoral period 2002-2006 – the member of the Investment Commission and the Transport Commission of the Council of the City of Brno
- For the electoral period 2002-2006 – the member of the Board of representatives of the City of Brno
- For the electoral period 2002-2006 – the member of the Board of Representatives of the Brno-Starý Lískovec town district
- Since 2002 – the chairman of the Club of ČSSD Representatives in the Board of Representatives of the City of Brno

### Membership in companies with an ownership interest of the City of Brno:

- The chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Veletrhy Brno a.s. – until June 2007
- The chairman of the Management Board of VUT Brno – until October 2007

### Miscellaneous

Hobbies: sport (football, tennis, squash), music, theatre, literature





Adina

### Kerndl drew lots to name a young female tapir Adina

The most important this year's new additions in our zoo include three Sand cat kitties (see pp. 6 and 7) and a young South American tapir female born on 14 June. It was for the very first time that our zoo succeeded in breeding a young tapir. The young is thriving and well; since July it has been out with its mother in their exhibit more or less every day where they attract the attention of visitors. Even though tapirs are good swimmers, we decided to lower the water level in the pond in their exhibit just to be sure that the young tapir was safe there. Bathing with her mother has been one of the young's most favourite activities since the



The singer Ladá Kerndl is drawing lots to choose the name for a young tapir

first days. The tapir family is incomplete for the time being – it is necessary to keep Neny and her daughter at a safe distance from Klarnet, the father.

The naming ceremony was a part of a traditional Meeting of Adoptive Parents and Sponsors that took place on 29 August this year. It was a disappointing for everybody that it was raining the whole day through and it was therefore understandable that not all the invited arrived and the number of visitors was smaller than in previous years. However, our long-term sponsor Ladá Kerndl, a singer from Brno called Moravian Sinatra, did not betray our trust. He came, named the young ones, sang several evergreens in his characteristic style and even added some jokes.

The programme started at half past one with the naming ceremony in the exhibit of tapirs who were, not far from a group of curious watchers, enjoying a cake made of apples, bananas, kiwi, oranges and other kinds of fruit in jelly coloured with beetroot. All the names for

the young tapir female submitted by the public were gathered in a basket and it was the essential task for Ladá Kerndl to choose the best one. He drew the lot with the name Adina. "It reminds me of Adina Mandlová", commented the singer mentioning this famous actress from the era between the World Wars.

Subsequently everybody moved to the exhibit of Sand cats where the other naming ceremony of that day took place. An entertainment show held on the stage "At Camels" followed, featuring besides Ladá Kerndl also other artists performing as sponsors: Tubabu, white drummers playing the rhythms of West Africa, Abanico, a dance group, capable of making the audience participate in their performances, Mimi Fortunae, a music and dance theatre, and last but not least Noví Kaskadéři, a country music band. The African drum roll broke the clouds and the last part of the gathering – barbeque in the Indian village – was very pleasant and peaceful as if in reconciliation with Nature. (red)



Bathing with Mum is great...



...but I cannot be in water all the time



## An Fascinating Part of the South Moravia

There are not many places in the Czech Republic which could boast of so attractive and diversified a countryside, so unusual and fascinating a landscape, as the Pavlov Hills and their vicinity. Snow-white rocks rising above the mosaic of blooming steppes are surrounded by a band of vineyards on sun-hot slopes and hills covered with the Milovice oak-wood. The scene is supplemented by the remains of widespread ancient floodplains preserved on the bank of a dead channel of the Dyje River after the filling in of three lakes of the Nové Mlýny Dam.

A unique set of natural creations was declared the Protected Landscape Area (PLA) Pálava (this single-word name is derived from the name of the Pavlov municipality) in 1976. A dominant feature of the area is a limestone outcrop of the Pavlov Hills, which are at the westernmost spit of the Carpathian curve. The landform of the hills rising above the flatland of the Dyje-Svratka Valley is characteristic of this area. The highest point of the barrow ridge and the entire PLA is at Děvín (554 m above sea level); other marked tops are, e.g., Kotel, Dívčí hrady, or Stolová hora. The lowest point of the area is at the water level of the Dyje River at Nové Mlýny 163 m above sea level.

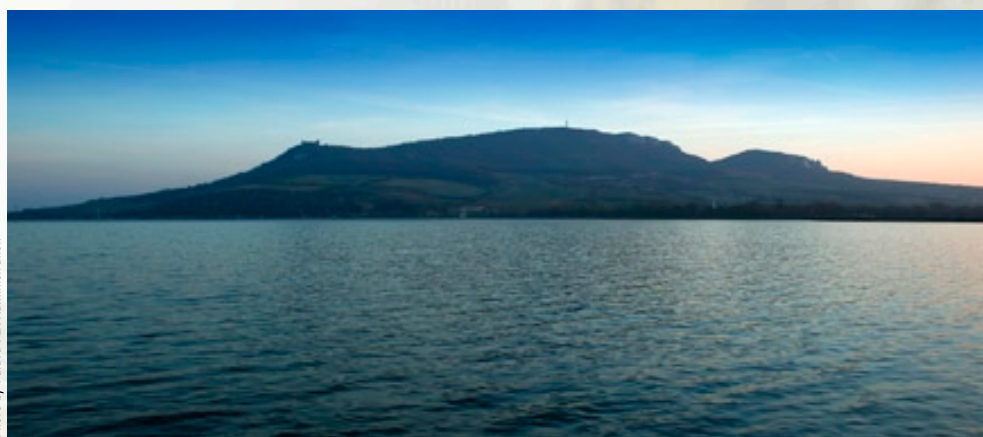
Biotopes of rock, sod, and meadow steppes, forest steppes, and debris forests rich in species developed on the limestone slopes of Pálava.

Photo by Pálava PLA Administration



Wall creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*)

Photo by Pálava PLA Administration

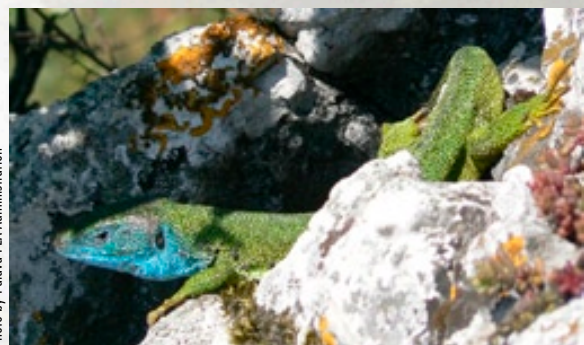


View of the Pavlovské Hills over Nové Mlýny Reservoir

A complex of the Milovice forest continuing from Pálava eastwards is formed by thermophilic oak-woods and Pannonian oak-hornbeam forests. Lowland forests alternate with meadows and other wetland and water communities in the river floodplain. One of the last sites with halophilic vegetation in our country can be found in the preserve of Slanisko u Nesytu. The remaining part of the PLA is covered by agricultural landscape with prevailing vineyards and human residential areas including a municipal monument preserve, Pavlov, and a town monument preserve, Mikulov.

A particular symbol of the Pálava spring is the dwarf bearded iris [*Iris pumila*] blooming in the rocky steppe of Děvín. It attracts many visitors every year. Important flower species occurring only at Pálava in our country include, e.g., the large flower sandwort [*Arenaria grandiflora*], blue oat grass [*Helictotrichon desertorum*], Mediterranean sage [*Salvia aethiopis*], and feather grass [*Stipa pennata*]. The praying mantis [*Mantis religiosa*] lives in this beautiful area of herbs, bushes and trees, and common species of Pálava also include the great crested grebe [*Lucanus cervus*] and great capricorn beetle [*Cerambyx cerdo*]. Species that are elsewhere diminishing, such as the swallowtail [*Ipchilides podalirius*] and old world swallowtail [*Papilio machaon*], are quite rich there. Deeply coloured green lizards [*Lacerta viridis*] bask on stones in the sun, and ravens [*Corvus corax*] play in the air. A rare guest flies to Pálava rocks and valleys from the Alpine peaks in winter – the wall

Photo by Pálava PLA Administration



Green lizard

creeper [*Tichodroma muraria*]. In summer, an African representative flies here – the hoopoe [*Upupa epops*].

Because of the location of the PLA (in the driest and hottest part of our country, with a big diversity of local habitats), there are many species which occur in the Czech Republic only at Pálava and its vicinity. They include, e.g., the ground beetle [*Carabus hungaricus*], which lives in the continuous high-blade lawns on the plains of the Pálava hills, where it continues to the northern border. Similar habitats are occupied by the predatory bush cricket [*Saga pedo*], reminding us of an insect treasure with a tropical appearance and predatory behaviour.

Pálava belongs among our smallest but most important protected landscape areas. It spreads over an area of 83 km<sup>2</sup>. There are 15 small-area territories within it of all degrees of protection.

RNDr. Jiří Matuška,  
Manager of the Pálava PLA  
Administration





▲ ▼ ▸ Sand cat kittens (left with their mother in the background)



### The Second Natural Breeding of the Sand Cat

This year the Brno Zoo can be proud of another significant result in its breeding effort: It succeeded in breeding the Sand Cat [*Felis margarita*] in a natural way for a second time. This success, which is represented by three young born on 25 June 2009, was achieved nine long years after the previous first breeding.

The Sand Cats appeared in the Brno Zoo for the first time in 1998, when two males arrived at Mniší hora Hill from the Wuppertal Zoo, Germany. Two years later, in February 2000, we managed to acquire two females from the Berlin Zoo. We placed one pair in an outdoor exposition in the lower part of the zoo, and the other pair in the building of terraria near the Tropical Kingdom pavilion. It was in the indoor exposition, on

16 July 2000, that one of the females gave birth to four kittens (two males and two females), and bred them there successfully. In the following years, breeding was entirely concentrated in the lower part of the zoo, in the so-called Alley of Small Beasts of Prey, but the Sand Cats stopped reproducing. Therefore, we decided to acquire a new breeding couple.

Osiris, a five-year-old tomcat from the Bristol Zoo and Eva, a two-year-old female cat from the Krakow Zoo, settled in a new exposition this year in January, situated in a vestibule of the Tropical Kingdom pavilion. A trouble-free coexistence of the couple culminated on 24 April early in the morning, when they mated. During next days the tomcat expressed high sexual activity and chased the female, but she refused further contact.

At the beginning of June, the cat already showed obvious signs of gravidity. Noticeable teats were not



its only symptom. In the breeding of this shy, small feline, the most reliable diagnosis of gravidity proved to be observation after a foodless day: A gravid female sports a full belly even after a day without feed.

A week before the awaited birth, the tomcat was caught and placed in the lodging in the lower part of the zoo. The female was left alone in the exposition to protect it, and later also the kittens, from the tomcat's disturbance in the following weeks.



View from the native box



Breast-feeding





**Tom-cat Osiris**

In addition to the quality feed corresponding to the microclimate (an animal from the Near East's deserts requires a dry and warm climate!) and the breed lodging equipment, a sense of safety and absolute peace in the surroundings of the exposition have a positive influence on the process of breeding. We managed to provide all of these conditions when we entirely closed down the vestibule to visitors and covered the glass walls of the exposition with a cane mat a week before delivery.

The expected joyful event came on 25 June 2009 when, after 62 days of gravidity, the cat suddenly changed its behaviour and stayed in a shed from the morning. The next day, we could hear the young. On the following days, the female remained in the shed all day long, and only went out for feed briefly. We took advantage of this moment on the third day and carefully peeped into the shed for the first time. We saw three well-fed kittens. We determined their sex during the next check (13 July) – two young were males and one was female. On the 25th day of life (on the morning of 20 July) all three kittens left their native shelter for the first time. On the same day, shortly before noon, the female nursed in front of the shed for the first time. We noted the first intake of meat on the 30th day of the kittens' life (25 July). They then spent most of the time outside the native shed, and attracted the deserved attention of visitors by larking around and playing.

The subspecies of the Sand Cat, *F. m. harrisoni* (Hemmer, Grubb and Groves, 1976), which has already delivered young twice at the Brno Zoo, still occurs in nature in the Arabic Peninsula. However, numbers of

this species living in the wild are hard to estimate. In Europe, 21 zoos raise Sand Cats, where you can find a total of 55 males and 63 females. (Currently, the aforementioned subspecies lives in European zoos only). The International Studbook of 2007 mentions 172 adult individuals. The largest collections in human care can be found in the Al Ain Zoo in the United Arab Emirates (17 males and 16 females), and in the Al Wabra Zoo in Qatar (9 males and 12 females).

Recently, the breeding of the Sand Cat was successful in European zoos only in the Osnabrück Zoo, Germany, with one young (a co-ordinator of the European Rescue Plan for this species is seated in this zoo); the Ebeltoft Zoo, Denmark, with two young; the Nesles Zoo, France, with four young; and the Lyon Zoo, France, with three young.

I am pleased that now the Brno Zoo belongs among them as well. This, another successful natural breeding of three young, will undoubtedly contribute to maintaining the genetic fund of the subspecies of the beautiful Sand Cat.

*Michal Balcar*

Gamekeeper at the Terrarium, Aviary and South America sites



**Pussy-cat Eva**



**Bringing pray to the young**



▲ Both children and adult visitors admire the kitties through the glass of their exhibit





▲ ▸ Alpacas, the male Marcel on the right

### **New Expositions on the Main Route: Alpacas and Meerkats**

According to our original plans, most expositions of the Brno Zoo should be accessible by a long serpentine road gently ascending the slopes of the Mniší hora Hill. Unfortunately, all parts of this main line were not constructed. The descending road, where no expositions had been planned, changed to the main visit route leading from the At Tiger's Restaurant to the Exotic Birds pavilion. Until recently visitors passed only along the run-out of llamas, which was later supplemented by a fenced yard housing the Jacob sheep. One of the latest tasks was to fill in all still-vacant areas along the backbone road, as the above-mentioned route is called, with zoological expositions.

Our plan began to be fulfilled last year. An exposition of the Patagonian cavies, which we have already propagated, was built at the beginning of the route at the lower train turning point. Approximately 100 m further on, visitors are attracted by a group of the white-lipped peccaries. Visitors can offer a "snack" to them – a basket with a reasonable dose of fodder is prepared at the fence of the run-out.

We located the lodging with a run-out for meerkats. The latest addition in the series of new expositions along the backbone road is a lodging with a run-out for meerkats, between the cavies and the peccaries. The lodging with floor dimensions of 5.2m × 4.4m, has a glazed viewing screen and is equipped with air-conditioning, a potable

water supply, electric lighting, and heating. Halide lamps are supplemented by UV radiating sources; the room is heated by ceiling panels and heating stones in the floor. The roof of the house can be planted with greenery. Its surfaces and the rear side of the run-out, with an area of 48m<sup>2</sup>, are made of artificial rocks, and the barrier between the animals and the visitors' route is made of glass. We let the popular meerkats in – of course including their popular "guard" occupying an elevated place in the exposition – on 3 July after their transfer from the Tropical Kingdom pavilion. They immediately became the darlings of the visitors to the new lodging. However, the small beasts of prey are of post-reproduction age (we wrote about the reproduction of our suricates in Zooreport No. 1-2/2006), and the zoo is preparing the importation of a new breeding group.

A species exchange occurred in the near run-out, where some llamas [*Lama guanicoe* f. *glama*] used to dwell. Instead of them, we gained a rare form of the domesticated llama, which is the Alpaca [*Lama guanicoe* f. *pacos*]. Its fur is white, brown or black and it can be spotted in various ways. People

breed it especially for its high quality wool, and it was bred for these purposes by Indians in the pre-Columbus era. Three females arrived from a farm at the Pilsen Region on 8 July, but they originally come from a breeding station near Santiago de Chile. The group was completed by another female which belonged to a collection of animals in our Children's Zoo, where we included it after its transfer from the Ostrava Zoo in 2005. A male imported from the Stuttgart Zoo joined them later.

The Brno Zoo terminated the breeding of guanacos [*Lama guanicoe*], which is a wild species of the llama living in the pampas and mountains of Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. Instead, we would like to acquire another species of the wild llama – vicunas [*Vicugna vicugna*] coming from the high Andes in the south of Peru and Bolivia and the north of Argentina and Chile. Their exposition will be situated next to the alpacas. Then there will only be an empty place along the upper part of the main route. We will fill it with a run-out of kangaroos. Our founder had this construction put into the budget of the City of Brno for next year.

Jan Kameník



New exhibit of suricates





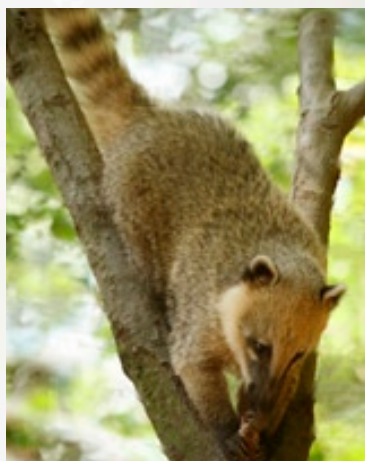
Domesticated yak

### The new run-out for domesticated yaks

Since 12 July the visitors have had an opportunity to see another female calf in the new run-out for domesticated yaks (*Bos mutus f. grunniensis*) situated in the upper part of the zoo next to bisons. The two-year old Ilona was born in Antwerp Zoo in Belgium and arrived in Brno from another Belgian zoological garden in Planckendaal. She has joined the "herd" of domesticated yaks consisting of a couple brought to Brno from a facility for conservation breeding in Taufkirchen, Germany, in April. (red)

### Coati has a partner

A Ring tailed coati (*Nasua nasua*) female arrived in Brno on 2 July from the Palmitos Park in Las Palomas, Gran Canaria, and made a couple with our coati male. The visitors will find their new house close to the station of departure of the zoo train. (red)



Ring tailed coati

### Young Biologists Station admits new members

The Young Biologists' Station of Brno zoo, a leisure organization for children and young people aged 5–18, adopts new members. Those interested may register whenever during the school year. The station was founded in 1978 and its mission is to organize leisure time activities for children and acquaint them with various fields of natural sciences while using the premises of the zoological garden. For more information go to [www.zoobrna.cz](http://www.zoobrna.cz), section Vzdělávací aktivita (Education). For more detailed information please contact Mgr. Světlá Vitková, Head of the Station, Phone 546 432 321, e-mail: [vitkova@zoobrna.cz](mailto:vitkova@zoobrna.cz). (red)

### Brno offers Zoo Passes

Brno Zoo has joined the VIP Zoo Pass System designed by the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos (UCSZ). The passes worth CZK 1,200 entitle families (usually two adults and two children) to visit nineteen Czech and Slovak zoos – each of these zoological gardens can be visited three times. The Zoo Passes are valid for one year of the purchase and they are available in every zoo that is a member of the UCSZ Union. Holders who have visited minimum ten zoological gardens (every visit must be confirmed with a stamp in the Pass) can enter a draw and win other Zoo Passes or various gifts. (red)



Tiger Dua

### Will the fourth tiger be successful?

Dua, a male Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), has been living in our zoo since 15 May 2009, when he arrived from Veszprém Zoo, Hungary, (however, he was born in Wilhelma Botanical and Zoological Garden in Stuttgart, Germany, in 2005). Satu, the female, raised in Dublin Zoo, Ireland, arrived in our zoo as a two-year old in 2005. The couple met for the first time in mid July and the contacts have been repeated several times since; it offers quite good prospects of them living together permanently, the climax of which should be an offspring. Satu has had bad luck up to now. Two of her previous partners died and the third one was in Brno for a short time only to initiate her ovulation and has returned to Jihlava without Satu getting pregnant. When her second partner Kampar died of old age last year, his sperm was taken and frozen. According to the coordinator of the European breeding programme for the protection of Sumatran tigers, Kampar was a highly "eligible" from the point of view of genetics at that time. His sperm should have been used for the purposes of artificial insemination but as this method has not been thoroughly tested in felines, it was not employed. However, Kampar's frozen sperm can be used later. As to Satu, her fourth mate Dua is quite promising as he is much livelier than his predecessors and we hope he could eventually bring about a welcome change in Satu's life. (red)





### New Species at the Brno Zoo: Azara's Agouti

Since the middle of July 2009, a pair of Azara's agouti [*Dasyprocta azarae*] (Lichtenstein, 1823) has lived in the former exposition of suricates, which forms part of the Tropical Kingdom pavilion. The female, born in September 2008 comes from the Zlin Zoo, and the male was born in the Dutch Amersfoort Zoo in February 2009. Our zoo has not kept these South American gnawers before.

The agouti family (Dasyproctidae) includes more than ten species, most of which are called agouti. Some others are called paca (in Czech "aguti", "paka"). They are relatives of chinchillas, cavies, capybaras and Guinea pigs. Together with porcupines, coypus and degus, they form a sub-species of South American Caviomorpha rodents.

Agoutis live in mountainous as well as lower areas from the south of Mexico to the north of Argentina. They occur both in rain forests and sparse forests or pampas and also on plantations. They feed on fruit, seeds, blossoms or other parts of plants; some species also feed on insects or freshwater shellfish. They are able to crack even the hardest nuts with their strong teeth. At the time of fruit ripening, they deposit seeds on the earth, and by doing so they support the distribution of seeds of various tree species. They are an important part of the food of bigger beasts of prey (such as jaguars and

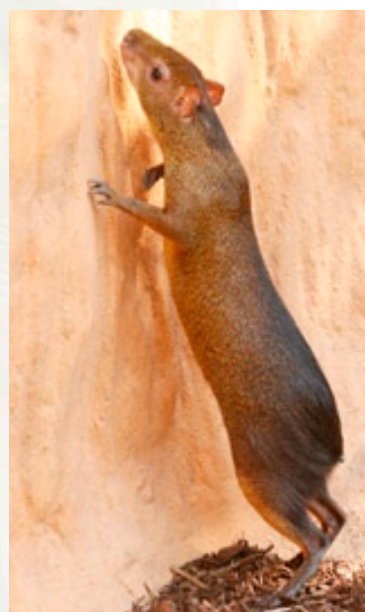
ocelots), birds of prey (such as harpies) and snakes. They are often hunted for meat by people. Agoutis defend themselves against predators by running away to undergrowth, tree cavities or shallow lodges, which they hollow out for the breeding of young. They threaten smaller enemies by tapping, emitting grunting and whistling sounds, and raising their ears to look bigger. They have good hearing, which can advise them of danger or fodder. They can hear a ripe fruit fall from a tree a long distance away.

The Azara's agouti comes from eastern, central and southern Brazil, Paraguay, and northern Argentina. It grows to the length of about 50 cm and weighs up to six kg, but it usually weighs approximately 3-4 kg. The spotted light-yellow to brown fur with a yellowish tint masks the animal very well. The Azara's agouti has five toes on its front legs and only three toes on the back ones.

The word "agouti" comes from the Nahuatl language spoken by some Mexican Indians and means "a dog from the mountains". Felix Manuel de Azara (1742-1821), after which the Azara's agouti is named, was a Spanish military engineer (he achieved the rank of a brigade general of the Spanish Army) and an amateur scientist. He stayed in South America for 20 years and sent records on many of his zoological researches and observations to Europe. He published them later. His works were studied and appreciated by Charles Darwin, for one. Azara's name also appears in the titles of several other South American animals.



▲ ▼ ◀ Azara's Agouti



South American rodents are more suitable for being placed in the Tropical Kingdom pavilion than small South African beasts of prey. Nearly 90% of the pavilion is occupied by South American fauna, and it is continued by run-outs with South American lowland tapirs and other sub-species from that continent. This area of the zoo will become part of the Caribbean exposition, where animals not only from islands in the Caribbean will be situated, but also from the adjacent lands in Central and South America.

The arrival of the new species leads us to wonder whether it is suitable to join the existing space determined for agoutis with the neighbouring ones, where the golden-handed tamarins, pygmy marmosets, and South American virgin forest apes live now. Potential implementation of this idea is still being considered.

Bc. Eduard Stuchlik



## The Zoo Gained Its Own Source of Ground Water

Since May 2009 the Brno Zoo has drawn quality utility water from underground. It is made possible by a new 75-m-deep water well in the cadastre of the town part Kníničky at the floodplain of the Svratka River. The well is situated on the plot owned by the zoo. Near it, on the town plot, there is a 20m deep backup well available. It shall serve in case of failure or maintenance of the main source. The boring of both wells started in September 2008 and the work was approved in July 2009. The utility water from underground means large savings now, and its benefits will grow in future.

Until the end of the previous year, the Brno Zoo drew its utility water from the Brno Dam via its own operating water-supply system. This has now been cancelled, and the zoo shall fill the cast-iron pipeline, which has a length of 580 m going through the dam dyke, with a mixture of fly ash and cement. This should prevent the formation top from deteriorating. The zoo used the raw water from the dam for cleaning roads and machinery, and for irrigation. It had to fill in pools, small lakes and other water elements with potable water supplied from the municipal system because the water in the dam is organically contaminated and the blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) occurring in it are increasing.

The marked development of the Brno Zoo places higher demands on the quantity and quality of water. In the previous decade, the potable water consumption in the Brno Zoo has doubled; while in 2000 it was about 55–60 m<sup>3</sup> a day, in 2008 it reached 110 m<sup>3</sup> a day, where more than half of the consumption was used for water elements. With regard to the high price charged for potable water consumption, using it for the described purposes was irrational. The new buildings and the on-going construction of other buildings and expositions will result in another increase in the consumption of utility water. The sea aquarium, which shall form part of a new entrance to the zoo, will have a volume



Photo by Jan Hrdlička

### Water well at the floodplain of the Svratka River

of 1 million litres; and a reservoir for manatees planned in the refurbishment of the vivaria in the adjacent Tropical Kingdom pavilion will also be of high volume.

The yield of this source is 7.2 l/sec, which corresponds to the estimated consumption of utility water in the zoo in several future decades. According to the statements of hydrologists, the water withdrawal area can be extended in future if needed. The ground water pumped from the main bore well nearly meets the requirements for potable water. If its quality does not get worse in future, the zoo can consider making its own source of potable water and it will become independent of external supplies.

The wells are equipped with submersible pumps which bring in water via new force mains to the current pump station in Kníničky. The pumps in this station deliver it to the tower water tank at the highest point of the zoo. In the next stage of the development of its water management, the zoo would like to build a new, larger water tank with new water supply systems connected to it.

The investor of the construction is the Statutory City of Brno, represented by Brněnské komunikace, a.s. The design was made by Aqua Procon from a technical solution proposal supplied by the Brno Zoo. We would like to thank the management of the city for understanding the needs of the zoo and releasing the financial funds necessary for implementing the water work construction.

The Brno Zoo has strived for the creation of its own source of quality utility water for a long time. We have already mentioned its importance in the Zooreport twice (Issue 3, Edition 2004 and Issue 4, Edition 2006). We can now gladly state: The intention has become reality and the work is done! The zoo has gained its own source of ground water for the first time in its 50+-year history. This will make further successful and quick development possible in line with the approved plans.

Ing. Josef Kundera, CSc.,  
The Technical Department, the Brno Zoo





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