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zoo report

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

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special supplement
ZOO REPORT PROFI

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Mexican beaded lizard

UNSALEABLE



Michal Hašek with daughter ▲ ►

Non-substitutable Place on the Path to Knowledge...

When I was addressed to write a few words on the importance of zoos for the present, a citation attributed to Mahatma Gandhi came to my mind. He said that the greatness of a nation and its moral development could be read from the manner it took care of its animals.

We live in over-engineered times which bring to the mankind a great progress and formerly undreamed possibilities on one hand, but on the other, they irrepressibly force out and liquidate the environment



which the previous generations had intimately known. Undoubtedly, it is a great pity.

Nowadays an irreversible devastation of the environment occurs in many areas due to spread development; every moment another natural species disappears from the Earth. At this situation the preserving role of humans is indispensable. These are zoos, which according to a superficial opinion get rid animals of their freedom, which are in fact small islands enabling preserving many animal species on our planet. Preserving the living endangered species belongs among their basic tasks and in these relations we often speak about current zoos as about gene banks of its kind.

Wild animals which are lucky to live in their original environments are constantly driven out from their places not only by humans, but also by species domesticated by them. Paradoxically, humans do not often know even these domesticated animals. They are only their mechanic consumers, and it is a very sad picture. The importance of zoos is therefore immeasurable and their position fully non-substitutable. It is very important for humans that they learn about animals there, which they often cannot see in countryside and that they learn to respect everything alive in zoos and realize their connection with the nature.

Zoos are of high importance for knowledge and are able to intermediate it in the most effective way, particularly to the youngest ones – children. I have nearly four years old daughter and I know well what every our common trip to see animals in so beautiful environment means for her. We regularly visit the Brno Zoo and we try to visit other zoos on our trips round the Czech Republic as well – Zlín-Lešná, Hodonín, and we also plan a trip to Dvůr Králové and the Prague Zoo. It is always a “big” day for the whole family. My daughter will miss her favourite Polar bears Bill and Tom in Brno, which have recently moved to their new homes, but I believe she will find many other animal friends at the Mniší hora Hill which we will often gladly visit together.

Michal Hašek,

President of the South Moravian Region

Mgr. Michal Hašek

He was born in 1976. He studied law at the Masaryk University in Brno. In 1998 he was elected a deputy mayor, when still a student, in Drásov at the Tišnov region, where he comes from. At that time he worked as an assistant of Zdeněk Koudelka, a member of the Parliament on behalf of the Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD). In 2001 he was elected the mayor of Drásov, won the municipal election a year later and became a deputy mayor of the municipality, the council of which he has still been a member.

He was a member of the Council of the South Moravian Region in the electoral term 2000–2004, since 2002 he was a member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and a chairman of the Club of Deputies of ČSSD. He was also a deputy chairman of the Agricultural Committee, and among others, a deputy chairman of a permanent commission for the media in the Chamber of Deputies. He resigned to his mandate of a member of the Chamber of Deputies in February 2009.

On 4 December 2008 he was elected the chairman of the Association of the Regions of the Czech Republic. Since 19 December 2008 he has been the chairman of the Regional Council of the South-east Cohesion Region.

He has been a member of ČSSD since 1998. At present he is a member of the Political Committee of ČSSD and a statutory deputy chairman of the Regional Executive Committee of ČSSD.

In 2005 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the General Health Insurance Company (VZP), where he now works as a vice-chairman.

He is married and has a daughter. He likes reading, playing squash and bowling in his free time. His favourite hobbies also include ballroom dancing.



Bill was brought to the transport box the following day

Bill and Tom, the Twins, Had Left

An official farewell with the young Polar bears which had left to other zoos was held on 14 and 15 February. Last moments spent by the young bears in the home zoo were observed by many visitors, media representatives and other guests.

Tom was the first to leave. On Saturday morning, 14 February, bears stayed in their dens. Journalists could take their photos and record them, each in a different lodge. Tom was already waiting for a transport cage and his mother Cora angrily banged on the door leading to the enclosure. Breeders carried Tom with the cage to a transport box placed in front of the den. The young got over to it and a tractor transported the box to the front of an Indian log cabin, where a crowd of approximately two thousand people was waiting. MVDr. Martin Hovorka, the Zoo director, spoke to the assembly and said goodbye to Tom for everybody. Visitors, journalists and invited guests approached the front wall of the box, from where the animal could be observed and looked at the small bear and took photos for the last time in Brno. When breeders were loading the box onto the trailer, by which Tom shortly left to Prague, people were waving to it. The event in front of the Indian log cabin, where some refreshment was prepared, took from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. The following day the scenario was the same – but this time with the other twin.

Photo by Jiří Vitek



The family together for the last time (Cora in the middle), 13 February 2009

The first days of Tom's stay in the Prague Zoo were marked with his high nervousness. He uneasily coped with the isolation in quarantine situated in the backgrounds. Breeders therefore decided in the morning on 16 February to enable Tom to spend the quarantine in an outer exposition as well. They moved female Bora from it and thoroughly cleaned it. The experienced Bora accepted the stay in the backgrounds in a much calmer way than the 14 months old young used to an outside environment and visitor rush until now. On the same afternoon Tom appeared in a similar exhibit he had been used to and calmed down soon. He could keep smell and eye contact with Berta, his five years old incoming partner, through the grating which separated their lodgings. The Prague breeders had put Tom together with Berta in one enclosure on 18 May at eight p.m. The bears carefully walked around each other, growled a little and opened their mouths. Everyone was surprised with Tom's totally calm behaviour – the older Berta was rather afraid. Both the animals were making friends till the noon and they continued in the following days. After a week Tom and Berta could stay together for good.

Bill found his new home in one of three grandiose expositions of Polar bears in the Gelsenkirchen Zoo. When he arrived to this zoo on 16 February, four years old female Lara had been waiting for him. The bear had to stay in quarantine until 5 March. He only met Lara in the evenings and at nights because their lodgings neighboured. They were separated by a double fence which enabled enough smell and eye perceptions to them. Bill ate well in the quarantine and generally seemed to be a content animal. He always looked forward to the evening when he would be able to see Lara again. The period of their immediate cohabitation which should

end in founding their own family after several years started on 10 March when they first met in a common exposition.

The full stop after the departure of the young, or rather a new chapter of the Brno breeding of Polar bears, was the return of the father of the twins. Umca, the male, returned from Gelsenkirchen to Brno on 18 February in a transport box placed in a trailer. He bravely withstood the adverse weather which occurred during the journey. The box with the beast of prey weighing nearly 500 kg was transported to the exposition by a crane of the Fire Rescue Brigade of the South Moravian Region. Umca and his partner Cora lived separately for approximately ten days; they enjoyed their parts in the den and took turns in the run. During that time they got used to each other and then their direct contact could occur. We expect the male will mate with the female at the end of the spring. The sadness after the departure of the young will be changed for expecting a new generation of Polar bears.

Bc. Eduard Stuchlik

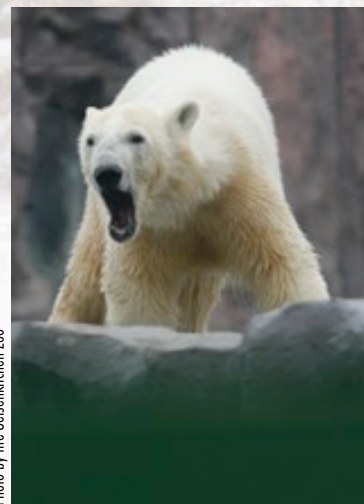


Photo by the Gelsenkirchen Zoo

Bill in the new exposition in Gelsenkirchen

Žďárské Vrchy – a Jewel of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands

Žďárské vrchy, which reach 836 m above sea level at its highest point – the Devět skal Peak, are situated approximately in the middle of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. It's an important spring area – Sázava, Chrudimka, Svratka and Oslava rivers begin their courses here. It has still preserved its character of balanced and harmonic cultural landscape with important natural populations. The hills of an area of 70 940 ha have been declared a protected landscape area (PLA) in 1970.

Low-mountain forest fauna of Hercynian origin predominates the Žďárské vrchy, relatively best preserved in the rests of original beech woods. There live 64 species of mammals, 12 of which are highly protected, in the area of the PLA nowadays. To the most important belong the following species: Alpine shrew [*Sorex alpinus*], European otter [*Lutra lutra*], Lesser horseshoe bat [*Rhinolophus hipposideros*] and Geoffroy's bat [*Myotis emarginatus*]. Also Canada lynx [*Lynx lynx*] is being irregularly observed.



Scarce large blue, rare and highly endangered butterfly of the Žďárské vrchy PLA

More than 160 bird species can be seen in the area, 108 of which demonstrably nest there. The most interesting species for preservation are Tengmalm's owl [*Aegolius funereus*], Eagle owl [*Bubo bubo*], Eurasian pygmy-owl [*Glaucidium passerinum*], Red-breasted flycatcher [*Ficedula parva*], Common kingfisher [*Alcedo atthis*], Spotted nutcracker [*Nucifraga caryocatactes*], Black stork [*Ciconia nigra*], Corn crake [*Crex crex*] and Hazel grouse [*Bonasa bonasia*].

There are 14 amphibian species documented on the area. The Smooth newt [*Triturus vulgaris*], Alpine newt [*Triturus alpestris*] and Common toad [*Bufo bufo*] belong to the common species so far. Much more rarely occur

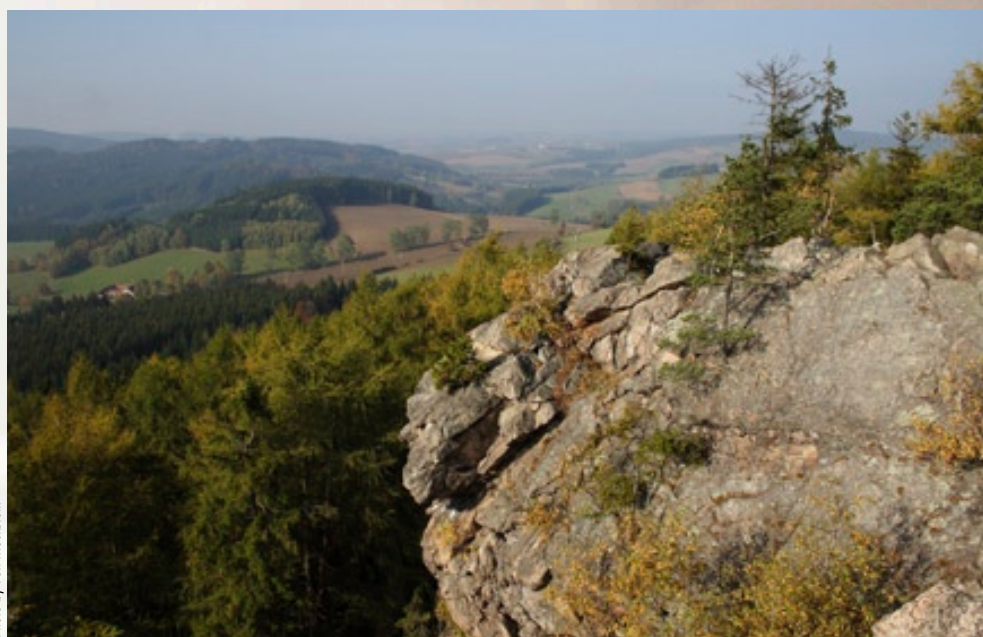


Photo by Petr Mückstein

Landscape of the Žďárské vrchy, rock called Prosička in the front

the Great crested newt [*Triturus cristatus*] or the Common spadefoot [*Pelobates fuscus*]. The Fire salamander [*Salamandra salamandra*] was documented only in site called Štříhý důl. The Adder [*Vipera berus*] can be seen on some observation points so far.

Ichthyofauna of the Žďárské vrchy is very well explored. Its species richness is proved with 35 kinds of fish, 24 of which are indigenous. The highly endangered Brook lamprey [*Lampetra planeri*] and also the Bullhead [*Cottus gobio*], Burbot [*Lota lota*] and Minnow [*Phoxinus phoxinus*] belong to the important species.

No less interesting is fauna of the invertebrates. Large white-faced darter [*Leucorrhinia pectoralis*], the so-called European important species of the Natura 2000 network, lives in suitable moorlands in the area. Arachnologic researches had found almost 300 spider species, some of which belong to the important tyrphobionts (organisms permanently living in moorlands), which are known only from few localities in the Czech Republic. From rare beetles, for example the Rhinoceros beetle [*Oryctes nasicornis*] and the Musk beetle [*Aromia moschata*] have been documented in the PLA; from butterflies, the Purple emperor [*Apatura iris*], Poplar admiral [*Limenitis populi*] and others may regularly be observed.

Unfortunately, some insect species have disappeared due to human activity and changes of the landscape. Moorland clouded yellow [*Colias palaeno*] that had occurred in moorlands in the Dářko Preserve till the 1980's can be named as an example. Another one

is the Longhorn beetle [*Rosalia alpina*] who's biotope (fair beechwood) was changed into production pine monocultures.

Since 1988, the PLA Administration has observed populations of some of the important bird species, e.g. the Tengmalm's owl, Black stork, Common rosefinch and White-throated dipper. Localities where the Corn crake [*Crex crex*] and the Common kingfisher [*Alcedo atthis*] occur are being regularly monitored at present time. Occurrence of many rare and protected species was documented and their protection was ensured thanks to intensive zoological researches in recent years.

RNDr. Petr Mückstein,
Zoologist, Žďárské vrchy PLA Administration



Photo by Petr Mückstein

Common rosefinch nests in the area of meadow-sweet



Photo by Pavel Hrazdina

Miroslav Zikmund in his study room in Zlín. In front a ginseng that the traveller brought from Russia about 50 years ago

Story of Rendezvous with Miroslav Zikmund

Book signing of the best known Czech traveller, Mr. Miroslav Zikmund, took place on the occasion of tourist fair "Go and Regiontour" in Brno exhibition grounds in the beginning of 2009. He introduced his newest book called *Trap at the Equator*. The book that was written with assistance of traveller Rudolf Švaříček describes

an expedition of two famous world travellers, Jiří Hanzelka and Miroslav Zikmund, to Asia in 1959. A fact that expeditions of Jiří Hanzelka and Miroslav Zikmund still raise a great interest even after more than 50 years is proven by two things: hundreds of fans came to get Zikmund's autograph in Brno and the printing of his book was completely sold in a week from its release.

Trap at the Equator reduces a publication emptiness that shrouded the second expedition around the world of the well-known travellers so far. Their first journey to Africa and America was perfectly described, but the second one to Asia was documented just partly. The last proper book published before 1989 was the *Continent below the Himalayas*, which had its printing of unbelievable 110 000 in 1969. With the approach of normalization, no other books of the two authors had been officially permitted until 1989.

A report about their second journey called *Special Report no. 4*, was written at direct instigation of Leonid Brezhnev in 1966. This report gave the administration of the Soviet Union an objective evidence of economical and social state of the Soviet areas between Ural and the Far East – the areas that the two Czechoslovaks visited. This secret report that could not be published until 1990 very critically describes the then state of the Soviet society and its economy. Therefore we have to appreciate the spirit of both the authors, who gave it to the Soviet and Czechoslovak communist elite at time when even smaller critics of the system resulted in imprisonment. We may deduce that



Photo by Pavel Hrazdina

Miroslav Zikmund (right) with Martin Hovorka



V. Sysoyev, J. Hanzelka and M. Zikmund on the boat deck on Amur River (29. 10. 1963)

also these facts endorsed to involve Hanzelka and Zikmund in the reform movement in 1968. These facts, together with their resentful attitude to invasion of the Warsaw Pact armies in 1968, were connected with the prohibition of their publication and public appearance in the following twenty years.

Mr. Jiří Hanzelka died after a long illness on 15 February 2003, Mr. Miroslav Zikmund has lived in good mental and physical health to be 90 in February 2009. Quite a few congratulants from public life came to visit him in Zlín on this special occasion. Mr. Martin Hovorka, director of the Brno Zoo, was among them; he prepared a special surprise for the honoree. Together with our zoologist, Mr. Bohumil Král, he delivered greetings and photos from Vsevolod Sysoyev, whom they had met in Khabarovsk in 2007 during their business trip to East Siberia. Mr. Sysoyev was one of the guides of the travellers Hanzelka and Zikmund during their expedition in Asia in 1959 – 1964.

And so one February day we are sitting in Miroslav Zikmund's house in Zlín, his study room with thousands of books, documents and souvenirs from expeditions has got an unforgettable ambience, and the traveller thinks back on the time with Hanzelka in the Soviet Union, where they had got special guides – reputedly

for higher safety and easier travelling: *I asked: What for? We know Russian well and we have roadworthy and well equipped cars, which we also can sleep in. However, their goal was to constantly keep their eye on us, so we had not made a step without our pursuers during our whole journey through the USSR. As we later found out they were mostly people who informed the NKVD (later KGB) about every our step. After 1989, when we came to Moscow, we have heard from our friend who had access to the archives that there are mountains of reports about our journey written exactly by our guides. And Vsevolod Sysoyev was one of these assigned guides. But he was an absolute exception among the other guides, because he was a man who opened our hearts. I would make a bet that he hadn't sent any reports to NKVD in Moscow. And it was Vsevolod Sysoyev (we called him Sievka), who enabled us to visit the so-called "zapovedniki" (nature preserves; author's note) – places we would never get opportunity to visit. We also had to visit the demonstration villages, where local representatives with many medals had welcomed us and where it was evident at first appearance that everything was prepared in advance, the behaviour of people was affected and insincere. And right in these moments, I saw in Sievka's eyes, how embarrassing it was for*



Vsevolod Sysoyev, actual photo

him and how bad he felt. I can also say that he was one of the two people from USSR, who had not been afraid to contact us even during our prohibition (the second one was Leonid Shinkarov, a correspondent of Izvestija). I think that's the most important part of the problem. In the end the story has an interesting supplement: during Michail Gorbachev's era many Russians had been coming to Czechoslovakia and speaking about the new age of detente and perestroika, but no one of them was that brave to publish our Special Report no. 4. More than 20 years after its writing! And Vsevolod Sysoyev was the only one, who was that brave and published our book. I think he made this decision because he was an excellent hunter of wolves, tigers and bears and thus he was not afraid neither of wolves, tigers and bears in the then Soviet Politburo. Therefore I'm very glad that I can hereby greet Sievka, who is already 96 years old, and express my thanks to him once again.

Mgr. Pavel Hrazdīra,
P. R. officer of the Brno Zoo



Photo of Petr Stejskal ranked first in the photographic competition on the occasion of the little bears' departure

Small Bears Do Not Miss Each Other!

Well, the Polar bear twins left the Brno Zoo. The time of common games has ended and the real life is expecting them now. Other zoos were quite interested in their arrival bringing new blood into the Polar bear breeding. At the end a final decision was made and from the beginning of the year Bill was expected in the Gelsenkirchen Zoo in the north of Germany and Tom in the Prague Zoo...

Their farewell was a moving event. The twins became darlings of visitors soon after their birth – 326,930 people came to the zoo especially to see the small playful bears in 2008, which is by 74,543 more visitors than in the previous year and the highest number since 1990.

At the occasion of departure of the small bears the zoo declared a literary, an art and a photographic competition. Prizes to the winners were festively handed over by Martin Ander, the Deputy Mayor of Brno, and Martin Hovorka, the Brno Zoo Director, on 15 February, when the second young was leaving Brno. A poem by Anna Marie Střechová from Kanice u Brna stared as the best one in the literary competition for the children up to 10. Ten years old Trinh Thui Trang from Prague and nine years old Radek Peloušek from Hustopeče won the art competition divided to two age categories. Petr Stejskal from Brno ranked first in the photographic competition.

Crowds of fans had always gathered near the transport car during the both days of the young bear's departure. But

emotions have been rising long before. Even various questions appeared: Will the mutual separation and the loss of their mother cause harm to them? How will they withstand the journey to an unknown place? Will the small bears miss each other? We did not know how much they will miss each other at that time. Critical was (and always is) the environment they would come to and how would they settle in it.

Transporting the small Polar bears was also necessary because they could not stay with their mother. Polar bears are loners; there can only be one male in a territory. Bill with Tom, who had been playing together in a friendly way until their last common days in Brno, would fight to death at the time of sexual maturing. So are the laws of nature. Also a female which breeds the young drives the maturing off-springs away from her, which is a natural reflex given by the biology of the species. It is only man who behaves sometimes irrationally in similar situations.

Therefore we had to separate the small bears. Every animal copes with moving with difficulties, the level of stress is individual. It depends on more factors, e.g. the transport duration, the animal's age or the necessity for tranquillizing. Bill and Tom travelled to their new homes fully conscious.

With regard to the future inclusion in a couple, the age of one year is ideal for transporting a bear. Older animals which do not know each other are not able to adapt very well in zoos. Bill and Tom's parents who also came to our zoo at the age of approximately one year, got along with each other from the beginning and got used to the new environment quickly. I believe that Bill and Tom will soon forget Brno, their native town. Not because of ingratitude, but because they will find new comfortable homes and new life partners...

Jan Kameník



Winning drawings of ten years old Trinh Thui Trang from Prague (in the left) and nine years old Radek Peloušek from Hustopeče

Two Little Grevy's Zebras

A herd of four Grevy's zebras [*Equus grevyi*] has increased by two members at the turn of the year. 12 years old female Šaráda, born in the Dvůr Králové nad Labem Zoo, delivered a young one on 30 December 2008 and two days later, on 1 January 2009, another young one was born to a seven years old female called Miša, which comes from the Polish Poznań Zoo. Both the arrivals are females; their father is the leader of the herd, ten years old Arnold, brought from the Prague Zoo at the end of 2007 (Arnold was born in the Tierpark Berlin). Both the mothers whelped in a stable and already the third day after the birth they went together with their young ones into the run, but only for a while. At present they all go out daily and the length of their stay depends on the current weather. (gala)

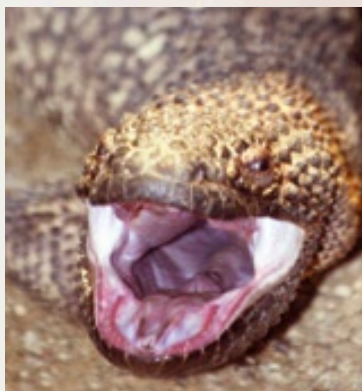


Grevy's Zebra (young one)

First Poisonous Lizards

It applied on the animals in the Tropical Kingdom pavilion established in 1998 that there was no poisonous animal among them until recently. Since this January the situation has changed: the only poisonous lizards appeared in one of the expositions – beaded lizards.

On 21 January 2009 at 7:22 a.m., I took over a consignment at the Prague Ruzyně Airport from the zoo in the British Edinburgh, which contained a couple of the Mexican beaded lizards [*Heloderma horridum*] (Wiegmann, 1829). Both the animals were born in the Edinburgh Zoo, the male in February 2005, the female in January 2004. The lizards landed after 14 hours' journey. We managed together with Horizon Air Freight, our Czech partner in air transport, to overcome restric-



Mexican beaded lizard in the new exposition which imitate the Sonora Desert

tions in transports of animals from the British Isles to the Continent and we managed to do the booking of the flight and loading itself together with our freighter from the Czech Republic.

We placed the beaded lizards in a new exposition in the Tropical Kingdom which was created by merging and modifying two smaller vivaria. It represents the desert environment of Mexico and adjacent areas of the US southwest. Its first inhabitants were the Twin-spotted spiny lizards [*Sceloporus magister*] and Chuckwallas [*Sauromalus obesus*], which are now sharing the new area with the Mexican beaded lizards. More details on breeding of beaded lizards are given in the professional supplement to this issue of Zooreport. Jiří Vitek,

Operating zoologist

Cora Celebrated Her Ten's Birthday in Quiet

Four days upon the first birthday of Bill and Tom, the twins, their mother Cora, also a twin, has lived to be ten years old (born on 27 November 1998 in the Russian St. Petersburg to parents coming from the wild). Almost nobody noticed the mother's anniversary in the happy atmosphere around successfully growing young.

Cora came to Brno in 2000, where Umca had been waiting for her. She has never had any troubles with the male. We noticed the first expressions of their sexual behaviour in April 2003 and March 2004. The mating in April 2005 was fertile and on 1 December 2005 Cora delivered two young. Unfortunately, the first breeding was unsuccessful and both small males died in two days because their mother did not have milk. Since the summer 2006 the couple has lived in a bigger exposition with lodgings after Brown bears. Cora delivered another



two young on 6 December 2006. She did not accept the one of them (we immediately started artificial breeding) and took the other to the den and stayed there with it. Unfortunately, the small female died on the third day and the artificially bred male ended in the same way. When Cora delivered for the third time on 23 November 2007, she was an experienced mother, her mother instincts were fully developed, and she suckled her young ones and watched them all the time. The example of her gradual change into a careful mother is perfect. In nature as well as in captivity, most Polar bear females are able to take care of their young ones only after the third delivery. (red)



Cora (in the right) with her sister Kolin and her mother Uslaga in 1999

Photo from archive of the Leningrad Zoopark



Photo by Michal Balcar

Hatching of Leopard tortoises

First Young Leopard Tortoises

Leopard tortoises have been reproduced at the Brno Zoo for the first time in its history by the turn of year; their original homeland is in the prairies and savannahs of the Middle, East and South Africa. Seven little tortoises have hatched out during seven days in an incubator at the Tropical Kingdom pavilion from an egg-laying that consisted of seven eggs.

Our zoo has bred the Leopard tortoises since 1998, when we gained a group of specimens of the *Stygmochelys pardalis babcocki* subspecies (Loveridge, 1935). Since 2002 the "leopards"

have lived with the Rhinoceros iguanas in one of expositions of the Tropical Kingdom pavilion, where also the first egg-laying appeared in 2002. These and also all other following eggs laid up to 2007 were either unfertilized or the development of embryos was aborted. In 2007 we firstly placed our tortoises to an outdoor enclosure where they could spend the summer time on fresh air and sun. The female laid eggs back in the indoor part already during autumn, but the breeding was

not successful again. The success came the next year in a sandy bottom of the outdoor part of the exhibit.

The Brno Zoo belongs to the most successful European institutions, which try not only to keep turtles, but also to reproduce them. The first registered breed of the European pond turtle [*Emys orbicularis*], critically endangered in the Czech Republic, has been managed in Brno already in 1969. 28 years later, I witnessed another hatching of this species on the Mniší hora Hill in Brno. Reproduction of three kinds of the *Testudinidae* tribe may be declared as another great success. Four young Hermann's tortoises [*Testudo hermanni*], the best known European tortoises, were born in 1995. Much more important are the reproductions of the biggest tortoises of the European continent, the Marginated tortoise [*Testudo marginata*]; 55 of them were born in Brno during 1995–1999. Reproduction of another species, the Egyptian tortoise [*Testudo kleinmanni*], still belongs to the world's rarities. Altogether five young ones were born at the Brno Zoo during 1995–1997. Only the renowned Jersey Zoo and later the London Zoo managed to reproduce this species in the 1990's. Repeated breeding aren't known so far.

The Leopard tortoise is the last turtle species so far that has let us celebrate its young ones. We closely inform about their breeding in the Special Supplement of this issue.

Michal Balcar,

Foreman at the Tropical Kingdom pavilion



Young broke a hole in the shell



Photo by Michal Balcar

Adult Leopard tortoise



Chimpanzee

Better Times Finally Come to Our Chimpanzees

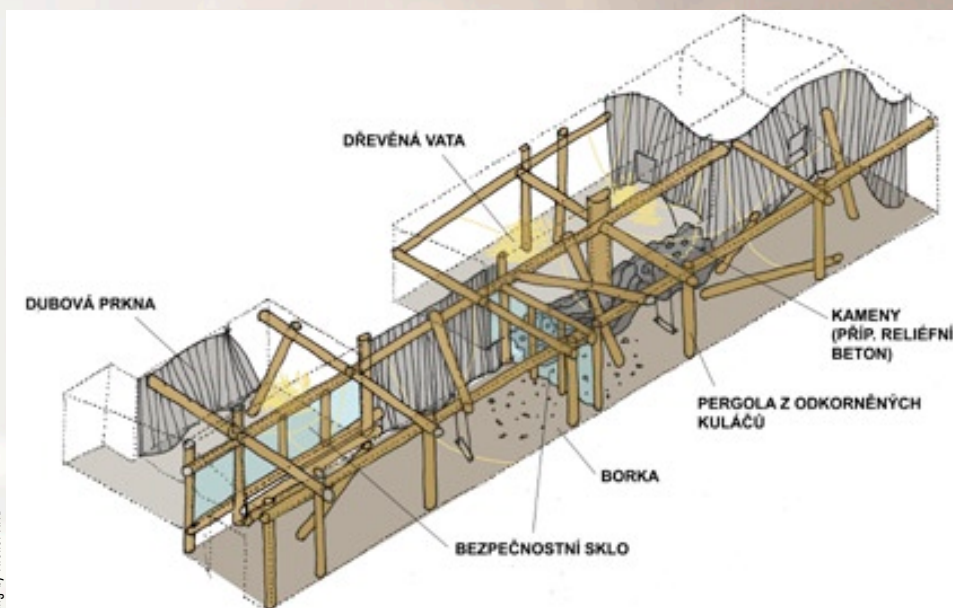
One of the two pavilions of apes that have served the Brno Zoo in unchanged state since the half of 1960's is going to be rebuilt into a breeding facility corresponding to present breeding criteria. Sum of money necessary for the demanding repairs was authorised from the Brno city budget in the end of the last year. Therefore the construction work can start already this year.

The pavilion situated in a hillside has two floors and its ground plan creates a rectangle prolonged in the axis of the visitors' route. The animals can be observed either from outside – when they are in the outdoor part – or from a corridor inside the pavilion where the indoor part is visible. Entrance is situated on the second floor and is accessible by an outdoor stairway.

We breed a four-member group of chimpanzees in the pavilion; there are also two mandrills and one Celebes black ape, one exposition is currently vacant. The building will serve mostly the chimpanzees after the reconstruction, only a smaller part will be reserved for some smaller ape species.

Original construction will stay retained, there's no need to touch the statics of the building. We will change the indoor layout of the premises, so that we gain more room for animals. We will let them even to the ground floor where a store is nowadays. We will connect the indoor parts into one large room which we will enlarge at the expense of the visitors' corridor. The visitors will be

Drawing by Atelier AND



Interior layout of the future chimpanzee pavilion

divided from the animals only by a hardened glass. We will use natural materials for the indoor part equipment; there is mostly concrete and iron there nowadays. Outdoor part will have a completely new layout. Present cages made of heavy grating in front of the facade will be demolished (there will be green instead of it which will shade the facade). Two new outdoor runs will be built at both sides of the pavilion on the opposite slope, where part of the original vegetation will be preserved. The enclosures will be bound by full wall with glass insights and covered with a stainless net. Visitors will walk around the enclosures in an outdoor corridor; the entrance will be connected with pavement by a barrier-free ramp, from where one of the parts will be visible, too.

Breeding of apes apparently takes less important position at the Brno Zoo. Breeders, who are in charge of animals from both the pavilions, can tell us that the visitors always find their way to the pavilions and almost always the apes reward them with extraordinary experience. The stumbling block is the age of the buildings, of course. At the time of their building, the facilities belonged to a high standard; however today everything is different. The often criticized part of our zoo will fortunately grow younger. Nevertheless chimpanzees and other apes will not live there for good. The reconstruction is a part of a plan to include



Photo by Atelier AND

Interior visualization of the future chimpanzee pavilion

the object into an exposition called Madagascar in future; one day the lemurs will be moved there from the neighbouring pavilion.

The future of apes in our zoo is connected with another part of the premises. Strategy of Development of the Brno Zoo situates their definite home into the present orchard, one of the highest places of the garden.

Bc. Eduard Stuchlík

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