

zoo

report

August 2003

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

BRNO



Extraordinary issue

50th anniversary of the Zoo

The Speech
MVDr. Martin Hovorka

PAGE 3



The largest bear enclosure in Czechoslovakia

PAGE 4, 5



First artificial nursing of a chimpanzee

PAGE 6, 7



Brno also has a „safari“

PAGE 8, 9



Exotic Bird Pavilion

PAGE 10, 11



The Turning Point of the Nineties

PAGE 12, 13



Development strategy for the Zoological Garden
of the City of Brno

PAGE 14, 15



This extraordinary issue of Zooreport, which is published on the 50th anniversary of the opening of Zoo Brno, has been compiled by Eduard Stuchlík. He has proceeded from the hitherto unpublished work of Emil Štíssl, The City of Brno and its Zoological Garden and Fifty Stops in Zoo Brno, from articles about animal collections published in Zooreport by RNDr. Bohumil Král, CSc., and from the document Development Strategy of Zoo Brno, which was drawn up by the Regional Development Agency for South Moravia in co-operation with Zoo Brno.

Zooreport

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo
August 2003
Extraordinary issue for the 50th
anniversary of the Zoo.

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Cheetahs

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Frogs

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New concept draws on the theory of evolution

In the course of the next ten years, Zoo Brno would like to redevelop its entire complex in line with a new concept of exhibiting that draws on the evolutionary perspective.

However, given the fact that it is not possible to breed particular species or groups in all evolutionary contexts, Zoo Brno wants to emphasise the diverse evolutionary moments, which can be labelled as "breaks" in evolution. These breaks ought to represent breeding as outlined at three levels.

The first will contain four extensive exhibitions of fauna from relatively small territories which played a significant role during the formation of animal species for the given areas. These broadly conceived exhibitions will bear the names of Beringia, Caribbean, Wallachia and Kalahari. The complex of Beringia exhibits will demonstrate the significance of the continental bridges that joined Asia and America as key to the creation of northern fauna. The first part of Beringia, an exhibition of Canadian beavers, will be open to the public on August 30th, 2003.

The second will take the form of exhibits of fauna from territories that display the role of isolation or adaptation in the occurrence of independent forms or species. This involves exhibits of animals from small and larger islands in the sea and from "islands in the sky" – the Himalayas. An example of such a method for breeding animals is already apparent with the Tiger Cliffs exhibition (Tygří skály), in which Zoo Brno

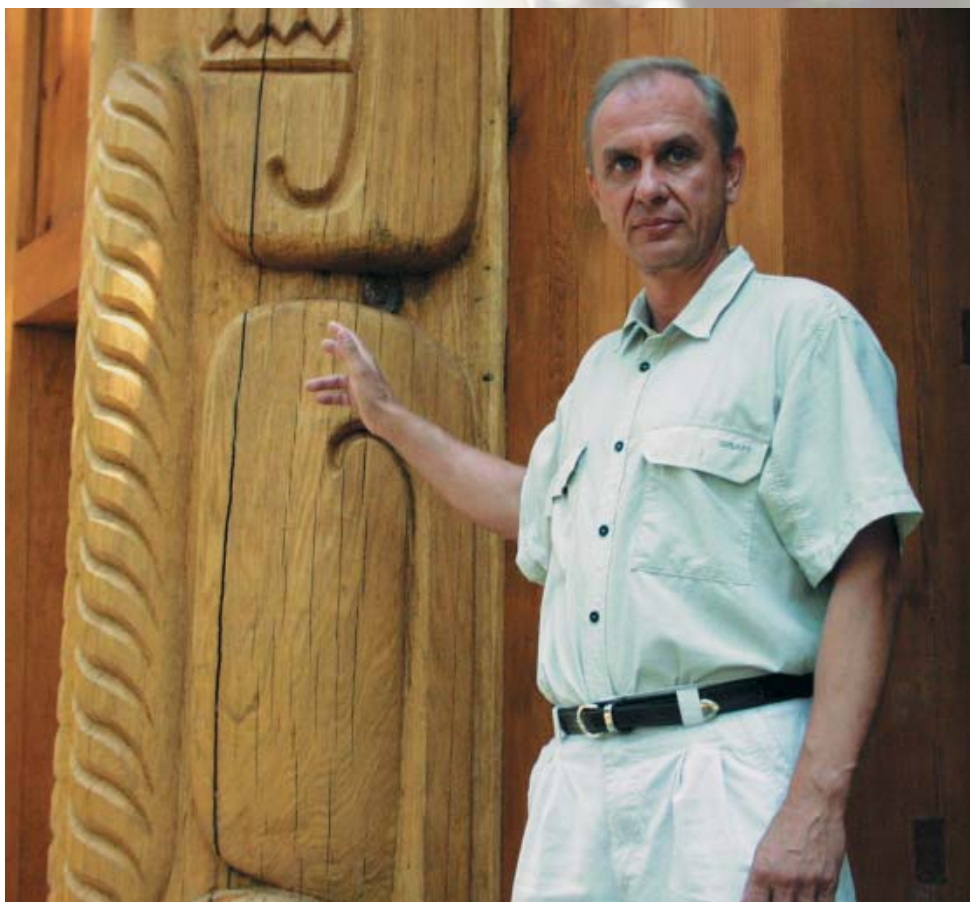


Photo: Eduard Stachlik

MVDr. Martin Hovorka

has kept Sumatran Tigers and Sri Lankan Leopards since 2000.

The third level will be the introduction of representatives from select systematic groups. This exhibition system will be supplemented by water communities from Moravian rivers, the Children's Zoo, an open-air museum with domestic animals, and a falconry meadow.

The WAZA Congress supports our aims

For these new exhibitions, we will select only those species for which we are

able to create the appropriate environmental conditions. We introduced the breeding concept mentioned above at the WAZA congress in Pretoria, South Africa in the autumn of 1999 and it aroused great attention and support from the professional public.

Zoo Brno wants to keep step with the latest developmental trends in the breeding of animals. It hopes to be a zoo whose mission it is to provide rest and relaxation to visitors, whilst gently cultivating in them a positive relationship to the natural environment. The Zoo also intends to breed rare, endangered species of animal and to participate in the protection of these animals outside the zoo, in the areas where they have lived naturally until now.

MVDr. Martin Hovorka

Born in 1954 in Mladá Boleslav, Martin Hovorka graduated from the Secondary School of Veterinary Medicine in 1973. After two years of military service, he worked as a veterinary technician. He then studied at the Veterinary Faculty in Brno between 1978 and 1984, where he later worked as a lecturer at the Epizootology and Microbiology Departments. Between 1991 and 1996, he took up various positions in agricultural primary production. He then became Director of the Zoological Park of the City of Brno in January 1997. With his wife, who is a veterinarian, Martin Hovorka has two children: his daughter Iva is 22 years old and his son Tomáš is 15.

MVDr. Martin Hovorka
Director of Zoo Brno



Photo: Zoo Brno Archives

Brown bear run prior to completion

The largest bear enclosure in Czechoslovakia

Although the beginnings of the Zoological Garden of the City of Brno were very modest, already during the first decade of its existence, it has succeeded in building the largest bear enclosure in Czechoslovakia.

Just a few months after the celebratory opening, which took place on 30 August 1953, there still was no ticket booth at the zoo; entrance fees were collected in a hat. Covering an area of 10 hectares, the garden offered seven hundred meters of visitor paths along which were placed cages, aviaries and enclosures, while even two old circus wagons served as animal quarters. Despite this, the opening of the zoo became a significant



Photo: Zoo Brno Archives

Brown bear run building

event for Brno and by the end of the year, 34 594 visitors had passed through the zoo.

The first collection consisted only of mammals and birds, comprised of 151 animals from 51 species predominantly of domestic origin. The zoologically most significant specimen was the European Wolverine, while other species were, for example, Brown Bear, Island Lynx, Wild Cat, Badger, Porcupine, Northern Raccoon, Bactrian Camel, Llama, Yak, White Stork, Black Stork, Musk Duck, Barn Owl, Eagle Owl, Indian Pea Fowl and others. Still in this year, a pair of lions were added to the zoo.

Originally, the one building in the garden was the gamekeeper's cottage, some of the spaces of which served as the zoo offices.

The first pavilion was built by zoo staff - with the help of volunteers from an array of Brno aquarium and terrarium enthusiasts - in 1956. Adaptation of the slab-shaped building created the aqua-terrarium, marked as the provisional vivarium, and modernly equipped for its day: visitors passed through a darkened passageway with twenty-six illuminated tanks with fish, amphibians or reptiles. Overall, this involved a collection composed predominantly of domestic species. In 1960, the provisional vivarium was expanded by another tract in which there were tanks for crocodiles, large lizards and snakes, as well as for the rare Giant Tortoise. Amphibians were introduced both as representatives of local fauna, for example, Spotted



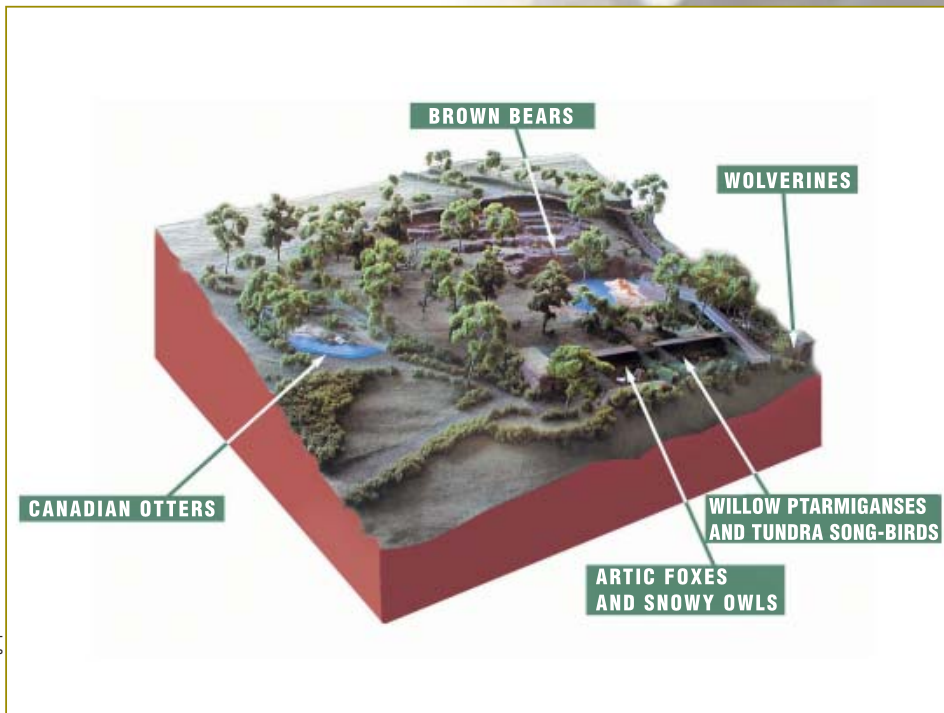
Photo: Zoo Brno Archives

First notice board of Brno Zoo

Salamander, Giant Newt, Green Toad, as well as foreign species – the almost bellowing voice of visitors welcomed the loud and huge North American Bullfrog. The rarest of the rare was then the Chinese Giant Salamander.

In 1959, several other significant buildings arose on Mniší hora. Adaptation of a poultry coop enabled the development of the first bird pavilion, a new entrance space was built and the visitors' trail was extended to 1700 meters, where it ended at the new bear enclosure, the largest and most modern of its day in Czechoslovakia. During its celebratory opening, the attendance record was shattered, as ten thousand people came (this number was not exceeded until 2002 during the opening of the Centre for Services developed from the reconstruction of the old administrative building). The bears Váňa and Duňa, hitherto exhibited in the wagons, could run about a large area without bars located on the rocky slope and supplemented by a water reservoir and quarters. The first Brno pair of brown bears successfully raised off-spring after moving to this space. Later, two more females were added to the large bear enclosure, at one point the run housed four

Photo and graphics: Václav Houč



Model of the future Brown Bear run

young cubs, which attracted hordes of visitors. The nineteen year old female Mirka, which lives in the run with its partner Emil, has given birth to five small cubs, the last one this year in January. According to the new exhibition concept of Zoo Brno, the brown bears will receive an entirely new run,

which will be incorporated into the group of exhibitions for Beringia, representing the animals of the Far North. The run will be located near Tiger Cliffs and will be the introductory exhibition for all Beringia. The exhibition will be of natural character of the northern forest-tundra, the view into it will be provided from certain locations through glass or from look-outs at a lake with a geyser. The new bear enclosure is to neighbour on a run for Siberian Wolverine, which takes the form of the deep taiga, the Canadian Otter and Polar Fox with a double aviary, Snowy Owl, Snow Grouse and the Snow Hare from the tundra.

The first monkey pavilion was built in Zoo Brno in 1960. The first pair of chimpanzees appeared in the Zoo and they found refuge in the annex to the provisional vivarium, preserved in its expanded form today as the quarters and run for a pair of pumas.

At the end of the first decade of the existence of Zoo Brno, the wooden fencing for ungulates began to be replaced by metal pipe fencing and the garden expanded from the slopes of Mniší hora into its lower sections.



Photo: Miloš Burík

Visitors to Zoo Brno feed the llamas. Snapshot from 1955.

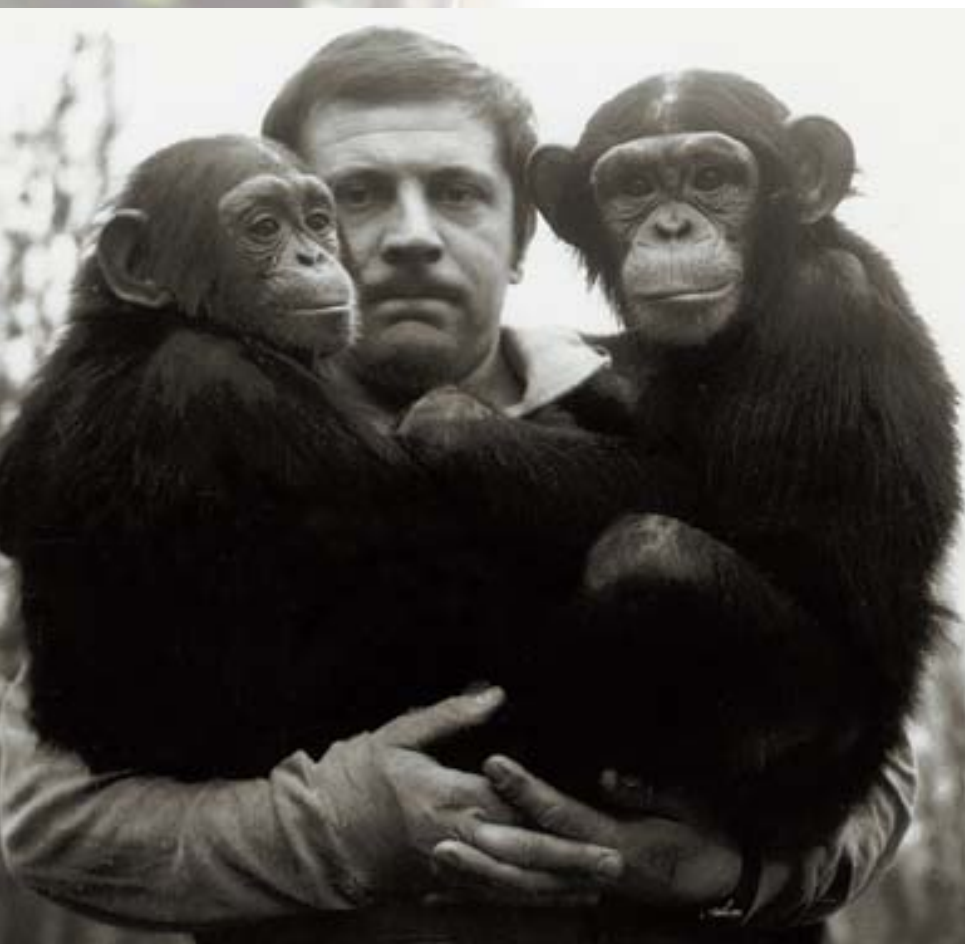


Photo: Zoo Brno Archives

First pair of chimpanzees in the Brno Zoo...



Photo: Zoo Brno Archives

... and their offspring, the first artificially weaned chimpanzee in Czechoslovakia

First artificial nursing of a chimpanzee

In the sixties, the keepers at Zoo Brno recorded their first success of international significance, when they succeeded in artificially nursing a chimpanzee and a Caracal Lynx. Active construction efforts dominated in the zoo during this period.

Management of construction work guided the first general construction, which

was drafted in 1960 by Ing. arch. Otto Eisler. According to the design by the architect Eisler, a close collaborator with Zoo Brno, who also designed, among others, a large run for Brown Bears in the years 1964 through 1965, the garden built two mutually connected and at that time very modern monkey pavilions. In them were placed Lar Gibbons and a series of smaller monkey species, but chiefly a pair of chimpanzees found refuge here, which had been housed up to now in the unsuitable spaces of the annex of the provisional vivarium. In the new monkey house, a significant breeder event took place in 1967 – the first artificial nursing of a chimpanzee in Czechoslovakia.

Among the success of artificial nursing from the second decade of the existence of Zoo Brno also belong twenty two Caracals, which were nursed by the keeper Zdeňka Navrátilová in the years 1966 through 1972 – this was something unique in Europe. The

abovementioned keeper looked after the young predator felines, which the garden has kept in many species from the 1950s to today in a series of cages standing along the path from Tiger Cliffs to the wolf enclosure – it is called the Avenue of Small Predators. Already in the 1950s, pumas, Island Lynx, and later the abovementioned Caracals could be found there. In 1987, three servals were nursed, the first such in Czechoslovakia, and also significant are the nursing of Bengal and Fisher Cats from the turn of the 80s and 90s. Even with the Snow Leopard, which it never owned, the Brno Zoo has successfully multiplied all large felines. Also for these animals, it has often occurred that the female young did not take to nursing, so in place of the mother, a keeper jumped in. In the years 1962-1972, the garden nursed eleven lions, from 1976-1985 twenty six tigers, from 1971-1973 three leopards, and from 1968-1979 five jaguars.

Realization of the new vivarium from 1966 to 1970 on the southern, lower summit of Mniší hora, at an elevation of 297 meters above sea level, the approaching end of the existence of the provisional vivarium has been recorded. The avant garde Eisler design of a glass rotunda was not accepted, and so a more economical variant was adopted, a hall with a ridge roof linked to the ground-floor tract. Even this building



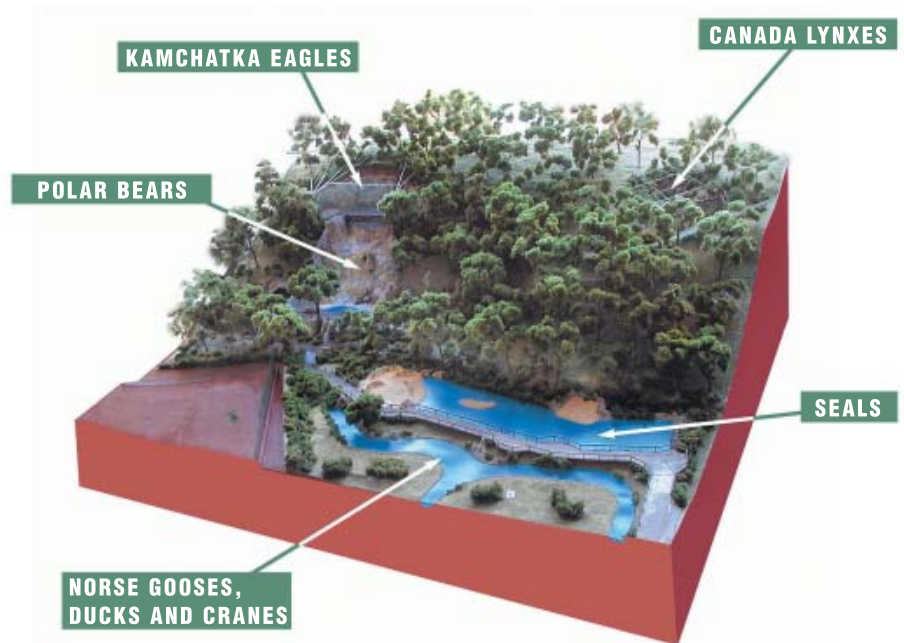
Photo: Zoo Brno Archives

First polar bear bred in Czechoslovakia

used much glass and as has been shown, primarily in great glass exhibition halls, it is difficult to maintain proper temperature in winter. The ridge roof of the hall was therefore heated and glass cubicles were built inside, which demonstrated suitable features for crocodiles and caimans. The crocodiles in this environment to this day have successfully multiplied and the caimans have laid eggs. All the amphibians and reptiles moved into the new vivarium from the provisional aqua-terrarium, and gradually more species have been added. Fish transported by the zoo staff in 1969 to Radnicka Street 6, where the garden has arranged its own Permanent Aquarium Exhibit.

The first pair of polar bears, which appeared in Zoo Brno in 1964, did not have their own exhibition so they had to alternate in the large runs with the brown bears. After a year, the polar bears were relocated to Zoo Bratislava and in 1966, they were replaced by a new pair, imported from the former Soviet Union. The old predator enclosure was expanded by a pool and in 1967, the polar bears brought offspring to the world, which were successfully nursed artificially. This was the first artificial nursing of polar bears in Czechoslovakia and the fourth in the world, and together with the artificial nursing of the chimpanzee, represented a significant international success for Zoo Brno in 1967.

Photo and graphics: Václav Hošík



Model of the future Polar Bear run

The expanded old predator enclosure was occupied by the polar bears until 1987, after has been inhabited by a pair of Syrian bears since that time. In 2000 the garden acquired two young polar bears from the Zoo Alma-Ata and Zoo Saint Petersburg. In the future, Zoo Brno plans to move the polar bears to

the large bear enclosure from 1959. Its area is to be still approximately doubled and the entire area modernized – for example expansion of the quarters, increasing the water reservoir, introducing a waterfall. The exhibition is located on a steep slope, which will make it possible to see into the lower edge of the run from a platform. The current visitors' path will be changed into foot-bridges passing through the aviary of Kamchatka eagles. The future area for polar bears and Kamchatka eagles should be planned – together with the exhibitions of seals, Northern cranes and geese, as the forefront of the reconstructed bear enclosure – part of the Beringia exhibition complex. This should also become the entrance exhibition to the entire zoo. The garden intends to use the land at the edge of the adjacent municipal neighbourhood of Kníničky for construction of a parking lot with a new entrance into the garden.



Photo: Michal Piškala

Young Polar Bear



Photo: Michal Piskula

Safari run



Photo: Michal Piskula

Giraffes reach up to the view terrace at Safari

Brno also has a „safari“

In the middle of the seventies, when the exhibition for horned animals took on its definitive form, the garden set out to build an extensive run for African ungulates, which deserves the name Safari. Zoo employees, together with volunteers, began to build the Brno safari near the main summit of Mniší hora, right where the water tower rises, part of the new system for utility water supply.

The area with a lookout area, stables and small lake with a stream was completed in 1980. Over a one hectare area, representatives of the fauna of Sub-Saharan savan-

nah live together: Baringo Giraffe, Scimitar-Horned Oryx, adax, Böhm and Chapman Zebras, Blue Wildebeest, Kobus-Leches, and ostrich. Also released into Safari were winged cranes and Nile Geese. Today in this run, the garden keeps Reticulated Giraffe, Blue Wildebeest, Chapman Zebra and birds representing the Ostrich family. The ostriches regularly lay eggs, which keepers take away and store until hatched. This year, we anticipate eight young, which we will then offer to other gardens in exchange for other animal species. The wildebeest also regularly breed young and the zebra have also mul-

tiplied. Part of Safari is now divided by a stone wall under the protection of which the female wildebeest can raise its offspring in peace. In upcoming years, we also expect giraffe offspring. The collection of small cats grew in 1974 with the addition of a pair of cheetahs. About a year later, the cheetahs already had a spacious grassy run, built along the path leading to the vivarium on the southern summit of Mniší hora. Unfortunately, the cheetahs did not multiply and today they are housed at the back of the zoo. Arising in place of their run is today's exhibition of South American species – Patagonian Hare, Capybara, Rheas and Maned Wolf. During the 70s and 80s, the species composition of monkeys stabilized to

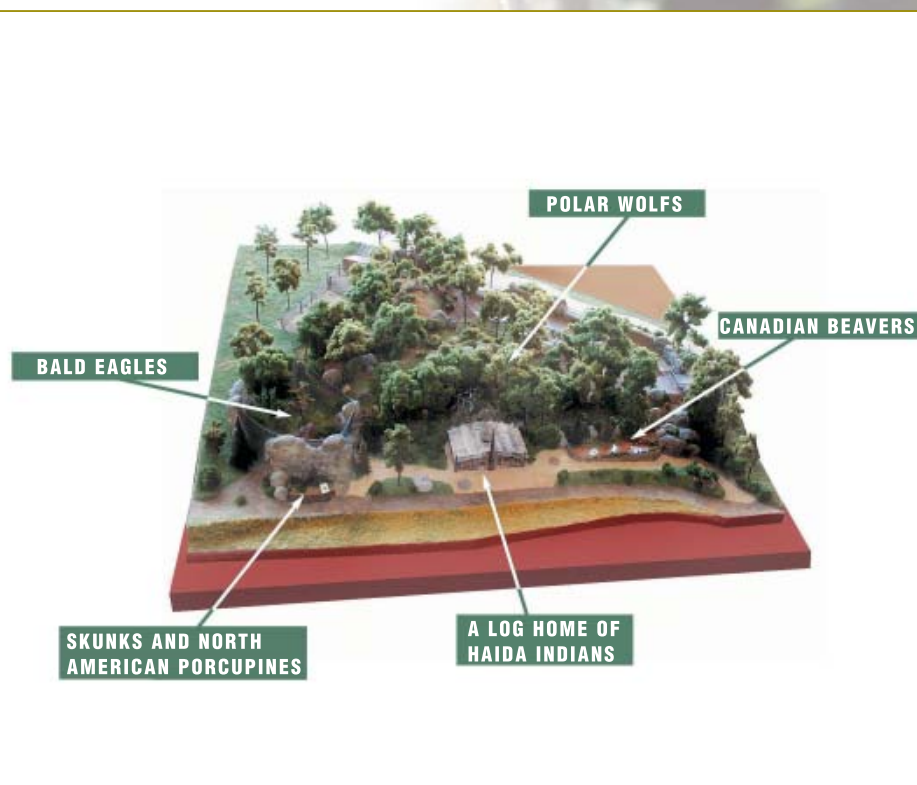


Photo: Michal Piskula

Cheetah

the degree we know it today. To the chimpanzees were added Gelada Baboon, Anubis Baboon, Mandrill, Sulawesi Crested Macaque, Patas and Green Monkey, White-faced Lemur, Black and White-faced Lemur, Pygmy Marmoset and Common Squirrel Monkey. Zoo Brno also had orangutans in its exhibitions. In 1981, it acquired specimens from the zoo in Dvůr Králové of seven of these apes, the majority were returned to the original owner within three years. One pair remained, but only a dead offspring came of it and in 1986 the parents died. The newest species of monkey are Golden-handed Tamarins, which just like the Pygmy Marmoset create the atmosphere of a tropical forest in the Tropical Kingdom Pavilion. In 1977 near the Avenue of Small Predators, Canadian Wolves and Dingos received two adjacent and relatively extensive runs, to which a run for Hyena Dogs was added in 1989. These animals, like the Dingo, are no longer kept at the Zoo, while in locations of the abovementioned runs, a large new run will be opened this year for Canadian Wolves and Canadian Beaver, linked by a waterfall system. To both runs later will be added an aviary for Bald Eagles and an exhibition for North American porcupines and skunks. The new run for Canadian Wolves with adjacent exhibition will become the entrance area to

Photo and graphics: Václav Hořák



Model of the run for Canadian Wolves and Beaver (under construction)

the Beringia complex. In addition to the Safari run, in 1980 Zoo Brno also completed the construction of a new administrative building with club rooms and lecture halls, equipped with top of the line audio-visual technology. The abovementioned spaces are continuously in operation, the hall this year is undergoing basic reconstruction. The club rooms and the hall provide new possibilities

for development work with youth, currently conducted in provisional conditions in the cleaned out former aqua-terrarium.

Since the beginning of its existence, a significant part of Zoo Brno's activity has been adult education. The founder of teaching and educational activities in Zoo Brno was the secondary school professor emeritus of biology, Bruno Valoušek, who worked on Mniší hora in the years from 1955 to 1971. Among others, Profesor Valoušek established a circle for young biologists, from the basis of which originated the Station for Young Natural Scientists in 1978. Currently, this operates in fourteen professional sections. The breadth of activities of the station is probably unique in comparison to similar facilities in other zoos of our Republic. In the area of education, Zoo Brno also offers lectures and excursions for students of all types of schools, excursions also accomodating handicapped citizens. Zoo Brno is one Czech garden that has established the so-called Low Threshold Club, whose mission is to prevent juvenile crime.



Photo: Jana Kambrová

Frequenterers of the Low Threshold Club on an excursion in the Zoo



Green-winged macaw

Exotic Bird Pavilion

The most significant building completed on Mniší hora during the eighties was the Exotic Bird Pavilion. It was finished in 1987, and three years later the permanent and outdoor aviaries were also completed.

The new pavilion arose on the ridge of Mniší hora, roughly in the middle between the lower and upper summit of the hill. Located in it, in addition to large macaws, are rare parrot species such as the Hyacinth Macaw, Cuban Amazona and the Palm or Molucca Cockatoo. In the current collection we may see the very rare Vasa Parrot from Madagascar, the Kea from New Zealand or the South American Blue-Headed Macaw. Birds supplement the exhibit of Common Squirrel Monkeys and Kangaroo Rats. The newest pavilion houses part of the group of approximately forty parrots rescued from contraband animal smugglers when seized by customs officials in Spring 2002 at the Prague-Ruzyně Airport.

In the future, the Zoo intends to rebuild the pavilion for an exhibition of Australian fauna, where birds will form a very significant and numerous part of the exhibits. According to current exhibition trends, a much more valuable group of individuals from wild species should replace, for example, the mul-

ti-coloured character of the budgerigar. The Australian exhibit will be subdivided according to biotopes into bush, dry lake, aviary, and kangaroo run, in which a wild dog dingo run will be linked. Already at the opening of the Zoo, birds comprised the most abundant part of the exhibited animals, while species of our fauna predominated, including strains of domestic animals. In subsequent years, however, the number of birds rapidly increased, both domestic and exotic song-birds as well as fowl-like and water birds. Birds of prey also increased, at one time receiving a large aviary. An entire array of larger aviaries were built – from today's point of view, however, they were not large; evidence of this is one of two hitherto preserved cages, now holding a pair of raccoons. This small space originally served to keep ducks and later cormorants and gulls. Our owls, snowy owls, and later the birds of prey found somewhat better conditions in the second preserved aviary, in the so-called four-cage owl area. The larger aviary was built for birds of prey in 1976. In addition to eagles, this also contained American Condor, Black Vulture, Lappet-Faced Vulture and the Red Kite. Next to this aviary stood a smaller one for Griffon Vulture, which bred three young in the years 1963 through 1965. The first bird pavilion was founded on Mniší hora in 1959

Photo: Michal Piškula



Kea

Photo: Michal Piškula

by adapting a chicken coop purchased from an agricultural co-operative. Although it was to have served temporarily, part of it has



Photo: Michal Piskula

Little owl

been preserved as the oldest building of the Zoo, serving today as the continuous rear wall of a series of aviaries for birds of prey and owls from our environment. These exhibitions of birds of prey and owls create a continuation called Bird Boulevard, built at the turn of the 1950s and 1960s near the old administration building.

Its cages have also been preserved. Now housed in them are Great Curassow, and lesser parrots. In 1967, on the site of the current Tiger Cliffs, construction began on two runs with pools for pelicans, swans, geese, and ducks. The Zoo also kept rare species here, such as the Black-Throated Swan, Red-Breasted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Siberian Teal or the Chilean Wigeon. In 1971, three

exhibitions appeared in this space, which included Pink, Cuban and Chilean Flamingoes. During the construction of Tiger Cliffs, the runs for water birds had to be terminated; the adapted pools now serve tigers and leopards.

The representatives of a series of flightless birds have been kept at Zoo Brno already since its first years of existence. The enclosure for Australian Emu was built next to ponds for water birds, today the emus can be seen not far from here, below the Avenue for Small Predators. After opening the Safari run in 1980, among the antelope, zebra and giraffe, visitors could also see African Ostrich. In 1996, in front of the Safari, a small exhibit was opened for Australian fauna; in addition to Bennet's Wallaby, the Zoo has also displayed here Southern Cassowary. Since 1999, Zoo Brno has kept a Great Rhea in the South American exhibition section.

Very popular are those birds that move freely about the grounds of the garden. Approximately one year after opening the Exotic Bird Pavilion in November 1988, the zoological garden completed the run for hyena dogs – the last building realized in the so-called Action Z, which at that time took place across the state in the area of public welfare work. In the context of this action, all runs



Photo: Eduard Štuchlík

Double-wattled cassowary

and pavilions built to that point were raised on Mniši hora with the help of enthusiastic volunteers. Later, the garden did not receive money for larger investments and by the middle of the nineties, only the most critical maintenance was conducted in the Zoo.



Photo: Eduard Štuchlík

Common peafowl



Tropical Kingdom Pavilion



Jackson's Chameleon



Interior of the Tropical Kingdom Pavilion

The Turning Point of the Nineties

The nineties proved to be a turning point for Zoo Brno. In the first half of this decade, the garden survived a period of tumult, but after 1997, we have witnessed a series of difficult construction projects – the Tropical Kingdom Pavilion, Tiger Cliffs and the building for Central Services with a restaurant. At the beginning of the nineties there

was a period in Zoo Brno when the director was symbolically shown the door – they changed approximately every year. In this period, no larger buildings appeared. It is certainly worth mentioning, however, that in 1996, the garden participated in breeding with the reintroduction of the adax to Morocco. Since 1997, when the current director, MVDr. Martin Hovorka, assumed the leadership of the Zoo, runs and pavilions have

begun to spring up, complying with the most complex breeding principles.

The first pavilion in the new spirit was built in 1998 on the southern summit of Mniši hora by rebuilding the vivarium building into the Tropical Kingdom. Its perfectly furnished exhibitions with tropical reptiles, such as Nile Crocodile, Jackson Chameleon, Asian Water Dragon, Cuban Iguana, and the Green or Royal Boa, serve as models even for foreign zoos. Piranhas course through one tank and the vivaria are supplemented by lesser predators: Civet cat predator Meercats, which may duck into the outdoor run with artificial termite mounds, clawed Golden-hand Tamarin monkeys, Pygmy Marmoset and a group of smaller Australian pouched pygmy marsupials. The greatest breeding successes in the Tropical Kingdom are the keeping of Green Iguanas and Jackson Chameleons, to whom a record birth of 39 young was recorded in December 2002. The Nile Crocodile has also successfully multiplied in this pavilion and the Dwarf Crocodile has laid eggs.

With its approach, the Tropical Kingdom Pavilion is also suitable for new exhibition concepts for Zoo Brno. In the future, there-

fore, an group exhibition for the Caribbean has been incorporated into planning and this will be supplemented by two exhibition sections, using primarily the existing space in the high hall with the ridge roof. Appearing in both new sections will be manatees, crocodiles, and sea fauna, for example sharks and coral fish. In 2000, the grandly conceived exhibition of Tiger Cliffs was completed. It is divided into two parts. Both species, seriously endangered at home, are kept by Zoo Brno in the context of European conservation programs. In these runs, the animals may be seen from viewpoints through a glass barrier, as well as the glassed in winter quarters. Tigers have been in Zoo Brno already since the 1950s, in 1973 the first offspring appeared, and to this day, the garden has kept almost thirty tigers.

The children's zoo saw its realization in 2001. In runs surrounded by a low wall, children may pet guinea pigs and rabbits or hold chicks in their hands. In the wooden enclosures, Cameroon Goats await them and in the Ponydrome, they may ride on the backs of Shetland ponies. Since the beginning of 2003, the Zoo has also provided two special services to the public. In the local branch of the Municipal Pound for abandoned animals, everyone who comes to the Zoo may select a



Photo: Miroslav Roudenský

Air view of tiger rocks

dog and make it their own. Less physically capable visitors may more easily view the exhibitions from an electric cart, in which zoo employees transport them up the steep slopes to the Exotic Bird Pavilion, where they may transfer to a small train for passengers in the highest sections of the garden. Thus, as the number of buildings has increased in the garden during its development, so, too

have the numbers of kept animals. Their species composition has also changed, common animals among which were initially abundant domestic animals, have been replaced by rarer species and those species endangered in the wild. According to the new exhibition concept, the Brno Zoological Garden should acquire an essentially different face.



Photo: Michal Piskala

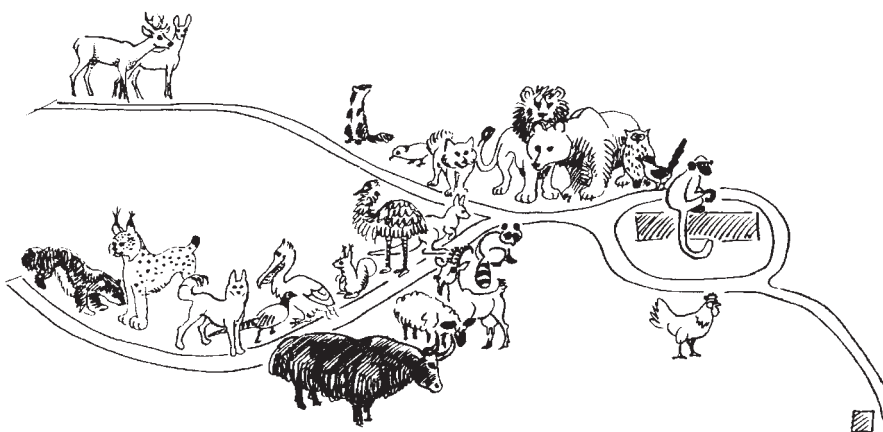
Tiger Cliffs are also reserved for leopards



Photo: Michal Piskala

Running water also refreshes the Tiger Cliffs run

10 hectares, 171 animals, 51 species



Map of the Zoo from 1953

Development strategy for the Zoological Garden of the City of Brno

The Brno zoological garden, in order to manage its additional activity in a coordinated manner, has processed this document entitled the Development Strategy of the Zoological Garden of the City of Brno.

The Zoo represents

The Zoological Garden of the City of Brno is a subsidized organization of the Statutory City of Brno. It was founded in 1951 and was first opened to the public on

30 August 1953. It is located on 65 hectares on the forested slopes of Mniší hora in

Brno-Bystrc. For the duration of the Zoo's existence, more than 12 million visitors have passed through its gates and in recent years the annual visitor rate fluctuated around 230 000 persons.

The garden also looks after injured animals from our environment, which citizens bring to the Station for Handicapped Animals. Currently, Zoo Brno serves as the CITES Clearance Centre for illegally imported animals seized by the customs office.

The Zoo of the City of Brno is a member of significant professional groups, such as the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos (UCSZ), the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria

(EAZA), the Euro-Asian Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EARAZA), the International Association of Zoo Educators (IZE), The World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA) etc. Membership in these organizations enable the garden to participate in international programs for the protection of dwindling animal species and protection of the environment as a whole.

What are our goals?

In the next decade, we intend to modernize the zoo area in order create the best possible living conditions for the kept animals, as well as making the zoo attractive and a closer draw for visitors. We are preparing a significant expansion of services and a greater connection of the garden to activities related to the use of free time, environmental protection and ecological education on a regional, national and international level.

What has led us to this plan?

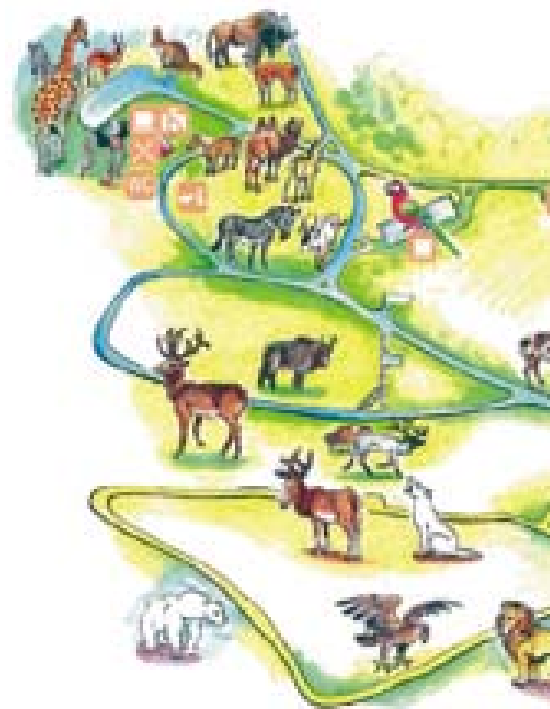
The most significant concept is the effort to offer visitors an attractive way for relaxation and to address the growing public interest in natural events and environmental protection, without ignoring the need to ensure conditions for kept animals that correspond to their demands, as well as significant

co-operation with other zoos when rescuing endangered animal species.

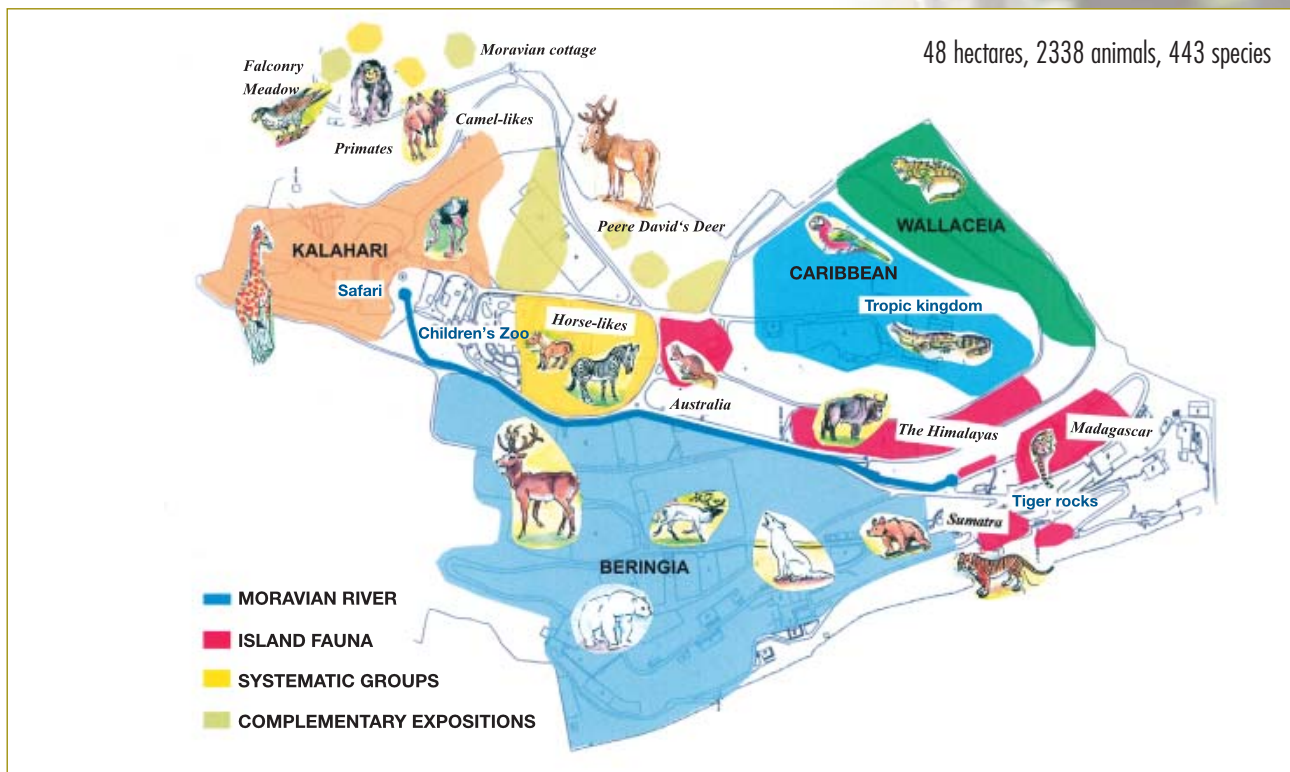
What needs to be done for our resolve?

First we had to compile quantities of information, implement a series of meetings and draft the key conceptual material. Developed in co-operation with the Regional Development Agency for South Moravia as the document entitled Development Strategy for the Zoological Garden of the City of Brno, which develops measures noted in the Strategy for Brno, in which modernization and development of the zoo are established as one part of the program goal concerning environmental principles in areas with a significant impact on the environment of the city. During the drafting of the Strategy of Zoo Brno, input material was prepared and a new keeper concept also partially implemented, according to which exhibitions are created in the zoological garden and which, by their con-

24 hectares, 1094 animals, 218 species



Map of present Zoo



Map of the current Zoo

cept, will present the most significant milestones for development of animal species on the Earth.



What does the Development Strategy for Zoo Brno contain?

We have divided the development document into several parts. The first section summarizes the basic characteristics of the zoo, notes its location, transport accessibility, management system and organizational structure, services provided and operational activities, technical support, economics, marketing and the position of Zoo Brno by national and international criteria. The second part of the document formulates strengths and weaknesses of individual areas and opportunities and dangers associated with these areas. The third section bears the name Strategic Vision. The chapter Goals and Measures follows, which defines the necessary steps for achieving this vision. The material is supplemented by appendices, which in addition to containing key documents, such as a copy of the Founders Deed of the Zoo, also includes, for example, the wording for the new keeper concept including a detailed list of animals in planned exhibitions.

Tools for successful development of the Zoo

Significant for the realization of further Zoo activities will be the discussion of the Development Strategy for Zoo Brno by the governing body of the Statutory City of Brno. If the material is approved, the zoological garden will also acquire an effective system tool for conceptual and coordinated fulfilment of the proposed goals and measures. Considering the fact that this concerns an extensive document, measures will be selected for each year in relation to keepers' priorities and also with regard to the amount of accessible financial means. The strategy will always pass through actualization after a certain time period in such a way that it consistently represents the useful tools for successful development of the zoo. By improving the quality of exhibition offers and services provided, the Zoological Garden of the City of Brno hopes to link the principles of long-term maintenance of economic and social development of the city as established in the Strategy for Brno to fulfilment.



Frogs