

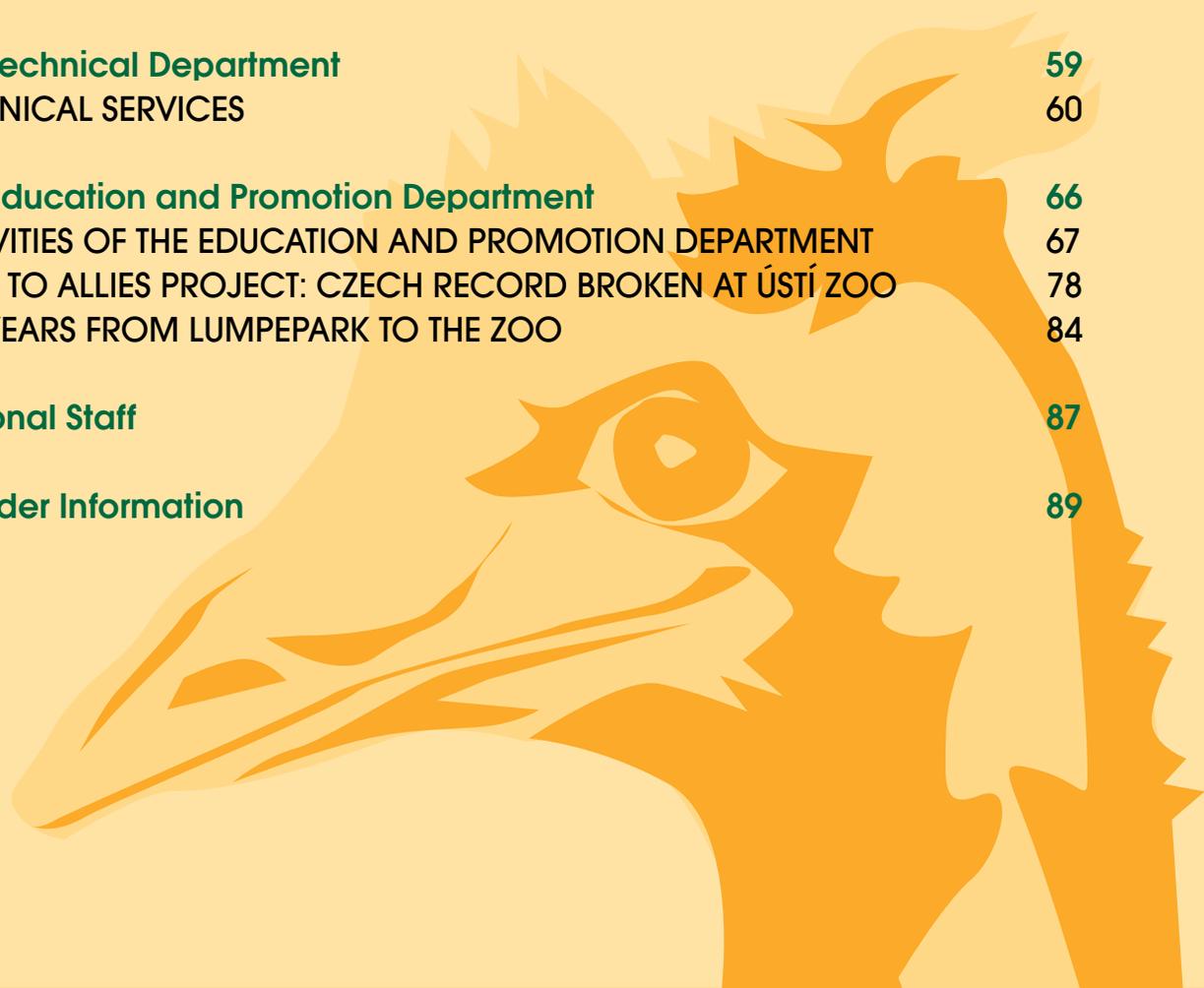


Annual Report 2008



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**The Animal
Husbandry
Department**

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Ing. Petra Padalíková

In 2008, development of two new animal facilities that significantly helped to raise the quality of the given animal species was successfully completed. In the early spring, all working efforts concentrated on the completion of the South American tapir house inc. redesigning the related enclosure (**Picture 1**). Formally opened on the occasion of launching the main season, this facility became a home for the newly completed breeding pair of tapirs as well as two capybaras. In the second half of the year, construction of an out-of-scene facility for the nilgai was launched. These giant Asian antelopes dwelling in one of the grassy enclosures in the upper part of the zoo had to be moved to the Rhino House every winter. Such operation was always accompanied with troublesome narcotisation and animal stress, and subsequent health complications could not be fully avoided. The new facility was finished in time, which means that moving the antelopes from the summer enclosure was unnecessary for the first time.

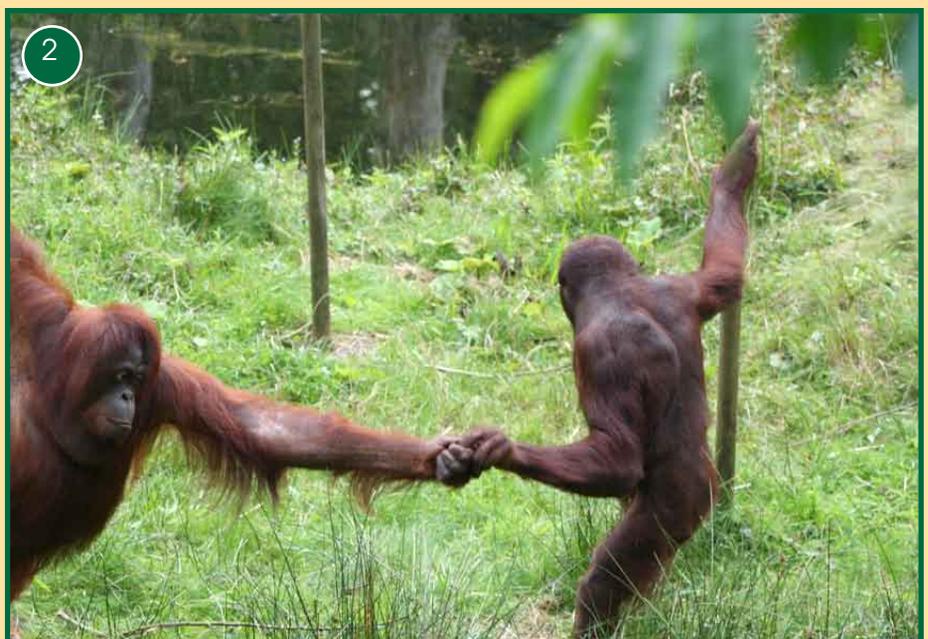
The terminal carnivore house reconstruction period was a major capital development project in 2008. This involved construction of new outdoor enclosures for leopards and tigers. The first half of the year was dedicated to finishing the design documentation; the construction work as such was launched in October. The carnivores might see the three natural exhibits in the spring 2009.

Compared to the previous year,



the number of species in the collection increased by two taxons. As per 31/12/2008, the zoo held total 220 animal species. The number of individuals decreased a little bit with 1,036 animals held towards the end of the year. The zoo's international cooperation involved participation in 32 European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes (EEP) and registration of 15 species in the European Studbooks (ESB).

The most important events of the year 2008 included the departure of the **Bornean orangutan** to Apenheul. The seven-year-old male Amos entered his adult age and could not stay in the Ústí group any later. Apenheul is a word meaning a safe haven for monkeys in Dutch as well as a zoo in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, dedicated solely to primates, and being among the best zoos in Europe in this regard. Amos was acclimatized



in the new environment very quickly (**Picture 2**). This male is to replace the existing male that is already coming out of age.

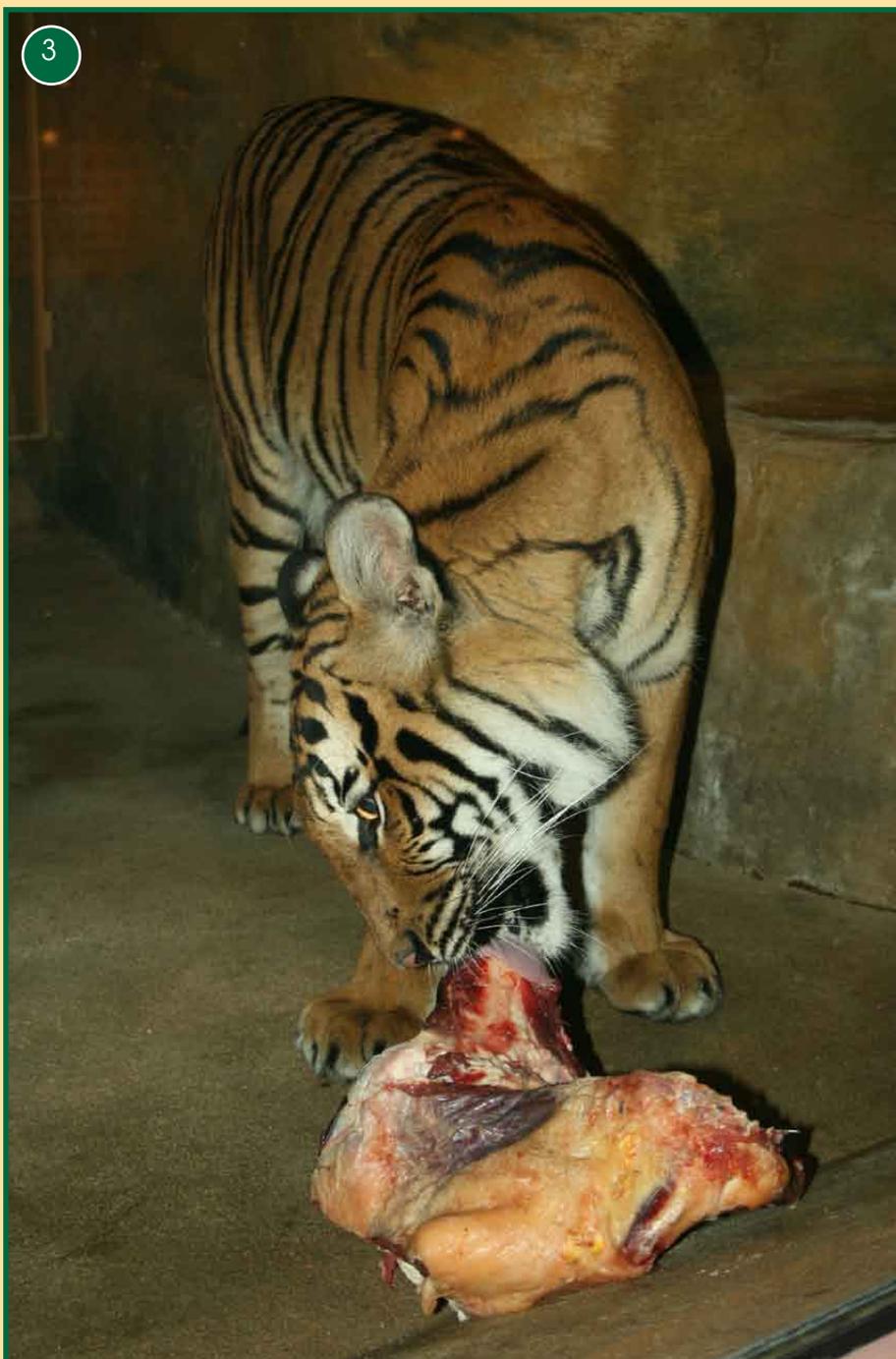
The Carnivore House produced several major events as well. Due to the expected reconstruction, the **Malayan sun bear** female called Cindy had to be moved to Děčín Zoo. In the framework of international co-operation, the zoo managed to obtain a young female **Malayan tiger** (**Picture 3**) from Halle Zoo. Currently, only twenty individuals of this tiger subspecies that was only described in 2003 are cur-

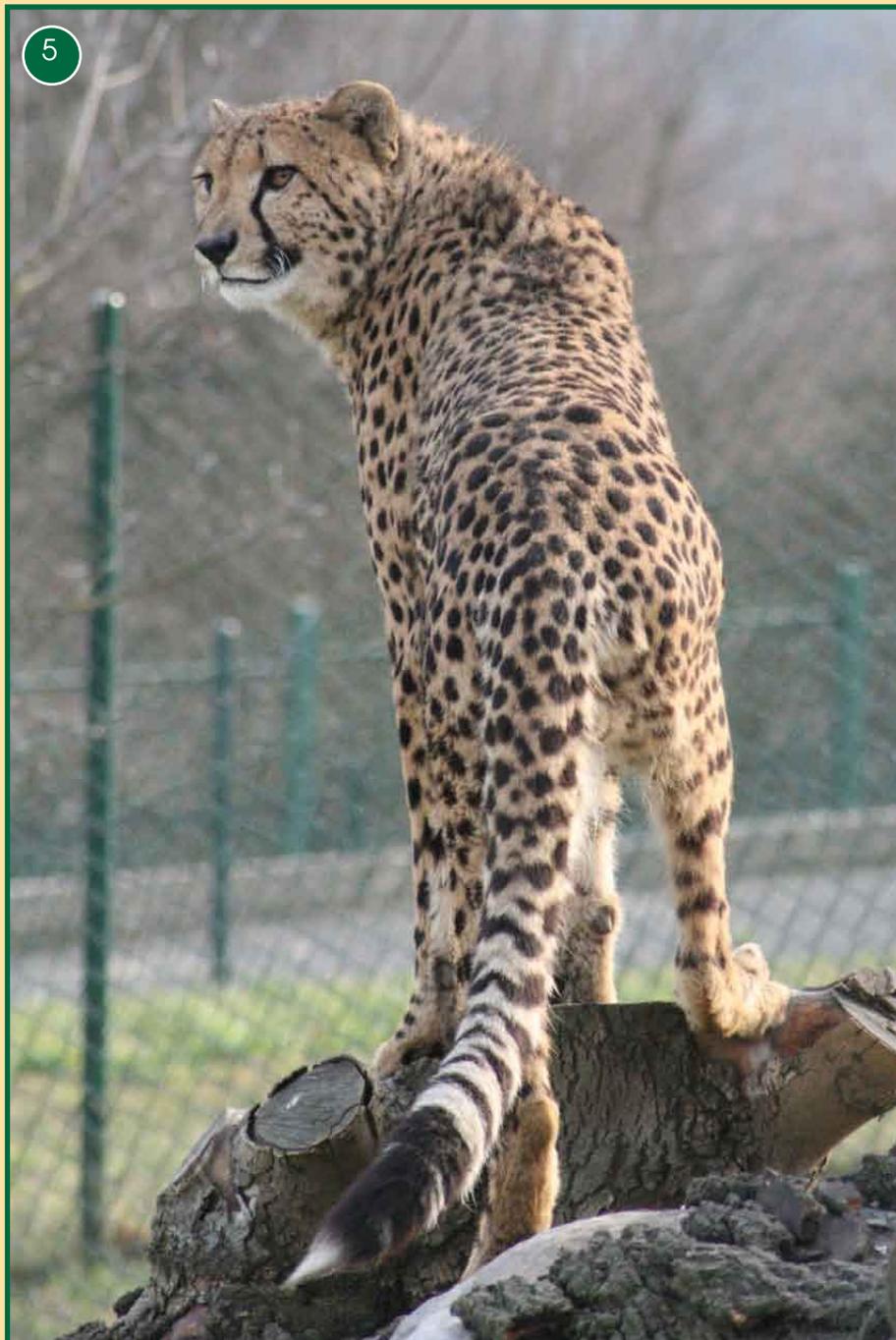
rently held in Europe. The Malayan tiger is to become a key species for the newly redesigned part of the house.

In 2008, the Persian leopard breeding was terminated. The male Ánre died 21 years old. A very welcome update occurred in the **Amur leopard**. Reproduction of the young pair had been suspended as the breeding female called Kiara was indicated as a potential bearer of a short-tail gene. This suspicion was eventually not confirmed and a recommendation to breed again arrived from

the EEP co-ordinator following two long years. The two-year-old daughter Kaila was moved to Nesles Zoo, France, which provided the space required for the animals to pair; now we can await new increase.

Efforts were made to avoid breeding in the **Southwest African lion** sibling pair in 2007 by application of hormonal contraception. Despite the treatment, the lioness gave birth, but failed to look after the cubs. In 2008, a subcutaneous implant application method was opted for. Unfortunately, natural forces prevailed, Ronja delivered four vital cubs (**Picture 4**), but this time she took an excellent care of the young. On week six, a health examination of the cubs was carried out, which focused namely on any presence of inherited defects. Three cubs – females – were absolutely healthy, but a significant retardation was found in the fourth cub, which was a male, compared with his sisters, with his eye retina showing development abnormalities. Therefore, it was decided that the male would be euthanised. The remaining lion cubs became a great visitor attraction. Thanks to the well-working co-operation with Jihlava Zoo, **snow leopard** males could be exchanged. All efforts to make the young animals in Ústí nad Labem, the male Makan and the female Nima, breed always failed over two mating periods. The low level of experience of both animals might have been the case. Thus, upon the agreement with Jihlava colleagues, Makan left for training by the Jihlava female in 2008, and in turn Salwin, a well-tested breeding male from Jihlava arrived in Ústí. The only hope is that the animals will achieve harmony





very soon.

A setback occurred in the Cheetah House. The health status of Jane, the contact cheetah female famed with its unique surgery of hip joint, was visibly deteriorating throughout the summer period. The blood examination clearly showed renal failure in progress. Sadly, this status could not be fought; therefore, euthanasia in November was the only option leaving the old male Inongo alone in the house. Unfortunately, obtaining any new female will depend on development of a separation facility for male so a young male Hobit from Prague Zoo was added into the exhibit (**Picture 5**). As this male's parents are wild-born in the Republic of South Africa, the animal is of a high genetic value for the European population. In future, the male will from a base for creating a new breeding pair.

In the small cat collection changes occurred as well. Early in 2008, a female arrived from Port Lympne, UK, introduced to the young male **fishing cat**. Three vital **Geoffroy's cat** cubs were born. As the three remaining small cat species are currently held in old facilities, the most of these animals are kept for exhibit purposes only.

In the Old World Primate House, we have been fighting space problems in almost every species. In future, cutting down the numbers of held species will be unavoidable. The **De Brazza's monkey** is to become one of the strategic species included in the zoo's long-term collection plan.

The young pair reproduced again in 2008, however, the two-month-old infant died as a result of head trauma. Concerning the **white-cheeked gibbon** group,



the breeding male Tod died, leaving a female that delivered a posthumous birth towards the end of the year (*Picture 6*). Therefore, any new male cannot be added before the infant reaches weaning age.

In the Exotarium, three callitrichid species out of total four reproduced. In the **golden-handed tamarins** and **pygmy marmosets**, two young in each group arrived. The young **cotton-top tamarin** pair was also successful. Unfortunately, attempts to get a female to make

a pair with the male **golden lion tamarin** failed. Despite several reminders, no female was recommended by the coordinator. As the animal clearly suffered from being alone, it was decided at the end of the year that the male would leave for Olomouc Zoo who had also been a holder of a single male.

The **ring-tailed lemur** trio was supplemented with three prospective females from Jihlava Zoo towards the end of the year. The young **ruffed lemurs** born the year before last were do-

nated to Prague and Bratislava Zoos. Both of the breeding pairs delivered the young again in 2008. A new male group was formed from the reared animals to leave for Romagne Zoo, France, in 2009.

In the late 2008, the **two-toed sloth** female gave already its sixth birth in the row. The newly set up South American coati trio raised total seven young. The **South American coatis** inhabit a corner exhibit in the first floor of the house. A footbridge connects this indoor facility with a nearsolitary oak-tree outdoors, which could be used by the animals for free ranging. Unfortunately, the tree was damaged by the coatis by breaking terminal twigs during the vegetation period to such extent that this had to be stopped. Therefore, electric collars were attached to the oak-tree to prevent the animals to access the terminals. This measure proved effective and the exhibit became even more attractive than before, with the animals spending much more time by ranging on trunks and dead logs and even on the ground; everything could be watched by the visitors from immediate neighbourhood (*Picture 7*).

The terrarium section was expanded with several new species. The **knight anole**, another South American herpetofauna member, is to be added to the red-footed tortoise exhibit. Four young were already obtained from a private breeder. They are still placed behind the scenes and move into the exhibit once they reach a proper size. The freshwater **hog-nosed turtle** became another new species. It can be viewed by the visitors in one of the water tanks (*Picture 8*) accompanied by several fish



species. The turtle and tortoise collection was expanded with two species at a time. The first one, *Chelodina siebenrocki*, settled in the aquatic exhibit of the Elephant House. Three young specimens of the **African spurred tortoise**, which is the largest African dry land tortoise species, were obtained from Bussolengo Zoo through an animal exchange transaction. Some changes happened in the large boid snakes collection as well. Sadly, the **reticulated python** pair died in a quite short time range. With its impressive length of five metres, the female Anežka was the largest indi-



vidual held at Ústí zoo. The species structure in the exhibit was

replenished with an old new species, the **Burmese python**. Other terrarium species that reproduced in 2008 included the rare **Asian leaf turtle**, **emperor scorpion** – after a long time, **Amazon milk frog**, **green and black poison dart frog**, and two **milk snake** subspecies.

Within the ungulate section, the most of the held species reproduced as usually. With no doubt, the most notable success occurred in the **Rothschild's giraffe**. For the first time in the history of the collection based on a single female that used to give birth, all three breeding females reproduced, enlarging the zoo's herd with one male and two females (**Picture 9**). As for the female Syrenka, it was at the same time her first maternity experience, which added value to its trouble-free raising of her calf. Births also occurred in **lechwe** and **waterbuck**, **blackbuck**, **two-humped camel**, and **llama herds**. The female **Hartmann's zebra** Unita gave birth to a sound female. The male of the foal called Balduin is a stud of a high genetic value imported from Herberstein, Austria, in the preceding year. However, Unita is the only attractive female from the herd for Balduin. The





Hartmann's zebra European-wide status is still not favourable for a lack of adult stallions within EEP, thus, any perspective of obtaining a new male remains unclear. The herd of the rare **African wild ass** was expanded with a male.

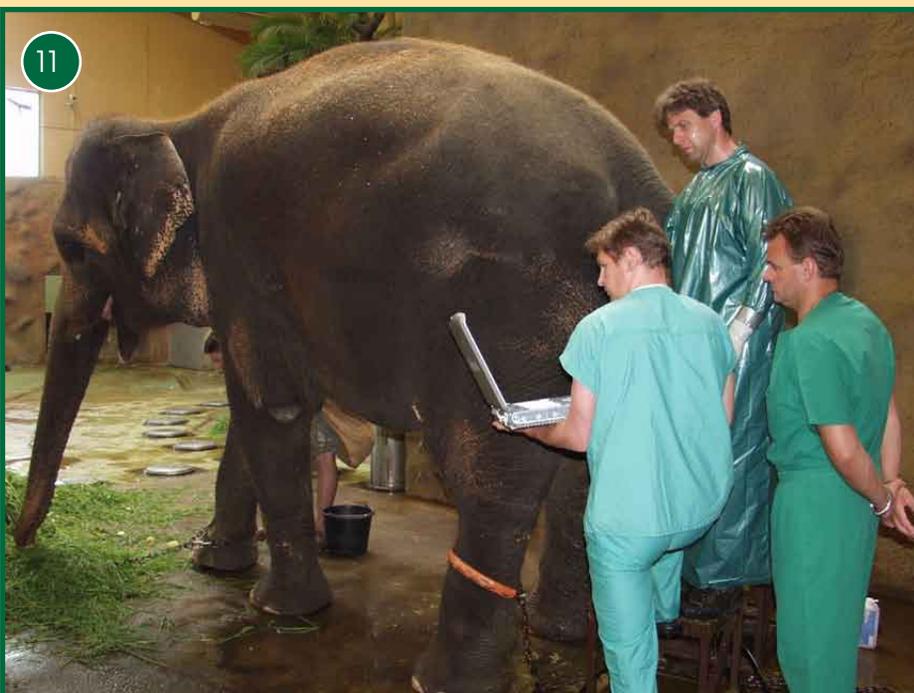
In the deer species, we enjoyed offspring in each of the held species – the **white-lipped deer** (Picture 10), the **Vietnamese sika deer**, and the **Reeves's muntjac**. In the sika deer herd, the breeding male died, thus, the group was completed with two young males imported from Hilvarenbeek, the Netherlands.

Unfortunately, we could not avoid one very sad incident in 2008. In the course of a single March week, two **southern white rhinos** died because of age. The female Saša and the male Dan were among the distinctive animals held by the zoo. Both rhinos originated from African Umfolozi National Park; they arrived in the zoo in 1980. Saša and Dan successfully produced three calves, which placed the zoo among the few successful white rhino breeders.

In the partnership with IZW Berlin, the hormonal cycle and status of reproductive tract in Delhi,

the **Indian elephant** female, was monitored all the year round. We had been fighting the liquid in the female's uterus produced in association with the birth in 2004, and affecting the hormonal cycle. During the recent UV examination that took place towards the end of 2007 (Picture 11), full hormonal cycle recovery could be announced. Thus, a possibility of the next assisted insemination could be considered six years after the last attempt. As the positive development was confirmed by the blood sample analysis in January 2008 as well, intensive training of the female necessary for any artificial insemination attempt to be successful was started. Follow-up monitoring sonographic examination took place at the end of March and revealed a minor amount of the liquid again. But there was still some hope. The second check was carried out in July, with Delhi found fully healthy; one of the ovaries was shortly upon ovulation. Routine blood sampling was launched to allow for analysing the hormonal level. The next oestrus was estimated to occur at the break of October and November. The male Emmet was planned to become a sperm donor again; a support was promised by the colleagues from England. Unfortunately, any LH level increase that would indicate the ovulation did not take place in the planned time, which made any insemination impossible. The next comprehensive examination is to take place in the beginning of 2009. This will have to explain why the recent cycle did not occur.

2008 was a successful year even in parrot breeding. The **Goffin's cockatoos**, **military macaws**,





and Jardin's parrots raised a single chick each. Two chicks were raised in the **African grey parrots**, and the **mealy amazons**. The mealy amazons bred the first chicks in the history of Ústí nad Labem Zoo. In the end of the year, video cameras were installed in several nest boxes to allow for full detailed overview of what was going on during the nesting. As the video surveillance system can be easily connected to online interface, watching the nesting of certain species online will be available on the zoo web site in 2009. Other bird species that reproduced included three owl species – the **barn owl**, the **Ural owl** (*Picture 12*), and the **snow owl**. All of the raised young barn owls were transferred to AVES Wildlife Rescue Centre near Kladno Town

for re-introduction. For the birds of prey, a repeated breeding success occurred in the **saker falcon** pair. The first chicks were obtained from the newly set up group of the **greater rhea**. The first offspring in the zoo's history was recorded in the **Victoria crowned pigeon** dwelling in one of the string-fenced aviaries in the Elephant House. Sadly, the chick died when it was six weeks old. The post-mortem protocol revealed obscure coli infection. In the framework of the co-operation within the UCSZ membership, the male **great curassow** was moved to Brno Zoo. One **Egyptian vulture** left for Lešná Zoo as an exchange for a **scarlet macaw**.

Changes occurred in the red panda. Both young males Pat and Mat raised in 2007 left for Prague Zoo and German-based Kronberg Zoo. In the summer, the breeding male Sole, who was a father of all panda cubs born at Ústí Zoo, died, leaving the fe-

male Geena alone; a new male will have to be recommended by the EEP co-ordinator.

Within the zoo's professional activities, the animal husbandry staff members participated on the following meetings of UCSZ specialist groups in 2008: primates and felids (Pilsen Zoo), ungulates (Dvůr Králové Zoo), elephants (Lešná Zoo), and animal record keeping (Kostelec nad Černými lesy).

In addition, the zoo hosted the deer committee meeting in January (*Picture 13*). The Head of the Animal Husbandry Department attended the EAZA Annual Conference held at Antwerp Zoo.

The routine operations of the department were affected by the departure of one from the two curators. The situation became stable at the end of the year by hiring a new staff member.



VETERINARY CARE

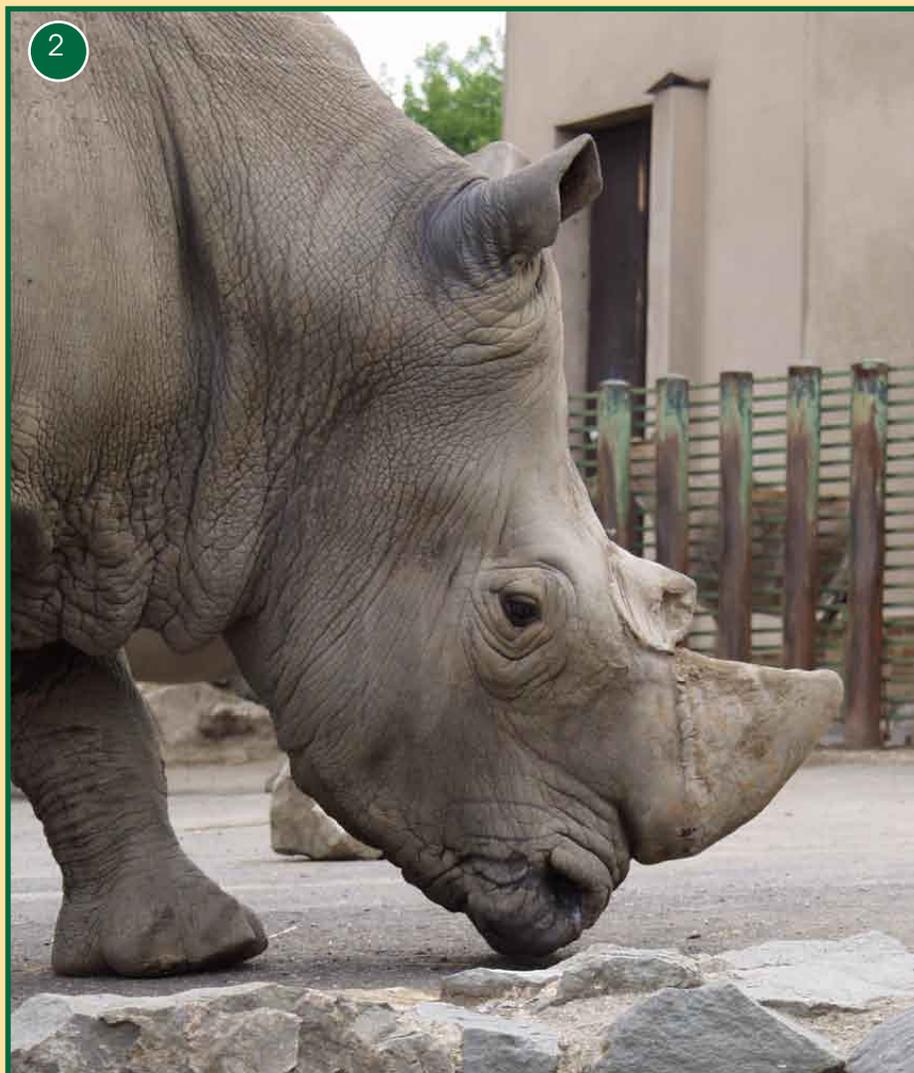
MVDr. Václav Poživil



All veterinary prophylactic and medical services were provided by the veterinary doctors from Veterinární ordinace MVDr. Václava Poživila (EN: MVDr. Václav Poživil's Veterinary Surgery). All prophylactic services were carried out under the agreed scheme titled Veterinární péče v Zoo Ústí nad Labem. (EN: Veterinary Care at Ústí nad Labem Zoo.) (See Annual Report 2004.) In 2008, the periodical inspection under the zoo-licensing act took place; the zoo passed without any objections. During the previous inspection, the practice of accepting injured and handicapped local wildlife brought into the zoo for treatment was criticised by the State Veterinary Administration. There was a fear of introducing infection by these animals into the zoo grounds. The problem was successfully resolved in terms of technical support and animal health security. As for the fact that the city development plans did not involve construction of any new facility to provide care for the local wildlife and bringing the handicapped lo-

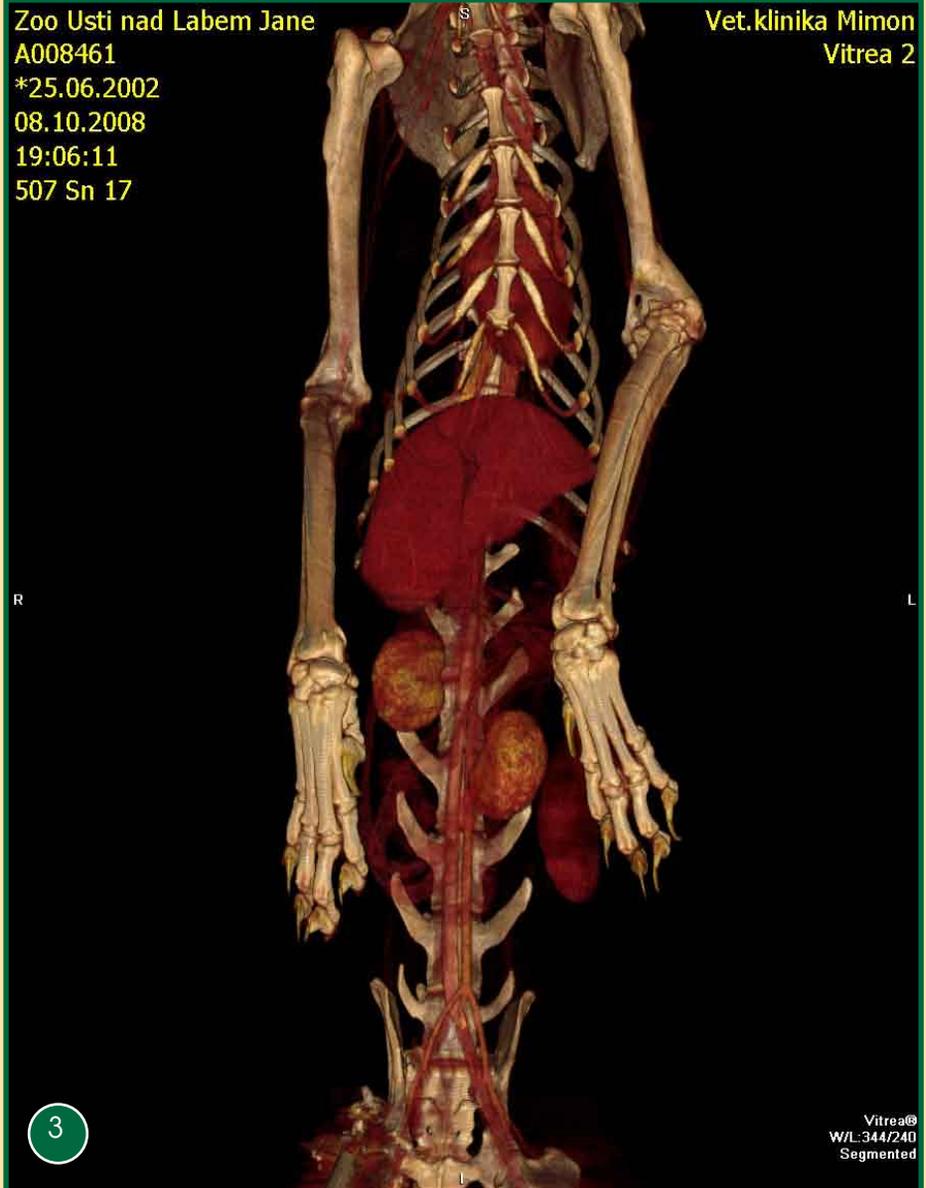
cal fauna animals cannot be avoided, the city sanctuary for abandoned dogs and cats was transferred under the management of Ústí nad Labem Zoo, thus forming the base for setting up the new Animal Rescue Centre (**Picture 1**). Only some minor arrangements will be required to form a background facility for the local fauna animals without affecting the zoo operations. Nevertheless, it is the author's opinion that despite the measures above the zoo will remain the contact point for receiving the handicapped animals from the local wildlife anyway. Sadly, animals at the zoo are

not only born; they also die. The larger is the creature that has passed away, the bigger pain is perceived from the loss. However, losing two such animals at once seems to be a worse case. The latter was the case of zoo's southern white rhinos that had lived at the zoo since 1980. First, 41-year-old female Saša had to be euthanised due to renal and blood circulation failure. A week after, 42-year-old male Dan passed away (**Picture 2**) – it was the oldest white rhino held in the Czech Republic that died a natural death. These animals successfully produced three calves at Ústí nad Labem Zoo;



their progeny now continues to preserve the lineage in other zoological parks.

The same pain as with the large animals can be felt in case of death of any individual, to which keepers and visitors had been fixed too much. The cheetah female Jane became a media star thanks to the unique and pioneered replacement of her hip joint; this not even made her life longer, but namely more enhanced. The first surgery was made in 2002, while the other (total endoprosthesis) followed four years later. Despite every effort and use of the most advance diagnostic and treatment techniques, the status of constant pain had to be terminated in this animal. Amyloidosis, the chronic digestive problems, the colics, the chronic renal disorders, and the subsequent renal failure resulted in euthanasia. Decision-making process is not that easy in such cases; in the wild, this issue would be resolved by predators, and death of an animal like this would merely complete a food chain. Luckily, we do have possibilities to help, if life of such animal is unsustainable and associated with excessive suffering. **(Picture 3 - CT examination of Jane in Mimon)**



Veterinary Clinic, MVDr Zdeněk Vepřek.)

But let us turn over a new leaf. In 2008, our efforts and attempts to prevent any unwanted mat-

ing of two lion siblings were overcome by Mother Nature. The breeding instinct was so powerful that even a double dose of contraceptives, well-tested in other zoos, failed, and could not avoid the delivery of three beautiful lion cubs. It was such incredible event that even the veterinary specialist was suspected of administering placebo. The more the author was reassured by other colleagues saying this may and did happen elsewhere. **(Picture 4 - Implanon application).**

2008 can be termed as a year without any extraordinary veterinary actions and no infection was recorded. So, when we were in the middle of this happy period, even AI-free, a tiny critter



crawled discreetly over the border. A small, but a smart one, this guy delivered a disease called blue tongue. Within the framework of the European-wide conservation breeding programme, every animal from the zoo's collection of sheep and goats was vaccinated, thus assisting

eradication of the disease. It is a sincere hope of everyone that none of those influenzas and blue tongue matters strolling around and frightening all Europe will be followed by any bigger nightmare, for instance, bubonic plague.

Within the prophylactic and

veterinary medical care, the following actions were carried out in 2008: 586 prophylactic examinations under the health test scheme, 274 surgeries and operations (**Picture 5 - Blood sampling in the mandrill**), 46 post-mortem examinations, 6 above-standard examinations at specialist workplaces (CT, gastroscopy and enteroscopy, fibroscopy, 3D sonography, and andrology), two tests of water sources, 84 tests of animal-based feeds, 6 inspections of operations under the zoo rat control scheme, and 14 inspections by the State Veterinary Administration including those under the zoo licensing act.



Overview of organizations and institutions co-operating within the programme of veterinary care in 2008:

- The Regional Department of the State Veterinary Administration for Ústí nad Labem Region
- State Veterinary Institute Prague
- Veterinary Research Institute Brno
- The Clinic of Canine and Feline Diseases, FVL VFU Brno
- Diagnostika s.r.o., Ústí nad Labem
- Private Laboratory of Microbiology RNDr A. Veselská
- Mimoň Veterinary Clinic
- IZW Berlin
- Genservice s.r.o., Brno

ANIMAL NUTRITION

Bc. Anna Hrudková

The Ústí Zoo's 2008 animal nutrition budget amounted to CZK 3,2 million, however, this figure was exceeded by about one million. The main reasons for this included an increase in the VAT rate and rising numbers of animals held, be it the individuals raised at the zoo or new arrivals.

Compared to 2007, when some suppliers had to be replaced by others due to financial and namely quality reasons, the year 2008 was almost without

any changes in this aspect.

The whole range of fruits and vegetables (**Picture 1**) was still purchased from Teplice-based HOKA Company, with the articles supplied routinely twice a week as agreed by phone. The 2008 supplies totalled to CZK 1,076,071. The quantities consumed by the animals included 8,596.9 kg of leaved vegetables, 2,924.82 kg of roots vegetables (except for carrots), 9,816.12 kg of other vegetables, 14,152.2 kg of tropical fruits, 4,677.5 kg of fruits

coming from moderate climatic zones (except for apples), and 11 t of bananas.

Apples as well as carrots were taken very rarely from HOKA, as these articles were provided by other entities much cheaper than by the wholesale businesses. A total of 27 t apples and 14.3 t carrots were fed, which is an increase by 6 t and a decrease by 0,5 t, respectively, compared to 2007.

Also, the fodder meat (**Picture 2**) was still purchased from Mimoň-based VÁŠA Company with deliveries once a week and quantities as required and agreed by phone. In 2008, there was a slight decrease in the beef meat by about 3 t compared to 2007, with the quantity reduced from 12 t to some less than 11 t. The meat quality still complied with that for human use. The chicken meat was supplied by a different company, with 4.5 t consumed in 2008, which is the same level as in 2007. Concerning herrings, the 2008 quantity increased by 3.5 t compared to 2007, i.e. total 8.9 t. The main reason for this was the loan of the sea lion females from Prague Zoo.

The only change in the supplier structure included Mr Drba from Roudnice nad Labem Town, who became a supplier of live rabbits for animal feeding, replacing the former supplier from Nymburk Town due to a lesser distance. About 3.3 t of rabbits were delivered to the zoo's carnivores, with total costs of some CZK 188,000.

Feed rodents present an essential part of diet structure not only

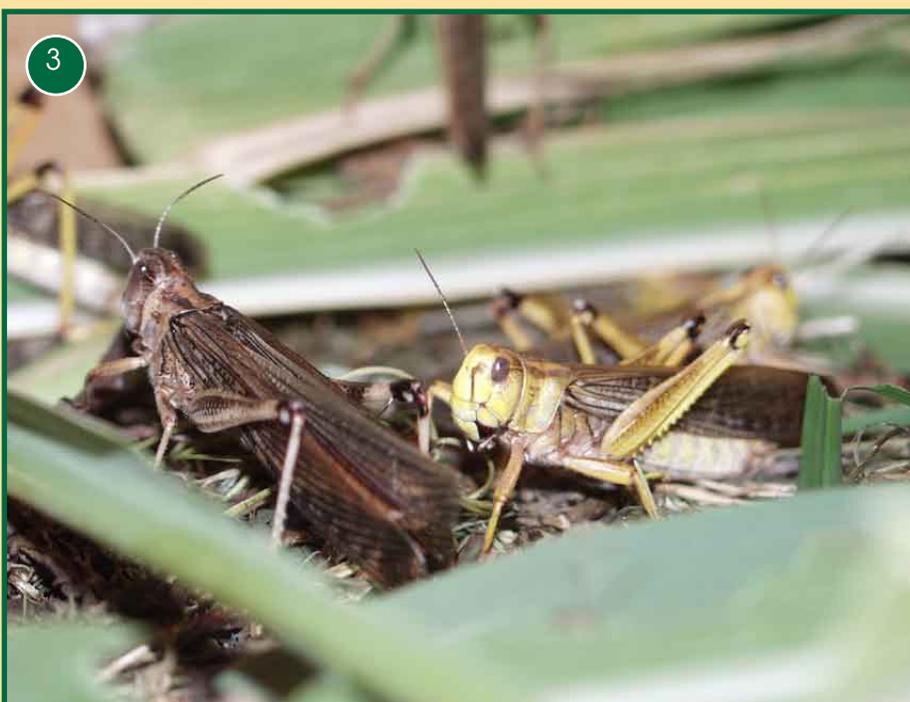




in small carnivores, but also in predatory birds. 9,606 brown rats and 44,910 mice were fed; this involved the zoo-based stock and animals purchased from outsourcers. In addition, 7,967 hamsters were consumed; these feed animals are not bred

at the zoo, but purchased from outsourcers.

The feed insects are supplied by a standing vendor; the zoo only operates a small stock of mealworms. For the insects, 6,830 locusts (*Picture 3*), 85.5 l of mealworms, 41 l of medium-



sized crickets, and 14.5 l micro-sized crickets were fed in 2008. Pelleted food forms another major item in the feedstuffs budget. As in the preceding year, this commodity was also supplied by Sehnoutek a synové v.o.s., Voleč. The largest portion of the pellets supplied in 2008 included ZOO-směs pro přežvýkavce (pellets for zoo ruminants), with 2.1 t used for CZK 130,130; 11.5 t of special giraffe pellets for CZK 133,402; 6 t of ZOO-daňk (fallow deer pellets) for CZK 52,320; 7.6 t of ZOO-koně (equid pellets) for CZK 53,048; and 2.5 q of rodent pellets for the feed rodents bred at the zoo for CZK 3,025.

It is understood that sufficient quantity of vitamin preparations must be supplied to the animal diet in addition to the common feedstuffs and pelleted food. A large part of such articles has been purchased from Prague-based Bio-factory company a number of years. A total of 7.2 q of varied vitamin preparations was spent for all animals at the zoo.

We thank all the vendors and suppliers for their co-operation and top level of services.

In the field of operation, there was a change in the staffing of the animal kitchen section, where three employers inc. two permanent staff members are to be responsible for handling all feedstuffs including processing, arrangement, and distribution to each workplace around the zoo.

THE HISTORICAL SUCCESS IN THE GIRAFFE BREEDING

Ing. Pavel Král

Rothschild's giraffe (*Girafa camelopardalis rothschildi*) breeding at Ústí nad Labem Zoo has had a long tradition. In 2008, we could review 25 years since the zoo's stock of these outstanding animals was set up. On the top of it, 2008 was important for the zoo from a breeding point of view, with three calves born for the first time in the zoo's history raising the animal number to total seven individuals (**Picture 1**). The Rothschild's giraffe stock at Ústí nad Labem Zoo was started on 20 June 1983 with a giraffe pair consisting of the male Set and female Tena that arrived from Dvůr Králové Zoo. Both animals were about 15 months old. This made Ústí nad Labem the fifth zoo in the then Czechoslovakia that became a Rothschild's giraffe holder. The period of waiting for the first calf took 4.5 years, until 20 December 1987, when a female Tereza was born. Later on, the female Tena gave birth to another six young at the zoo.

However, difficult births, when some of the calves had to be delivered by hand, were serious problems in this female.

In 1994, a female Jenny exchanged for the female Tracy arrived from Liberec Zoo. In 1995, the male Set died of acute carditis. In 1996, a male Atbar two years and two months old was imported from Olomouc Zoo. The year after, the zoo lost the female Tena during a difficult birth. Until 2000, the zoo held only a single breeding female, except for the 1994-1997 period. In the recent years, the zoo decided to expand its breeding herd by first importing a female Etna from Dvůr Králové Zoo in 2001, which was 20 months old at the time of the arrival. Four years later, a 19-month-old female Syrenka arrived from Warsaw Zoo. Both females were obtained as an exchange for animals raised at Ústí Zoo. This increased the founder herd to a single male and three breeding females. To-

tal six animals were imported to Ústí nad Labem from other zoological parks. (**Chart 1.**)

The female Etna gave birth to its first calf in June 2006; however, the young died within a few days. In primiparas, there is a higher mortality rate; the calf was unable to suck, which was also caused by the unskilled mother. In the second half of the year 2007, it was already clear that each of the three females was pregnant; the expected dates of births were also known. Everyone was a little bit worried thinking of the births, namely with the first days after. Aside from the experienced female Jenny, there was also Etna, who was to deliver its second calf and no one could be safe whether the same result as two years before could be expected or not. On the other side, the female Syrenka expected her first calf. Based on the previous experience, it was decided not to separate a female prior the birth, but rather let her give birth in the group. In the period of several days before and after each birth, the giraffes were checked several times during the day and night and also in early morning hours.

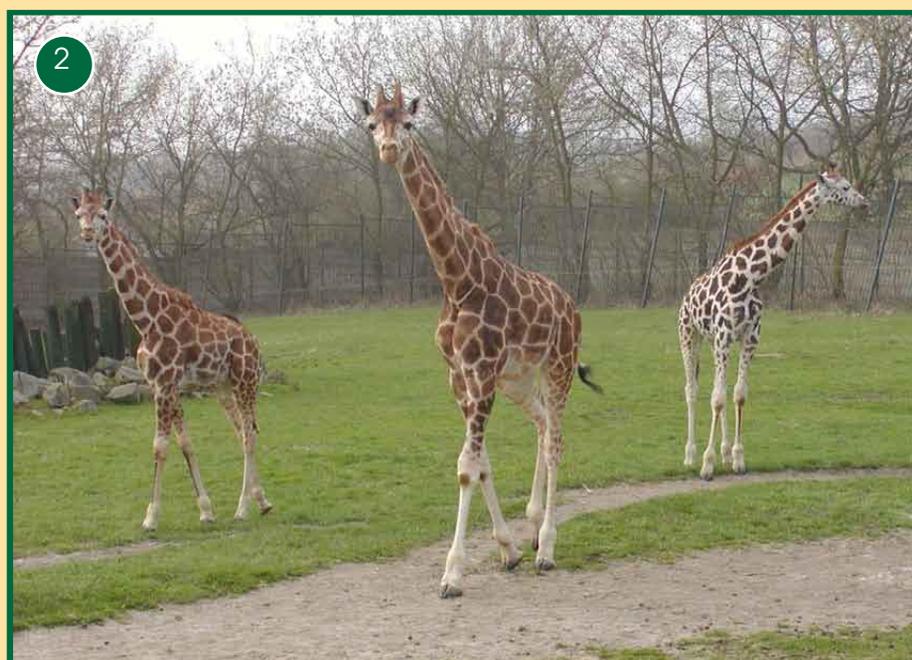
On 3 March 2008 in the night, the female Etna gave birth to a male. When keepers arrived in the morning, the calf was already up, and within a few minutes, sucking could be observed as well. The male's birth height was 190 cm. The female with the young was separated from the rest of the giraffes for a week.

On 3 June 2008, the second



Chart 1. Overview of the giraffes imported to Ústí nad Labem.

Name	Sex	Born	Arrival	From	No. of calves	Death
Tena	0,1	6. 4. 1982	22. 6. 1983	Dvůr Králové	7	21. 11. 1997
Set	1,0	26. 3. 1982	22. 6. 1983	Dvůr Králové	7	19. 3. 1995
Jenny	0,1	29. 2. 1992	31. 10. 1994	Liberec	8	
Atbar	1,0	11. 2. 1994	11. 4. 1996	Olomouc	11	
Etna	0,1	15. 9. 1999	14. 5. 2001	Dvůr Králové	2	
Syrenka	0,1	4. 1. 2004	17. 8. 2005	Varšava	1	



young in the row was born to Jenny. The birth occurred during the day and lasted 1.5 hours. The calf was a 170cm high female. Jenny and her young were separated; sucking was seen the same day in the evening. This time, the entire group was reunited already in four days. The third female, Syrenka, delivered her young on 24 August 2008. The birthing process started in the enclosure, after the entire herd was closed and the female giving birth separated. Within some three hours, a 165cm high female was born. We made sure that the house was as quiet as possible. In the early morning the day after, sucking could be observed. Syrenka was still left aside, and reunited with the herd nine days after.

On 28 September 2008, a party on the occasion of naming all three calves was arranged. The giraffes were named Enid (the male), Jonka (the first female), and Sotiba (the other female.) (Picture 2)

Both young females, in which troubles had been expected concerning handling the care for the calves, eventually proved to be excellent mothers. Subsequently, the calves were observed to drink from different mothers, with some cases of even two infants sucking from a single female (Picture 3).

This way the animal numbers increased to seven individuals. An additional positive effect of this increase in giraffe numbers could be observed on the animals as such. Compared to the

previous years when the zoo held two or four animals, both the group and each of the animals generally calmed down. It could be clearly seen in releasing the animals out and closing as well as in cleaning the stall in the winter period when any releasing into the outdoor enclosure was limited.

As the air quality in the stall deteriorated, two following re-arrangements had to be made to resolve the situation: the forced ventilation was switched on several times per night, and wood shavings that absorb urine better were applied in addition to straw and hay.

Over the period of 25 years, 18 young giraffes were born at the zoo (Chart 2).

The sex ratio in the animals born is ten females to eight males. The dominance of the females (55.5%) is rather exceptional,

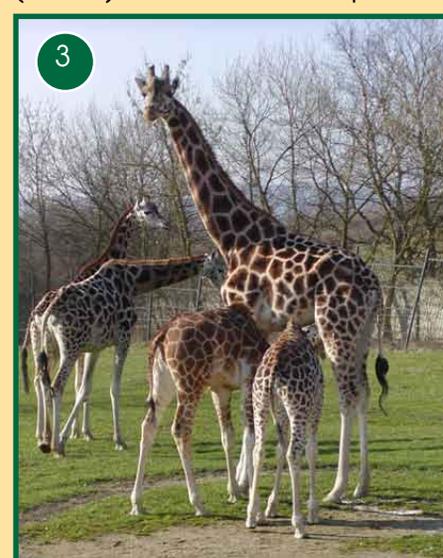


Chart 2. The giraffe calves born at Ústí nad Labem Zoo.

No.	Sex	Name	Born	Dam/Sire	Departure/Death
1	0,1	Tereza	20. 12. 1987	Tena/Set	29 Mar 1992 - France
2	1,0	Titan	26. 5. 1989	Tena/Set	3 Mar 1992 - France
3	1,0		20. 2. 1991	Tena/Set	20 Feb 1991 – at birth
4	0,1	Tracy	29. 6. 1992	Tena/Set	3 Nov 1994 – Liberec
5	1,0		29. 1. 1994	Tena/Set	+ 1 Feb 1994 – low vitality
6	1,0	Tamiru	30. 6. 1995	Tena/Set	2 Sep 1997 – La Boissiere, France
7	0,1	Jess	21. 5. 1996	Jenny/Set	10 Nov 1997 - Hamburg
8	1,0		21. 11. 1997	Tena/Atbar	+ 21 Nov 1997 – at birth
9	0,1	Tejla	21. 4. 1998	Jenny/Atbar	14 May 2001 – Lešná
10	1,0	Joshua	2. 2. 2000	Jenny/Atbar	27 Jul 2001 – Madrid
11	0,1	Tena 2	9. 1. 2002	Jenny/Atbar	17 Mar 2004 – Leipzig
12	0,1	Julie	8. 5. 2003	Jenny/Atbar	16 Aug 2005 - Warsaw
13	0,1		4. 3. 2005	Jenny/Atbar	+ 3 Apr 2005 – low vitality
14	0,1		18. 6. 2006	Etna/Atbar	+ 21 Jun 2006 – low vitality
15	1,0	Vladimír	25. 1. 2007	Jenny/Atbar	+ 27 Dec 2007 – heart disease
16	1,0	Enid	3. 3. 2008	Etna/Atbar	
17	0,1	Jonka	3. 6. 2008	Jenny/Atbar	
18	0,1	Sotiba	24. 8. 2008	Syrenka/Atbar	

while in the Czech zoos males usually prevail to some extent – 50.6% (n=306). The age at the first birth in years varied in the Ústí Zoo's females as follows: Tena 5.7, Jenny 4.2, Etna 5.7, and Syrenka 4.5. The mean age of a giraffe at first birth in the Czech zoos is 4.64 years (n=40). The distribution of births throughout the year (**Chart 3**) reveals the fact that births rather occur in the first half of the year (83.3%). Despite the success in 2008 and the number of new breeding

experiences, there are also several commitments for the next period. This namely involves improving of husbandry conditions, with the most important measures including extension of indoor facilities and increasing the number of separation boxes up to two. This may not only result in enlargement of the indoor area available to the animals, but even in more possibilities of separating the animals in situations like oestrus, birth, etc. Emergency situations

may occur in future, when such arrangements will be useful.

All of the three calves will leave the zoo once they are weaned to enlarge breeding groups in other zoos. At the time of producing this paper, each of the females was pregnant again, with expected dates of births somewhere in the first quarter 2010. We can only wish that the future of giraffe breeding would be as successful as in 2008.

Chart 3. Distribution of births throughout the year.

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Total	3	3	1	1	3	4	0	1	0	0	1	1

ALPACA HUSBANDRY AT ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM ZOO

Ing. Pavel Král

Alpacas (*Lama guanicoe f. pacos*) held at Ústí nad Labem Zoo are of the Huacaya type. The alpaca is already an established species at the zoo with the stock founded in 1967 (Veselský, Voženílek, 1976), when an adult pair was imported by Müller, Germany. Over a long time, total numbers ranged from 2 to 4 individuals, until three females were imported from Hoyerswerda Zoo in the mid 1980's, (Moudrý, 1992), and female numbers was fixed on a level of 8 to 10 animals, which has persisted until today. In ear-



Chart 1: List of animals held as per 31/12/2008

Reg. No.	Sex	Born	Place of birth	Arrival	Colour
002	0,1	1993	UL	1993	Apricot
003	0,1	1996	UL	1996	Black
005	0,1	1997	UL	1997	Black
015	0,1	31. 3. 2000	Ostrava Zoo	7. 1. 2001	White
016	0,1	9. 6. 2001	UL	9. 6. 2001	Apricot
019	0,1	10. 8. 2002	UL	10. 8. 2002	Brown
034	0,1	13. 7. 2006	UL	13. 7. 2006	Grey&brown&white
041	0,1	13. 11. 2007	UL	13. 11. 2007	Grey&brown&white
044	1,0	23. 9. 2003	Olomouc Zoo	19. 5. 2008	Brown
045	1,0	11. 6. 2007	Anden – Alpacas	1. 5. 2008	Light brown
047	0,1	8. 7. 2008	UL	8. 7. 2008	Brown

ly 1990's, declining vitality of the young began to develop and additional feeding of the infants had to be ensured. (Mikulicová, Kökert 1994.) The situation was resolved once an unrelated male was imported from Olomouc Zoo. Usually, no additional care for the infants following the birth was required, and the survival rate was excellent. One more female from Ostrava Zoo

was added to the herd. When the male from Olomouc died in 2007, it was decided that two males would be imported – one male from a German farm, and the other again from Olomouc Zoo. Both males were brought in 2008. In the near future, one more breeding male is to be imported from a foreign breeder. Currently, the alpacas are held in two separate breeding

Group 1
 Group 2

groups, where the first comprises six females and the male No. 044, and the other is composed of three females raised in recent years and the male No. 045 (**Picture 1**). Altogether, this made total 2.9 (**Chart 1**) as per the end of 2008.



In the period from April to November, both herds are kept outdoors in two grassy enclosures. In the first enclosure of 3,500 m², the alpacas are held in the company of two-humped camels. The boundary of the enclosure is formed from a mesh fence 1.1m high combined with electric fence, mesh diameter 15 x 15 cm. There is a shelter with the area of 49m² roofing a place for feeding grains and a drinker. The roofed facilities include a portable device for feeding large rounded bales of hay. Other feeding place is found in the lower part of the enclosure; it namely serves for green fodder. The exhibit includes an area filled with sand. In addition, two trunks are routinely placed there to provide browse. Fencing of the second enclosure with the area of about 600 m² consists of five pipes and is 150 cm high. There is a spreading walnut tree provi-

ding shelter.

In winter, the alpacas are housed in boxes inside their facility. The animals are closed in order to save the grassy enclosures. The bigger herd is housed in a double box of total 25 m², while the lesser group resides a stall of 14.4 m². There are two more

boxes in the facility allowing for separation of the animals like in case of health problems. If housed in these boxes, the animals can enter only concrete outdoor yards.

One of the major activities in caring for alpacas is shearing, which takes place in April or May. Until 1996, alpacas used to be shorn from time to time, with long intervals between the shearing. Following the year above, co-operation began between the zoo and Mr Horst Tichay from Teplice Town, who shears the animals periodically. As customers required longer wool at that time, the alpacas were shorn every other year. Shearing is carried out using electric shears. An animal to be shorn must be fixed by two or three keepers (**Picture 2**), while another keeper is picking the wool from the ground. The entire fleece is stored in a paper bag. Shearing time for a single alpaca is some 10 minutes. Wool about 1.5 cm short is left on the body of the animal. The shorn wool is usually forwarded to further processing or used for enrichment in Southwest African lions. As from 2008, the animals



are to be shorn every year due to high temperature in the summer time as well as low interest in the wool.

Caring for animal teeth is another point of importance. The tooth formula in the alpaca is 1/3 | 1/1 | 2/1 | 3/3, with lower incisors presenting the teeth with indefinite growth. Any overgrowing occurs only exceptionally in certain animals and must be subject to correction. In 2008, the tooth correction was carried out in the male imported from Olomouc as well as in one of the females born at the zoo (**Picture 3**). The overgrowing is related to the availability of browse. In the past period, browse was served from time to time; currently, we strive to supply browse daily.

Trees supplied namely include fruit trees, willows, birch, and poplar; for coniferous trees, this mainly involves pine-tree. No overgrowing of hooves has occurred in the animals held at Ústí zoo.

As the new male was imported, a check UV examination was carried out in several females to find out whether any of them was pregnant (**Picture 4**). In one animal pregnancy was confirmed.

The entire herd is usually dewormed using Panakur, Ivomec, or Sulfacox twice a year (spring, autumn). During the year, several check examinations of faeces are normally performed. Blood samples are taken once a year to test any

presence of infectious diseases in the herd.

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LAST GOODBYE TO THE RHINOS

Ing. Pavel Král

In March 2008, maybe the worst thing I could ever experience during my long-term work in animal husbandry happened.

Two rhinos died within a single week: first, it was the female Saša, secondly, the male Dan passed away. Even though my mind was telling me they had already come out of age and anything like this could be expected, writing such an article is very hard for me even a year after. I spent eight years with rhinos as a keeper and I have to say this was really a nice period of life. To refresh memories, I wish to make a few words on the history of rhino husbandry.

A person responsible for the majority of the southern white rhino stock in Czech zoos can be Ing. Josef Vágner, who imported 13 (4.9) animals coming from Umfolozi Reserve, the Republic of South Africa, in 1970-73. These individuals were brought in to the country namely for the Dvůr Králové Zoo's collection. The male Dan arrived on 15/10/1970 when he was four years old, and Saša followed on 23/06/1970 as a three-year-old animal. The second female held in Ústí, two-year-old Zamba, arrived on



31/05/1972. At Dvůr Králové Zoo, nine animals remained. The male Dan mated or attempted to mate several females, i.e. Faith, Tessa, Saša, and Zamba. The first calf was born to Faith in 1976; however, it died due to an inner trauma. Two years later, the same female gave birth to the first rhino raised in the Czech Republic. The same year, the female Tessa delivered a young as well. The male Dan was the sire of all the young. As the northern white rhinos were preferred, the very promising stock was cancelled in 1979-1980 and animals

translocated to other zoos.

Both females, i.e. Saša and Zamba, came to Ústí nad Labem on 19 November 1980, followed by Dan a few days later, on 4 December 1980 (*Picture 1*). The animals were of the best age when they arrived, with Dan 14, Saša 13, and Zamba 10 years old. From the very beginning, Dan's behaviour indicated he was a territorial male. In August 1981, a female Lotzi from Tierpark Berlin was added, which was very useful. Lotzi, then 14 years old, was an animal of great importance within the group; she was



always splitting the herd, thus serving as Dan's counterpart. Saša became cycling and mating occurred (**Picture 2**), always preceded by some 15 to 20 attempts of the male jumping on the female. In 1985, the female became pregnant. On 18 November 1986, a male Sagan, the first calf in Ústí Zoo was born following 502 days of pregnancy. In September 1988, Lotzi's loan was terminated, which still did not affect Saša's periodical cycling and mating by the male.

It became apparent that even a group consisting of a male and just two females is able to reproduce. The lasting inability of Saša to become gravid was the major issue. Following sharp changes in diet, a success arrived in autumn 1989. After a 510-day pregnancy period, another male called Doran was born on 13 January 1991 (**Picture 3 shows**

the male three days upon birth, still with its umbilical chord).

As soon as the young male grown up, Dan was introduced to Saša again. This time Saša became pregnant already after her second oestrus. The pregnancy period lasted 517 days; on 10 December 1993, a male Dino was born (**Picture 4 – one year old male with Saša**).

To sum up, Dan and Saša were the parents of all three calves born at Ústí Zoo (**Chart 1**).

Each of the rhinos born presented a big success for the zoo. The outstanding value of the sire, the male Dan, should be considered. The male was a father of all animals born in the Czech Republic. As a member of the stock, he was always showing distinctive territorial behaviour like spray urinating, smashing dung piles by his hind

legs following defecation, and frequent teasing of females. The above include the typical marks for an alpha male, which is the male that can mate females. The male Dan mated the female Zamba several times as well, with Zamba's oestrus evoked artificially, however, this never resulted in Zamba being pregnant.

The calves used to be weaned in different times. Sagan was weaned in month 24, while Doran in month 20 due to the forthcoming birth, and Dino in month 17 due to its departure from the zoo. On 3 May 1993, Sagan left to Spain-based Cabarceno Nature Park, where they hold a group of two females and two males. Doran now lives with one female in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where he arrived on 3 August 1996. Lastly, Dino has been held at Poznan Zoo,



Chart 1. Overview of the young rhinos born in the Czech Republic

Name	Sex	Born	Dam	Sire	Place of birth	Dam's age	Sire's age
Fali	1,0	15. 8. 1976	Faith	Dan	Dvůr Králové nad Labem	6	10
Fatty	0,1	4. 4. 1978	Faith	Dan	Dvůr Králové nad Labem	8	12
Teny	1,0	16. 12. 1978	Tessa	Dan	Dvůr Králové nad Labem	8	12
Sagan	1,0	17. 11. 1986	Saša	Dan	Dvůr Králové nad Labem	19	20
Doran	1,0	13. 1. 1991	Saša	Dan	Ústí nad Labem	24	25
Dino	1,0	10. 12. 1993	Saša	Dan	Ústí nad Labem	26	27

Poland, since 1 June 1995, also paired with a female.

The animals used to have an outdoor enclosure of 620 m² at their disposal; it was rectangle-shaped and covered with asphalt and concrete. Next to this large enclosure, there was also a concrete yard of 189 m² used for separation. In summer 1994, the entire outdoor area for rhinos was reconstructed, which enlarged the area of the greater enclosure by 543 m² to the existing 1,164 m² with the major action including replacing a part of the asphalt and concrete cover with sand and fine gravel. In addition, a solid shelter was erected in the enclosure with a protecting wall. In the lower part of the area, a mud wallow was set up and widely used by the animals (**Picture 5**). Furthermore, connecting the rhino enclosure with the grass outdoor area for the giraffes became possible. This improved the stay of the animals outdoor. In the 1998-2000 periods, a female Kathi loaned from Salzburg was



Chart 2. Overview of rhinos held at Ústí nad Labem Zoo.

Studbook No.	Name	Born	Place of birth	Arrived in UL	From	Departure	Destination
111	Dan	1966	Umfoloji	4. 12. 1980	Dvůr Králové	22. 3. 2008	Death
114	Saša	1967	Umfoloji	19. 11. 1980	Dvůr Králové	28. 3. 2008	Death úhyn
209	Zamba	1970	Umfoloji	19. 11. 1980	Dvůr Králové		
179	Lotzi	1967	Umfoloji	4. 8. 1981	Tierpark Berlin	8. 9. 1988	Tierpark Berlin
362	Kathi	1972	Hluhluwe	30. 6. 1998	Salcburk	31. 8. 2000	Salcburk
865	Sagan	18. 11. 1986	Ústí n. L.	18. 11. 1986		3. 5. 1993	Cabarceno (Spain)
970	Doran	13. 1. 1991	Ústí n. L.	13. 1. 1991		3. 8. 1996	Belo Horizonte (Brazil)
1029	Dino	10. 12. 1993	Ústí n. L.	10. 12. 1993		1. 6. 1995	Poznaň (Poland)

added to the rhinos; at that time, she was 26 years old. However, this combination did not bring any results. The oncoming period could be outlined for the rhinos as a period of quiet and routine life, without any major hassles. In 2006, Dan's sperm was collected and examined, which was associated with narcotisation of the male. The entire operation took place in cooperation with Berlin's IZW team. The tests revealed that Dan was still fertile despite the fact he was 40 years old. The collected sperm was frozen and remains available for assisted insemination.

To conclude, there have been total eight southern white rhinos held in the history of Ústí nad Labem Zoo (**Chart 2**).

It was my daily effort of a rhino keeper to make the life of the rhinos at the zoo as much diverse as possible, which included a routine cleaning of the animals using a wire brush every morning, thus improving blood circulation in the skin and removing the old skin, and cleaning the skin folds in the area of eyes, front legs, and underbelly, namely in hot summers. Such areas were attacked by flies, which always resulted in oedemas and open wounds. Caring for legs and checking feet was also an essential part of keeper's activities. Practically, there were no problems with certain kinds of veterinary treatment such as blood collection, handling wounds and affected areas, removing grits from feet and curing contact surfaces, measuring rectal temperature, and the like. The animals were used to this daily contact, which in turn related to maintaining the animals sound and healthy.



From spring to autumn, rhinos used to be showered inside the house. In summer, they were also sprinkled, but only outdoors. Different kinds of trunks and branches for playing and horn grinding were served in the outdoor enclosure. Outside their diet, the animals used to be given whole loaves of dry bread and whole fodder beets to provide enrichment. The rhinos were able to crush these items, breaking them into small pieces and eating them up with a real pleasure. In the young animals that could walk through the gaps between the posts in the fence, thus dwelling around the house, the enrichment items included raw brushes, wooden cubes, textiles, diverse balls, etc. Unfortunately, most of the balls ended up in Saša box, which

made them out of use.

Following the death of the two rhinos in March 2008, only the female Zamba was left (**Picture 6**). Despite her age, the condition of the animal is still good, which makes me hoping that she, may stroll around the enclosure a few years more.

On 19 November 2003, a female Duma, which is a daughter of Dino, was born at Poznan Zoo. This successfully nursed female was moved to French-based Safari de Peaugres on 28 June 2006, where she raised their rhino numbers to recent 1.4. I am happy to see the blood of Dan and Saša circulating in another generation. Rhinos still seem to have a chance.

Thank you, Dan and Saša.

NURSING THE MEALY AMAZON AT ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM ZOO

Andrea Gruntová



The mealy amazon (*Amazona farinosa farinosa*) arrived at Ústí nad Labem Zoo as early as 1980's; however, this involved a few specimens that did not stay at the zoo for a long time. Only in 1996, two birds were acquired, expected to be a breeding pair. However, no activity that would result in nesting was observed in the course of two years. Therefore, blood samples were collected and tested, which made clear the amazons were of the same sex, i.e. males. The next pairing attempt in 1998 also failed, when another male was acquired from a private breeder. Unfortunately, finding

a female of this species proved to be a difficult issue. In 1999, one of the males departed on loan to a private collection. The remaining males lived alone in the zoo's bird breeding centre until 2004, when the zoo managed to obtain two females, which was again from a private collection. Sadly, one of the females suddenly died during the quarantine period and as the post mortem examination revealed psittacosis, a serious infectious disease, the other female had to be euthanised. A great luck did not arrive before 2005, when visit to Exota Olomouc (an exotic pet fair)

resulted in purchasing a sound female from Mr Ježdík, Vsetín Town, one of the exhibitors. After a trouble-free quarantine period and mandatory blood tests, the female was brought into the zoo. By this time, the males had been separated for the territorial behaviour of the dominating male chasing the other submissive male from every feeder and perch. In February 2006, the amazon triple was removed to a large common room. Pairing took place very quickly with the dominating male appropriating the female at once, so the two birds were turned back to the bird breeding centre (*Picture 1*),



where they inhabit a 6.5 m x 3 m x 1.5 m (length x height x width) outdoor aviary and a 2 m x 2 m x 2 m indoor cage. Indoors, they had two nest boxes available: one was a hollow trunk 80 cm high with a diameter of 0.5 m, while the other was an upright nest box 80 cm high with the area of 25 x 25 cm. Outdoors, an additional upright box was installed, with the area of 25 x 25 cm and the height of 60 cm. The first season the birds spent together (2006), they started to feed each other. The male kept on trying to mate the female, but the female was chasing him away. They did not seem to show any interest in the boxes, yet their harmonic behaviour looked very promising for the season to follow.

The following year in April, mutual feeding as well as mating was observed. The female was in the process of choosing an appropriate box out of the two upright boxes; no interest in the hollow trunk was shown. In the late April, both birds were visiting the outdoor upright box, where the female laid 3 eggs some time about 6 May 2008. As of 12 May, the female definitely sat on the eggs. Throughout the nesting period, an excellent care was ex-

ercised by the male; the female left the nest box only two times. The incubation period could not be established exactly, nevertheless, the resources provide 24 - 27 days. About 6 June, the consumption of feedstuffs increased; by inspecting the box two days later, two chicks about 3 to 4 days old were found. The third egg was not impregnated. The author was greatly surprised by the non-aggressive behaviour of the birds when entering the aviary and even checking the box. This made taking of some pictures of the chicks possible as early as they were three weeks old (**Picture 2**). The parents took a top-quality care of the offspring, and the chicks were growing very fast. Around day 60, one of the chicks was already looking out of the box, and three days after it flew out. At that time, the parents were showing aggressive behaviour towards the neighbouring blue and yellow macaws and the military macaws; they kept on attacking each other and pinching each other's feet. The second chick flew out from the box two days later. Unfortunately, the bird injured its wing so it had to be removed and nursed by hand. The first chick, which was

a male, was soon flying around the aviary, asking the parents for food. The other chick (female) was hand-fed for about 14 days; from that moment on, it started to feed alone, first taking soft fruits like bananas, grapes, etc., and later on mixed grains as well. A month later, when blood samples were taken for DNA tests and the birds were micro chipped, the bird's wing was found in good order. At the end of September, both young birds were placed in a separate room and seemed to do well. For the winter period, a red-lore amazon pair was added; the birds tolerated each other without problems.

With its length of 38 cm, the mealy amazon is one of the large amazon species. Its colouration is not very distinctive compared to other amazons. These green parrots obtained the species name for the grey tint occurring namely on its back. This is the only subspecies out of total four boasting the yellow spots of different size on the head. The carpal tip of their wing is red as well as the mirror. On the tip of their tail, there is a band of yellow and green. The fledglings only differed from their parents by the colour of their iris, which was brown, and that of their beaks, which was black, while in adult birds, the iris is orange-brown and the beak is mat yellow blended with dark grey. In addition, the young male was much lighter than the young female.

In the wild, mealy amazons occur from Mexico through Columbia, Guyana, Venezuela as far as Brazil. They range in lowland tropical evergreen forests up to the altitude of 1,500 m above sea level. They feed on seeds, legume seeds, palm fruit pulp,

and also flowers and semi mature fruits of wood species. In the zoo situation, there are different types of diet in winter and summer. In winter, the birds get dry mixed seeds containing grey and white sunflower, hempseed, safflower, buckwheat, wheat, maize, and glumeless oat. From March to the end of October, a mixture of germs with added legumes – lentils and beans – is served. Three times a week, cut fruits and vegetables of all kinds are offered (**Picture 3**), but even exotic fruits like pomegranates or also seasonal berries like rowanberries, elderberries, hips, etc. can be included. In the other weekdays, the parrots get maize

in milk ripeness, boiled chicken, sponge biscuits, nuts like walnuts, hazelnuts, and peanuts, and boiled eggs. During the time of feeding the young, they also get an egg-based mixture. The amazons are known to enjoy browse, therefore, fresh twigs of trees like willow, hazel-tree, as well as other trees or wood species are served every week. The nesting season is also a reason to supply more vitamins in form of Nutrimix EX-A and Superhit D. In winter, Optimin E and Acidoamid E are added roughly once a month.

The mealy amazons held at Ústí Zoo are very smart parrots that like showering and are always

busy with nibbling and picking something from the ground. Nursing was running smoothly and without any aggressive behaviour unlike in the red-lored amazons that were raised at the zoo as well, but any entering their aviary could only take place with protective aids. The adult birds were always showing an excellent and trouble-free care when nursing the young. I am very happy that the zoo could join the few breeders that have managed to raise the species.

Used resources
Amazoňané – R. Low
Exota 2/2006



100 BIRD NEST-BOXES PROJECT

Mgr. Eva Mikolášková

Since the times of Heinrich Lumpe – the early 20th century, the territory on which Ústí nad Labem Zoo extends today could be referred to as a nature refuge in the middle of the industrial town. In addition to the exotic wildlife held at the zoo, it provides habitat to many wild species. The character of the landscape reflects the look of the original park. Trees, growing either as solitary giants or cover-making groups are interconnected with bio-corridors formed from lines of shrubs bordering the waving lawns and flower spots. This is just an environment for asylum-seeking birdlife. To help conserve the local wild avifauna and at the same time to build on the activities of Dr Lumpe, who founded a birdlife preserve in the park in 1908, the 100 Bird Nest-Boxes Project was launched.

In the spring 2008, eleven different types of nesting boxes (**Picture 1**) were installed around the zoo, which is the area of almost 30 ha. The boxes can be used by up to 21 bird species nesting in hollows, cracks, and slits. The boxes were installed in different habitats depending on the intended species. The majority of the boxes – total 60 – included tit nesting boxes that can be further classified as boxes with a slot entrance, and boxes for lesser or greater tit species. Other types comprised starling boxes, flycatcher boxes with oval entrance, half-open nest boxes for redstarts and wagtails, and several types of owl nest boxes. Five special elongated boxes for swifts were placed on



the roof of several buildings (**Picture 2**). All boxes were manufactured and donated by Kuchyně Pokorná Company. Each nest box was numbered to allow for periodical checks of the nesting process. The following data were found in the course of the first nesting season in 2008, which was rather a testing season for the birds that showed interest in the boxes. The artificial hollows attracted the birds in the given territories very soon, however,

only some of them preferred the boxes to natural shelters, so only 34% of the nest boxes were occupied. The starling boxes with 8 out of 10 installed featured the highest rate of occupancy, 80%; in all cases, the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was the nesting bird.

On the other side, the lowest rate of success was found in 15 half open nest-boxes designed especially for the common redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) that is a bird commonly found in the zoo grounds. Sadly, only a single half box was occupied; the species involved was the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). For the tits, the common local species appeared in some of total 60 tit boxes: the blue tit (**Picture 3**) and the great tit. The blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) settled in seven boxes, while the great tit (*Parus major*) occupied two boxes more. As tits show great species-specific differences in size, the purpose of installing tit boxes with different sizes of openings was to de-





crease the inter-species competition related to nesting cavities. Observing distribution of the tits in varied types of tit boxes was a very interesting activity. Blue tits clearly preferred lesser tit boxes with openings that could prevent any larger bird species to enter. In the lesser tit boxes, five pairs raised their offspring. Only one pair opted for a tit box for larger tit species, which seemed to have been defended against the great tit. In addition to the tit boxes with round opening, ten trial small tit boxes with slot entrance were installed. Out of these boxes, only two were occupied by a blue tit and great tit pair. Besides the above-mentioned tits, one of the boxes with the slot also hosted a pair of the black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), which somehow compensated the overall lack of interest shown by *Phoenicurus* genus. The occurrence of nesting great tits exclusively in the large tit boxes confirmed that limiting the size of the box opening in the boxes designed for lesser tits really worked. What's more, one of the great tit pairs nested in a flycatcher box that is even more comfortable for birds thanks to the shape of its opening.

When selecting proper nesting conditions, availability of materials for nest building is typically considered by birds (**Picture 4**). In most cases, about one third of the box was filled with nesting materials, but in some boxes, even over one half of the inner space was full. Blue tits used a thick moss layer for nest building, with a soft and warm nesting well made of hairs – especially undergrowth, filoplumes, and down feathers. The great tit nests were similar to those of the blue tit; they differed in a thinner hair layer and twigs added only sporadically.



The house sparrow's nest featured the typical disarranged pattern, with the base including dry grass and feathers with added mix of strings, polythene bits and various packages, alike the nests of starlings based on straw, dry grass, and larger feathers of peafowls, parrots, etc. including flight feathers. In an advanced stage of nesting, such nest produced a specific bad smell coming from the accumulated excrements of the young. A very intriguing material found around the nest was used for bedding in a black redstart box located in a small groove. The base was set up from a thick layer of catkins covered with another layer of birch leaves with a nesting well bedded with feathers in the middle.

The reproduction phases varied per nest-box: in some boxes, egg incubation was only started, while in others there were already fledglings ready to leave the nest (**Picture 5**). Even when the parents were not present, the egg owners could be identified by the appearance of the clutch. The unicolour eggs of light blue to greenish were managed by the black redstart; the



bluish colour was an identification mark for the eggs of the European starling as well. Tit eggs featured brown spots on a white base alike those of the house sparrow that used brown-grey spots as a camouflage. As for numbers of raised young, clear differences not only existed between species, but even between pairs. Three chicks were hatched in a redstart's nest. In starling boxes, the number of young ranged from two to three. In tits that are well-known for their good-sized clutches, a mean clutch size was 7.4 eggs a pair. The largest clutch of ten eggs was found by the author in one of the great tit nests, yet the

blue tits did not stay behind with their nine eggs. After the nesting season, the boxes had to be cleaned and repaired. We found that the boxes became a target of local woodpecker community, as openings of about every fourth tit box were damaged to such extent that the boxes could not work anymore (**Picture 6**). Based on this finding, the openings had to be lined with sheet metal. Through financial donations used for the maintenance of the boxes, the 100 Bird Nest-Boxes project can be supported by the members of public by adopting a box. Upon payment of a selected amount, which

is subject to the type of the box and ranges from CZK 500 through 1,000 up to 1,500, the donor can receive a nest-box adoption agreement, certificate, and annual report on the occupancy of the specific box and the nesting success. In the 2009 season, the nesting monitoring project is to continue. Plans are already in place to expand the research into the area of ringing in young birds, which may improve the knowledge of migration of the populations around the zoo and the level of loyalty to the place of hatching in young birds.



PESISIR BALIKPAPAN PROJECT: 2007—2008 ACTIVITY REPORT

Mgr. Stanislav Lhota, Ph.D.

An overview of field activities carried out by Mgr Stanislav Lhota, PhD, Ústí nad Labem Researcher, and his team made of students, local assistant, and colleagues in the Balikpapan Gulf Basin, Eastern Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo, from October 2007 up to October 2008.



Proboscis monkey research.

The proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) was selected in 2007 as a flagship species of the coastal mangrove and rainforest conservation project in the Balikpapan Gulf basin (**Picture 1**), as this species was not only a threatened species of interest to scientists, but also a highly attractive creature for local authorities, NGOs, public media, donors, and also the local population for its intriguing appearance and international attention. Thus, re-

search in this species presents a virtual backbone to the programme focused on conservation of the species as such, its habitat – coastal mangroves, and also other animal and plant taxons found in this environment.

Determining population distribution and size. The first stage of the research lasted over two months and concentrated on the survey of the proboscis population distribution and size along the Balikpapan Gulf coast. The counting using a small motor

boat always took place in the morning and late afternoon during the time of primates routinely gathering in sleeping trees on the riverbanks. As the gulf basin consists of watersheds of some 54 lesser rivers where any detailed survey was impossible, an option was to concentrate on a specific area – Kariangau, and attempt to carry out a total count of the proboscis population there. Applying the found number of 400 animals to the total area of coastal mangroves determined from satellite pic-



tures produced total estimated size of population 1,400 individuals. It is one of the world's six largest counted populations of the species. This result became an important argument for the regional conservation as such.

Assessing a degree of isolation of the population. To assess a degree of genetic isolation of the Balikpapan Gulf proboscis population, which is a serious problem in terms of the population's viability, efforts were made to locate other closest populations as well. Existence of additional 3-4 small populations within 120 km around Balikpapan was eventually documented, with sizes ranging from 50 to 150 animals. The fact they live close to each other indicates that possibility of occasional translocations of animals among these populations exist, suggesting they may not be fully genetically isolated. However, any quantitative assessment would require a DNA study, which is considered in future.

Evidence for the occurrence of the silvered leaf monkey. In addition to the proboscis monkey, the Balikpapan Gulf mangroves host a quite common species,

the crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*), but any existence of the third primate species known from other Bornean mangroves, which is the silvered leaf monkey, still has not been documented. The survey carried out by the team eventually produced an evidence for the occurrence of this species on a single site around the gulf area as well as on two additional localities within 50 km. However, the viability of these small isolated populations still remains uncertain. In light of the recent disputation concerning exact classification of this langur species dwelling in Borneo, the presence of this primate is interesting not only in terms of conservation, but also taxonomically. As recently suggested, the species inhabiting the Balikpapan Gulf could be in fact the Javan langur (*Trachypithecus auratus*). Nevertheless, photographs the team managed to obtain revealed that this is not true and the species ranging within the location above is really the silvered leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus cristatus*).

Identifying anthropogenous threats. While counting the

proboscis population, damage to the habitat of the species (mangroves) caused by diverse human activities was located and recorded. The main threats identified include founding shrimp and bandang fish culture ponds, mangrove logging and backfilling due to industrial development, setting oil palm plantations along river banks, producing charcoal from mangrove wood (**Picture 2**), and illegal logging of timber in the close neighbourhood of mangroves. The data obtained were consulted with a legal advisor, Muhamad Nasir from Universitas Balikpapan, to establish and formally sustain the nature of each activity. In parallel, the information was forwarded to responsible representatives of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations involved, and public media.

Identifying the most appropriate area for high-intense conservation. Any declaring the Balikpapan Gulf mangroves with a total area of 170 km² a fully preserved territory will be impossible even in future. A zoning system should be designed and strict protection of at least the most valuable part of the area recommended. The process of selecting such area was underway based on inspecting the satellite images of the entire territory, thorough terrain survey, and communication with both local residents and governmental officials to assess their receptiveness to protection of the specific zones. Finally, two areas were specified: first, the mangroves in the Pemaluan and Maridan districts presenting the best preserved and the most extensive stands; at the same time, these regions posed a minimum level of potential conflicts be-



tween conservation and local interest groups; second, the mangroves in the Kariangau and Mentawir districts, which are the only areas that are still interconnected with the primary rainforest in the Sungai Wain Forest Preserve through green corridors. Both territories feature altogether some 2/3 of the area of the mangroves in the Balikpapan Gulf.

Setting up a research centre and assistant training. A research centre was set up in the middle of the Pemaluan district, which is one of the two priority areas specified. An abandoned orchard located on an islet in the middle of vast mangroves was purchased, two local bungalows refurbished (**Picture 3**), and a harbour restored. Recovery of the mixed dipterocarp forest on the island was enabled, and any development limited to essential minimum. Two assistants possessing good motor boat using and maintaining skills were hired with previous several month experience with the primate research in the field.

Developing habituation methodology. Attempts to habitua-

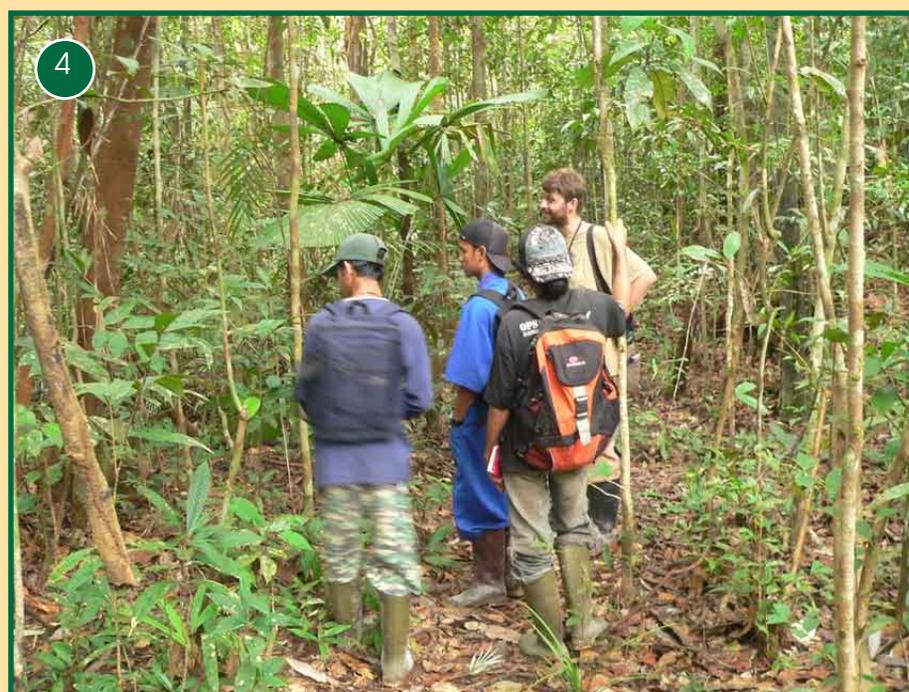
te proboscis monkeys, which means getting them used to the presence of observer in order to collect data on their behaviour when undisturbed have not been successful so far; only a short-term attendance of the observer was tolerated by the primates. Nevertheless, invaluable experiences obtained during the recent efforts will allow for a new habituation methodology to be developed for the next season, primarily based on habituating from a boat as well as standing on-site pres-

ence of researchers and assistants. This will require hiring of new researchers. For the 2009-2010 periods, this will involve Ondřej Kott, a graduate student from the University of South Bohemia České Budějovice, who had already spent 2 months on the locality by developing a pilot study, accompanied by a magisterial student from University of Yogyakarta, Johannes Wibiono.

Research programme in the Sungai Wain Forest Preserve.

Before the proboscis monkey became a flagship species for our activities in the Balikpapan Gulf, the nearby Sungai Wain Forest Preserve was central to the team's work. In the 2005-2006 periods, habituation of the white-fronted surilli (*Presbytis frontata*), an almost unknown primate species, as well as that of other mammal species was underway. The work during the 2007-2008 season was more or less a follow-up of the activities above, at least to a limited extent.

Monitoring programme and staff training. The fact that the management of the Forest



Preserve employed two of former team's assistants, Fitriadi and Muhalir, who had been involved in team's previous programme, thus received proper training, constituted a key milestone. This enabled the team to develop a new programme of long-term monitoring of the forest and populations of specific mammals in the partnership with the management of the preserve. Stanislav Lhota became a temporary manager of the programme, which was successively assigned to Rusdiant, a graduate of the University of Mulawarman Samarinda, who was another new preserve employee. In addition to maintaining the research camp, roads, and other infrastructure, the scope of work of Fitriadi, Muhalir, and Rusdiant also comprises monitoring of weather (temperature, rainfall, and air humidity), phenology (production of leaves, flowers, and fruits in specific areas in the forest), and populations of specific mammal species using a line transect method. The programme outputs will involve annual reports, with the first report to be published at the end of 2008.

Primate and other mammal species survey. A major part of the mammal survey in Sungai Wain takes place along the transects (**Picture 4**), which refers to straight narrow paths cut through the forest in the compass direction – usually from east to west. As the transects normally overgrow with vegetation and are filled with dead wood and leaves very fast, they have to be renewed in routine periods of time. The last recovery was carried out in 2006, when 46.5 km of transects were recleared thanks to the financial support



of the Czech photographer Petr Slavík. This included sweeping the fallen leaves in the transects, making the paths available for survey of very shy mammals as well. The 2008 activities included a first systematic habitation survey of night mammal species in addition to diurnal mammals like primates, tree shrews, squirrels, and some of the ungulate mammals. Noteworthy findings included occurrence of the pen-tailed tree shrew (*Ptilocercus lowii*), painted tree shrew (*Tupaia picta*), and several more small mammal species located only for the first time in this part of Borneo. Based on 2008 and earlier findings, a material was produced listing all mammal species ranging in the territory of Balikpapan Town, which includes the Sungai Wain Forest Preserve. This overview comprises 95 mammal species, which may make Balikpapan Town a city with the largest number of wild mammal species around the world. Thus, the publication became one of the tools we have used to prove the extraordinary diversity and value of Sungai Wan. The increasing numbers of the mammal spe-

cies returning into the part of the preserve that had burned down through the period of the calamity fires in 1998 was another important finding made in 2008. (**Picture 5 – A brown coal seam burning underground.**) Two species were recorded in the area for the first time: the greater slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*) and the orang-utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), which means that at least eight species out of the nine primates known to have inhabited the preserve already returned to the burnt forest. To make a more detailed record of the mammal population recovery in the burnt forest, a programme of periodical monitoring of diurnal and mammal species was implemented within 4 km of transects in the unburnt section, and within 4 km of paths in the burnt forest. Fitriadi and Muhalir are to record the mammals ranging along 8 km of transects every morning and night twice a month.

Renewing phenology areas. 10 years ago, 10 phenology areas were set up inside Sungai Wain with a total area of 1 ha comprising over 500 trees out of total 200 species. This land serves to long-term monitoring



of leaf, flower, and fruit production, which has been carried out every month throughout the ten years. Unfortunately, no data have been processed in recent 6 years, and about one quarter of them has been totally lost. Upon the arrival of the new research programme staff members, it was decided that the monitoring of the phenology areas should be made more effective. The older data were tabulated in a digital form and backed up. The data on trees located on the phenology areas were updated. Aluminium plates were installed on trees with a trunk diameter above 10 cm, height and perimeter was measured, and the percentage of trees that had died in the preceding period as well as those that had reached exactly 10cm diameter of trunk was de-

termined. The data collection still continues using the same methodology, but the data are to be subject to annual analysis and the results included in the annual report published by the preserve management.

Insect diversity survey. Within the biodiversity documentation process, entomologists Milan Janda, Aleš Dolný, and Daniel Bárta were invited to pay a short visit to Sungai Wain. Milan Janda from the University of South Bohemia was documenting diversity of ants, training the project assistants in the ant population and activity data collection methodology, and looking for potential subjects for student projects. Aleš Dolný from Ostrava University together with Daniel Bárta were recording the diversity of dragonfly species within several Balikpapan habi-

tats. Preliminary results have indicated that diversity of insects was rather low in contrast with that of vertebrates, which was found to be very high. The loss of species seems to be evident in ants rather than in dragonflies and may relate to the type of the forest, which is a relatively less humid dipterocarp forest on soils with good permeability, but also factors called island effects, i.e. loss of species in minor isolated ecosystems could be involved; this might be the case of extinction of terrestrial tiger leeches, to name a few. Thus, this result provides further arguments for the necessity of protecting the green corridors connecting Sungai Wain with other remnants of tropical forest.

Conservation.

Conservation activities present

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a substantial part of team's work, becoming still more preferred to the research. The conservation work takes place partly in the field, such as monitoring and informal patrolling, partly within local populations – socialization and campaigns, and partly at the local offices in Balikpapan, Penajam, and Samarinda.

Making contacts with authorities. The Balikpapan Gulf territory has been governed by two districts: the Balikpapan Town and the PPP (Penajam Paser Utara) district. While the co-operation between conservationists and the local government in Balikpapan have lasted for about 10 years, any relationships within PPU had to be first established, which was made with success during the last period. A new conservation agency was set up in PPU, with a working programme based to a significant extent on the information and recommendations supplied by the team. The team established personal contacts with a number of local government representatives from a district level through sub-districts and villages to the lowest administrative level called neighbourhoods as

well as with many non-governmental organizations in the territory of the Balikpapan Gulf or in the East Kalimantan province's capital Samarinda. A number of governmental and non-governmental officials involved were kept informed on specific cases of violation associated with habitat destruction found within the team's daily routine in the field (*Picture 6*) on a periodical basis, including follow-up evaluation and monitoring of their actions and frequent discussing any problems. In order to present some of the issues to the general public, frequent contacts were maintained with several local newspapers. The team's strategy was presenting the conservation work in a positive manner; therefore, reports and updates concerning interesting results of the research were provided to the newspapers every month. Any public solving of conservation issues through the media was only sought when negotiations with local authorities and NGOs failed to bring the desired results.

Socialization with local inhabitants. Mangroves are utilized by

the local population for a number of purposes, out which some seem to be sustainable, like fishery, crab hunting, collecting palm leaves to make roofing or fuel timber for own use, while others speed up the mangrove destruction, such as setting up fish ponds (*Picture 7*), commercial charcoal burning, structural timber logging, etc. The team's objective is to distinguish and support sustainable activities, and to establish and maintain friendly relationships with the village people making use of them. Likewise, efforts are made to keep periodical contacts with the majority of local inhabitants that have used mangroves in neither positive nor negative sense, and may therefore be intact to the fate of the coastal growth under normal circumstances. The support of the majority of the villagers thus gained is a key tool to advocate conservation efforts either in the field or on the level of negotiating with the local government.

Monitoring and patrolling. Periodical monitoring of human activities that are underway in the most valuable part of the Balikpapan Gulf presents the focus of team's recent field conservation activities. The assistants monitor the situation once a month even when the team management is absent. Any data concerning new and potentially illegal activities are sent to the team management and forwarded to the responsible local authorities. However, the team's powers within the monitoring only include data collection, not any action against the violators. Therefore, efforts are underway to enforce a programme of periodical patrolling accompanied with detaining the violators and transferring

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them to police. The team's partners that could get such powers from the government include the management of the Sungai Wain Forest Preserve, and the Central Board of Original Youth Kalimantan Movement, GEPAK. Still, it should be mentioned that informal patrolling is a by-product of the research programme that is underway in the Pema-luan district. Supported by the traditional chief, the team members dislocated plates in the mangroves around the district informing on the fact that the area was under chief's protection. Accompanied by the chief and GEPAK members, the team visited the families burning charcoal illegally and setting up ponds in this area, asking that they stop any such activity. As a result, the mangrove logging to produce charcoal ceased and no fishpond was established in the district without any sharp conflict over the period of one year.

Developing organizational structure. To ensure any long-term protection of the Balikpapan Gulf, founding an institution responsible for the management of the territory is essential.

Such kind of organisation was already established in 2000 and still formally exists, however, without any staff and funding: Balikpapan Gulf Authority, BPTB. Efforts are underway to restore the BPTB operations in the partnership with local governments – Balikpapan and PPU, non-governmental organizations, and the Ministry of Environment; however, the negotiations proceed very slowly, which is among others due to the fact that several high governmental officials are too busy.

Industrial development issues.

Specific problems that must be solved include developing ports and industrial plants without assessment of environmental impacts (EIA) or even violating conditions of building permits. Considering the rapid industrial development of the area as such, this is a big and still growing issue (*Picture 8 – Brown coal mine*), which is moreover complicated by the corruption of governmental officials and by the fact that industrial companies have often quite big funds available. Typically, a small lot of mainland is purchased by an enterprise, from which soil is bulldozed to cleared mangroves, which extends the available area multiple times. In this manner, 100 ha of mangroves in one of the few virgin areas of Balikpapan were destroyed by a Javan palm oil-processing enterprise MBA. This not only results in loss of mangroves, but also reduces the esthetical value of the coast and thus its attractiveness for future conservation efforts. Any similar cases are solved by intense negotiations with authorities on all levels of the local government as well as

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disclosing in the media. Unfortunately, the success rate of the conservation efforts is very low for the high corruption level.

Road development problems.

The difficult accessibility of the coastal mangroves in the Balikpapan Gulf is one of the reasons why they are still well-preserved. Fundamental changes may occur subject to constructing a province road leading along a major part of the gulf. Such road would expose the mangroves as well as the Sungai Wain Forest Preserve along the border of which the road would lead to a number of uncontrollable legal, legalisable, and illegal activities. In addition, it would cut all the corridors between Sungai Wain and the coast. The project has been subject to protests by conservationists a long time. In 2006, the project team members participated on environmental impacts assessment (EIA) procedure, and in 2007 they attended a meeting concerning the alternative solution for the transport across the Balikpapan Gulf, which was a bridge between Balikpapan and Penajam towns. Sadly, the

local governments of Balikpapan and PPU, East Kalimantan government, and the Ministry of Transport of the Indonesian Republic failed to agree on any of the alternatives, and the province government launched the road construction in 2008. Currently, campaign to stop the construction process continues, however, activities of the companies and individuals that already count with opening of the area, rapidly buying land and developing roads as well as other infrastructure for future industrial plants must be faced at the same time.

Oil palm plantation problems.

The PPU district has concentrated on the oil palm as the key farm crop; growers of this plant are responsible for one of the main cases of destruction of Indonesian tropical forest. This has resulted in clearing the forests along the most of the rivers in the PPU's part of the Balikpapan Gulf basin (*Picture 9*) in recent three years. Although mangroves remained undamaged, they were completely isolated from other forest ecosystems, and exposed to an

extreme level of sedimentation with soil washed from several thousand hectares of the deforested area. Establishing the plantations along the river banks is deemed an illegal action, however, no control exists on the side of the authorities. In addition, conflicts arise between agricultural enterprises and local people to which the companies are seizing the land, often without any compensation. The team members joined the protests of the affected minor farmers and the demonstrations eventually resulted in ceasing the activities of the major enterprise, PT Agro Indomas, in three districts; unfortunately, this did not include the Pemaluan district where mangroves of the highest value are located. Discussion is underway with PPU's Forest and Plantation Authority concerning withdrawal of PT Agro Indomas at least a few tenths of meters from the river banks within the Pemaluan district as well and following recovery of the banks by forest stands.

Fish culture pond establishing problems.

Farming ponds for shrimps and the bandang fish pose a threat not only to mangroves due to complete clearing or perishing upon flooding of the area, but even to the local fisheries as the decline of the sea fish as a result of loss of habitat that is essential for many species to reproduce exceeds total revenues from the ponds. In addition, fish culture makes the economical differences between the villagers much sharper, as maintaining the ponds is a financially consuming process, which leads to bankruptcy of the poor, while the rich pond farmers profit. Therefore, any establishing of additional ponds in the Balikpapan Gulf was



prohibited by both local governments, i.e. Balikpapan and PPU. Nevertheless, there is no supervision in the field, so ponds are established illegally. In this case, violation of the law can be documented very easily, the presence and the contacts with the authorities are sufficient to prevent developing any further ponds. However, there are still conflicts with the land owners who had obtained the pond building certificate either from the previous government or illegally on sub-ordinate levels of the current government. Thus, the project team always try to use one of the two available alternatives to resolve the land conflict, which is either financial compensation or a lawsuit.

Charcoal burning. Clearing mangroves for charcoal production (*Picture 10*) has always been a sustainable process until

recently. Unfortunately, this has changed with the availability of powerful tools like power chain saws and motor boats as well as the wealthy investors arriving from the cities, which turned the groups of poor charcoal burners into well-organised mafias with connections to the governmental and police offices. However, as the poorest are still involved, this trade has been tolerated by both the government and NGOs for sentimental reasons alone. Plans exist to reduce the charcoal production and compensate the charcoal burners with a possibility of alternative earnings. However, such projects demand a lot of funding and have never been made real. Paradoxically, the agreement made by the project team according to which the charcoal burners were to leave the area of the most valuable man-

groves in the Pemaluan district and mine the wood from other stands of lower value has so far been the most successful effort, which still will be subject to periodical monitoring if it is to be respected at all.

Illegal logging problems. Likewise, loggers mining timber from the forests closely neighbouring the rivers and mangroves serving as the roads of access are frequently associated in minor mafias. However, no poor are involved in this case unlike in charcoal burning: timber is a much-sought article (*Picture 11*) and revenues from selling the timber are quite high. At the same time, this activity is not very much tolerated by the governmental authorities, and raids of police pose a serious risk to the logging companies. Unfortunately, the problems of the forests in the Balikpapan Gulf lie

in the absence of forest rangers and remoteness of the coastal forests for navy police troops that rather concentrate on harbours and industrial zones. Within the framework of the negotiations between the team and the authorities, efforts exist that the illegal logging inspection be integrated in the proposed programme of patrolling around the gulf. In addition, this makes the programme more important from the aspect of the authorities as illegal logging is currently felt as a nation-wide problem in Indonesia.

Abuse of power in conservation. Sadly, corruptive and profit seeking behaviour of local conservationists alone presents a highly awkward issue for Indonesian conservation. Advocating inadequate projects by officials responsible for conservation seeking financial resources that can be misappropriated is common. Wasting funding that may be not available for reasonable programmes is usually the better case, but mostly any such activity has additional negative effects. Most of the cases, where repeated protests are necessary include reforestation, be it mangroves or the burnt mainland forest as reforestation, which is mainly termed as planting a forest in the forest, will often only disturb the process of natural growing and recovery of the forest. Unfortunately, the most frustrating example of a misreckoning project is the 5% of the Sungai Wain Forest Preserve expended for deve-

lopment of a botanical park. This project will not only result in loss of valuable habitat, but also in problems of introducing potential invasive plants, tunnelling the money allocated for operation of the protected area, and failure of the authorities to care for the protected forest that will be in turn shaded by the botanical park. Any such problems are too hard to resolve, as it means facing our own colleagues who are necessary for cooperation in other much more serious conservation issues.

Scientific papers and publications.

The last year, three scientific reports were published in international journals with relevant impact factor, other two reports were accepted for printing in 2009 or the year after, and a review of another paper is now underway. All papers relate to the previous research in Madagascar, India, and in zoological parks in Europe.

Papers already published:

Lhota S, Junek T, Kubena AA and Bartos L (2008): Specialized use of two fingers in free-ranging aye-ayes (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*). *American Journal of Primatology* 70(8):786-795.

Petru M, Spinka M, Lhota S, Sipek P (2008): Head rotations in the play behaviour of Hanuman langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*): A description and an analysis of their function. *Journal of Comparative Psychology*

122(1):9-18.

Havlicek J, Saxton TK, Roberts SC, Jozifkova E, Lhota S, Valentova, J & Flegr J. (2008). He sees, she smells? Male and female reports on sensory reliance in mate choice and non-mate choice contexts. *Personality and Individual Differences*. 45: 564-569

Papers accepted:

Lhota S, Junek T and Bartos L (in press): Patterns and laterality of hand use in free-ranging aye-ayes (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) and comparison with captive studies. *Journal of Ethology*.

Konečná M., Lhota S, Weiss A, Urbánek T, Adamová T, Pluháček J (in press): Personality in free-ranging Hanuman langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) males: Subjective ratings and recorded behavior. *Journal of Comparative Psychology*.

Papers under review:

Petru M, Charvatova V, Spinka M, Lhota S (revised version sent): Revisiting play elements and self-handicapping in play: A comparative study of five old world monkey species. *Journal of Comparative Psychology*.

Authors of the photographs:

Petr Čolas (Picture 1 and 4)
Ondřej Kott (Picture 3)
Archive UP HLSW (Picture 5)
Stanislav Lhota (Picture 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11)

NUMBERS OF ANIMALS TO 31. 12. 2008

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Mammals (Mammalia)						
Addax	2.0					2.0
Addax nasomaculatus	EEP,ISB,RDB=CR,CITES=I					
Alpaca	2.9	0.1	1.0		1.1	2.9
Vicugna pacos						
Amur Leopard	1.2				0.1	1.1
Panthera pardus orientalis	EEP,ISB,RDB=CR,CITES=I					
Amur Leopard Cat	1.0			1.0		
Prionailurus bengalensis euphilura	RDB=LC					
Angola Lion	1.1	0.3				1.4
Panthera leo bleyenberghi	RDB=VU					
Babyrusa	1.1					1.1
Babyrousa babyrussa	EEP,ISB,RDB=VU,CITES=I					
Banded Mongoose	1.3					1.3
Mungos mungo	RDB=LR					
Baringo Giraffe	1.3	0.0.3				1.3.3
Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi	EEP,RDB=LR					
Bengal Elephant	0.2					0.2
Elephas maximus bengalensis	EEP,RDB=EN,CITES=I					
Black and White Ruffed Lemur	5.1	2.0			4.0	3.1
Varecia variegata	EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I					
Blackbuck	7.5	0.2	1.0		1.0	7.7
Antilope cervicapra	RDB=NT					
Blue Monkey	1.1					1.1
Cercopithecus mitis	RDB=LR					
Bonnet Macaque	3.3					3.3
Macaca radiata	RDB=LR					
Bornean Orangutan	3.1				1.0	2.1
Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus	EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I					
Brazilian Tapir	1.1					1.1
Tapirus terrestris	EEP,RDB=VU					
Californian Sea Lion	1.0					1.0
Zalophus californianus	ESB,RDB=LR					
Capybara	0.1		1.0			1.1
Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris	RDB=LR					
Central American Agouti	1.1					1.1
Dasyprocta punctata	RDB=LR					

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Mammals (Mammalia)						
Collared Peccary Pecari tajacu	1.2 RDB=LR					1.2
Common Squirrel Monkey Saimiri sciureus	1.1 EEP,RDB=LC			0.1		1.0
Cotton-top Tamarin Saguinus oedipus	1.3 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I	0.0.1		0.1		1.2.1
Crab-eating Raccoon Procyon cancrivorus	1.1 RDB=LR				1.0	0.1
De Brazza´s Monkey Cercopithecus neglectus	2.2 ESB,RDB=LR	0.0.1				2.2.1
Defassa Waterbuck Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa	1.3 RDB=LR	1.1				2.4
Diana Monkey Cercopithecus diana diana	1.1 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I					1.1
Domestic Bactrian Camel Camelus bactrianus	1.5 RDB=CR	2.0			2.0	1.5
Domestic Dog Canis familiaris			0.1			0.1
Domestic Goat Capra hircus	0.2	2.0			2.0	0.2
Domestic Goat Capra hircus	4.7	7.1		1.0	6.3	4.5
Domestic Sheep Ovis aries aries	1.8	2.4			2.1	1.11
Eastern Pygmy Marmoset Callithrix pygmaea niveiventris	1.1.4 RDB=LC	0.0.2		0.0.2		1.1.4
Fishing Cat Prionailurus viverrinus	1.0 EEP,ISB,RDB=VU		0.1			1.1
Fosa Cryptoprocta ferox	2.1 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN					2.1
Geoffroy´s Cat Oncifelis geoffroyi	1.1 EEP,RDB=NT,CITES=I	1.2				2.3
Golden Lion Tamarin Leontopithecus rosalia	1.0 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I				1.0	
Guanaco Lama guanicoe	0.2 RDB=LR					0.2
Harbour Seal Phoca vitulina	1.1 RDB=LR					1.1
Hartmann´s Mountain Zebra Equus zebra hartmannae	3.8 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN	0.1				3.9

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Mammals (Mammalia)						
Cheetah <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	1.1 EEP,ISB,RDB=VU,CITES=I		1.0	0.1		2.0
Japanese Serow <i>Naemorhedus crispus</i>	0.1 ESB,ISB,RDB=LR					0.1
Javan Langur <i>Trachypithecus auratus</i>	0.4 RDB=EN					0.4
Jungle Cat <i>Felis chaus</i>	1.0 RDB=LC					1.0
Kafue Lechwe <i>Kobus leche kafuensis</i>	3.4 ISB,RDB=VU	0.1			1.1	2.4
Kilimanjaro Colobus <i>Colobus guereza caudatus</i>	0.4 ESB,RDB=LR					0.4
Larger Hairy Armadillo <i>Chaetophractus villosus</i>	1.1 RDB=LC					1.1
Llama <i>Lama glama</i>	2.5	1.1		0.1	2.2	1.3
Lowland Anoa <i>Bubalus depressicornis</i>	3.2 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I			1.0		2.2
Malayan tiger <i>Panthera tigris jacksonii</i>			0.1			0.1
Mandrill <i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	1.4 EEP,RDB=VU					1.4
Maned Wolf <i>Chrysocyon brachyurus</i>	1.2 EEP,ISB,RDB=NT					1.2
Meerkat <i>Suricata suricatta</i>	3.1 RDB=LR	0.0.1				3.1.1
Nilgai <i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	3.2 RDB=LC		0.1		1.1	2.2
Northern Plains Grey Langur <i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	1.4 ESB,RDB=LR,CITES=I			1.1		0.3
Northern White-cheeked Gibbon <i>Nomascus leucogenys leucogenys</i>	2.1.1 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I	0.0.1		1.0		1.1.2
Ocelot <i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	1.0 RDB=LC,CITES=I					1.0
Orangutan <i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	1.0 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I					1.0
Oriental Small-clawed Otter <i>Amblonyx cinerea</i>	2.1 ISB,RDB=NT	0.0.4			1.0	1.1.4
Patagonian Mara <i>Dolichotis patagonum</i>	2.1.2 RDB=LR			0.1		2.0.2

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Mammals (Mammalia)						
Persian Leopard <i>Panthera pardus saxicolor</i>	1.0 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I				1.0	
Pony <i>Equus caballus</i>	2.3	1.2			2.0	1.5
Prevost ´s Squirrel <i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>	1.1.1 RDB=LR				0.0.1	1.1
Red Panda <i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>	3.1 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I			1.0	2.0	0.1
Red Ruffed Lemur <i>Varecia rubra</i>	2.1 EEP,ISB,RDB=CR,CITES=I	2.1			1.0	3.2
Red-handed Tamarin <i>Saguinus midas</i>	2.3 ESB,RDB=LC	0.0.2	1.1		1.1	2.3.2
Reeves ´ Muntjac <i>Muntiacus reevesi reevesi</i>	1.1.1 RDB=LR	0.0.1				1.1.2
Ring-tailed Lemur <i>Lemur catta</i>	1.2 ESB,RDB=VU,CITES=I		0.3			1.5
Silvered Leaf Monkey <i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>	0.2 RDB=NT					0.2
Snow Leopard <i>Uncia uncia</i>	1.1 EEP,ISB,RDB=EN,CITES=I		1.0		1.0	1.1
Somali Wild Ass <i>Equus africanus somalicus</i>	4.4 EEP,ISB,RDB=CR,CITES=I	1.0			1.0	4.4
South African Fur Seal <i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>			0.2			0.2
South American Coati <i>Nasua nasua</i>	1.2 RDB=LR	3.4			3.4	1.2
Southern Two-toed Sloth <i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	1.2 ESB,RDB=LC	0.0.1	0.1			1.3.1
Southern White Rhinoceros <i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	1.2 EEP,ISB,RDB=NT			1.1		0.1
Sun Bear <i>Helarctos malayanus</i>	2.5 ESB,RDB=DD,CITES=I				0.1	2.4
Thorold ´s Deer <i>Cervus albirostris</i>	1.6 RDB=VU	1.0				2.6
Variable Flying Fox <i>Pteropus hypomelanus</i>	4.2.1 RDB=LR					4.2.1
Vietnamese Sika Deer <i>Cervus nippon pseudaxis</i>	1.6 EEP,ISB,RDB=CR	0.1	2.0	1.0		2.7
Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo sibirica</i>	1.1 EEP,RDB=VU					1.1

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Birds (Aves)						
Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	1.1 RDB=LC	0.0.3			0.0.3	1.1
Blue-and-yellow Macaw <i>Ara ararauna</i>	4.5 RDB=LC		1.0	1.0	1.1	3.4
Blue-fronted Amazon <i>Amazona aestiva</i>	0.0.1 RDB=LC					0.0.1
Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	17.12 RDB=LC	0.0.86		2.3	0.0.76	15.9.10
California Quail <i>Lophortyx californica</i>	2.1 RDB=LC					2.1
Cockatiel <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	3.1 RDB=LC	0.0.4			0.0.4	3.1
Common Barn-owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	1.1 CROH=SOH,RDB=LC	0.0.2			0.0.2	1.1
Crested Pigeon <i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>	1.1 RDB=LC					1.1
Crested Wood-partridge <i>Rollulus rouloul</i>	1.1 RDB=NT			0.1		1.0
Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	1.1 RDB=LC					1.1
Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus percnopterus</i>	0.1 ESB,RDB=LC				0.1	
Emu <i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	1.1 RDB=LC					1.1
Eurasian Eagle-Owl <i>Bubo bubo</i>	1.1 CROH=OH,RDB=LC					1.1
Flamingos <i>Phoenicopterus sp.</i>	0.1					0.1
Great Currassow <i>Crax rubra</i>	2.1 RDB=NT				1.0	1.1
Great Kiskadee <i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>	1.0 RDB=LC				1.0	
Greater Rhea <i>Rhea americana</i>	0.1.5 RDB=NT	0.0.3		0.0.1	0.0.1	0.1.6
Grey Parrot <i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	1.1 RDB=LC	0.2			0.2	1.1
Himalayan Griffon <i>Gyps himalayensis</i>	1.1 RDB=LC					1.1
Indian Peafowl <i>Pavo cristatus</i>	3.6 RDB=LC			0.1	1.1	2.4

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Birds (Aves)						
Java Sparrow	0.0.2					0.0.2
Padda oryzivora	RDB=VU					
Mandarin Duck	1.0					1.0
Aix galericulata	RDB=LC					
Marabou	1.0					1.0
Leptoptilos crumeniferus	ESB,RDB=LC					
Mealy Amazon	2.1	1.1			1.0	2.2
Amazona farinosa	RDB=LC					
Military Macaw	2.3	1.0	1.1			4.4
Ara militaris	ISB,RDB=VU,CITES=I					
Raven	1.1			0.1		1.0
Corvus corax	CROH=OH,RDB=LC					
Red-and-green Macaw	2.2					2.2
Ara chloroptera	RDB=LC					
Red-fronted Parrot	1.1	1.0			1.0	1.1
Poicephalus gularis	RDB=LC					
Red-lored Amazon	2.2					2.2
Amazona autumnalis	RDB=LC					
Rose-ringed Parakeet	1.1					1.1
Psittacula krameri	RDB=LC					
Rosy Flamingo	0.0.10					0.0.10
Phoenicopterus ruber roseus	RDB=LC					
Rothschild's Mynah	1.1			0.1		1.0
Leucopsar rothschildi	EED,RDB=CR,CITES=I					
Saker Falcon	2.3	0.2				2.5
Falco cherrug	CROH=KOH,RDB=EN					
Salmon-crested Cockatoo	2.1					2.1
Cacatua moluccensis	EED,RDB=VU,CITES=I					
Scarlet Macaw	1.0		0.1			1.1
Ara macao	RDB=LC,CITES=I					
Snowy Owl	1.1	2.1			2.1	1.1
Nyctea scandiaca	RDB=LC					
Spot-sided Finch	12.7	0.0.51			0.0.51	12.7
Taeniopygia guttata	RDB=LC					
Tanimbar Corella	1.2	0.1			0.1	1.2
Cacatua goffini	RDB=NT,CITES=I					
Tawny Eagle	1.2					1.2
Aquila rapax	RDB=LC					
Tawny Owl	0.1					0.1
Strix aluco	RDB=LC					

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Birds (Aves)						
Ural Owl <i>Strix uralensis liturata</i>	1.1 CROH=KOH,RDB=LC	1.0				2.1
Victoria Crowned-Pigeon <i>Goura victoria</i>	1.1 ESB,ISB,RDB=VU					1.1
Violet Turaco <i>Musophaga violacea</i>	1.2 ESB,RDB=LC					1.2
Wrinkled Hornbill <i>Aceros corrugatus</i>	1.1 EEP,RDB=NT					1.1
Yellow-bibbed Lory <i>Lorius chlorocercus</i>	1.1 RDB=LC					1.1
	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Reptiles (Reptilia)						
African Rock Python <i>Python sebae</i>	0.1					0.1
African Spurred Tortoise <i>Centrochelys sulcata</i>	RDB=VU		0.0.3			0.0.3
American Alligator <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	1.1					1.1
Asian Leaf Turtle <i>Cyclemys dentata</i>	2.1 RDB=LR					2.1
Ball Python <i>Python regius</i>	1.1					1.1
Black-bridged Leaf Turtle <i>Cyclemys pulchristriata</i>	1.2.1	0.0.2				1.2.3
Boa Constrictor <i>Boa constrictor</i>	0.1					0.1
Burmese Python <i>Python molurus bivittatus</i>	RDB=LR		0.1			0.1
California Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis getula californiae</i>			1.2			1.2
Central Asian tortoise <i>Testudo horsfieldii</i>	4.4.1 RDB=VU					4.4.1
Common Snake-necked Turtle <i>Chelodina longicollis</i>	1.2					1.2
Cuban Boa <i>Epicrates angulifer</i>	2.2 EEP,RDB=LR					2.2
Cuban Iguana <i>Cyclura nubila nubila</i>	1.2 ISB,RDB=VU,CITES=I					1.2

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Reptiles (Reptilia)						
Dwarf Crocodile <i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i>	1.0 ESB,RDB=VU,CITES=I					1.0
Eastern Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis getula getula</i>	1.0					1.0
False Water Cobra <i>Hydrodynastes gigas</i>	1.0					1.0
Florida Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis getula floridana</i>	1.0					1.0
Fly River turtle <i>Carettochelys insculpta</i>	RDB=VU		2.0			2.0
Green Tree Python <i>Morelia viridis</i>	0.2					0.2
Greer's Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis mexicana greeri</i>	0.0.2					0.0.2
Grey-banded King Snake <i>Lampropeltis alterna</i>	1.1					1.1
Hermann's Tortoise <i>Testudo hermanni</i>	1.0 RDB=LR		0.0.1			1.0.1
Honduran Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis</i>	1.2.6	0.0.8	0.0.1		0.0.15	1.2
Horn's Monitor <i>Varanus panoptes horni</i>	0.1					0.1
Chinese Softshell Turtle <i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i>	1.0 RDB=VU					1.0
Inland Bearded Dragon <i>Pogona vitticeps</i>	1.2.3			0.2		1.0.3
Knight Anole <i>Anolis equestris</i>			0.0.4	0.0.1		0.0.3
Oriental Water Dragon <i>Physignathus cocincinus</i>	0.0.9	0.0.1			0.0.2	0.0.8
Panther Chameleon <i>Furcifer pardalis</i>	1.0					1.0
Pueblan Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli</i>	1.1				1.0	0.1
Red-bellied short-necked turtle <i>Emydura subglobosa</i>	0.0.3 RDB=LR					0.0.3
Red-eared Slider <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	5.8.1 RDB=LR			1.4		4.4.1
Reticulated Python <i>Python reticulatus</i>	1.1			1.1		

	State in 1. 1. 2008	Birth	Arrival	Death	Departure	State in 31. 12. 2008
Reptiles (Reptilia)						
Schneider´s Skink <i>Eumeces schneideri</i>	1.0.3					1.0.3
Siebenrock´s Snake-necked Turtle <i>Macrochelodina rugosa</i>	RDB=LR		0.0.1			0.0.1
Sinaloan Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum sinaloae</i>	2.2.2	0.0.11		0.0.1	0.0.12	2.2
Smooth-fronted Caiman <i>Paleosuchus trigonatus</i>	1.2				0.1	1.1
South American Red-footed Tortoise <i>Chelonoidis carbonaria</i>	6.2.4					6.2.4
Southeast Asian Box Turtle <i>Cuora amboinensis</i>	0.0.3 ESB,RDB=VU					0.0.3
Spur-thighed Tortoise <i>Testudo graeca</i>	1.0 RDB=VU					1.0
Travancore Tortoise <i>Indotestudo travancorica</i>	1.0 RDB=EN					1.0

	State in 31. 12. 2008
Amphibians (Amphibia)	
Aplash-backed Poison-arrow Frog	0.0.2
<i>Dendrobates galactonotus</i>	RDB=LC
Asian Common Toad <i>Bufo melanosticus</i>	0.0.2 RDB=LC
Blue Poison-arrow Frog <i>Dendrobates azureus</i>	0.0.3 ESB,RDB=VU
Dyeing Poison-arrow Frog <i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i>	0.0.3 RDB=LC
Golden Poison Frog <i>Phyllobates terribilis</i>	0.0.8 RDB=EN
Golfodulcean Poison-arrow Frog <i>Phyllobates vittatus</i>	0.0.6 RDB=EN
Green And Golden Poison-arrow Frog <i>Dendrobates auratus</i>	0.0.28 * RDB=LC
Ground Toads <i>Bufo sp.</i>	0.0.4
Malayan Bullfrog <i>Kaloula pulchra</i>	0.0.1 RDB=LC
Mission Golden-eyed Trefrog <i>Phrynohyas resinifictrix</i>	0.0.9 * RDB=LC

	State in 31. 12. 2008
Amphibians (Amphibia)	
Orange-legged Leaf Frog	0.0.5
<i>Phyllomedusa hypochondrialis</i>	RDB=LC
Oriental Fire-bellied Toad <i>Bombina orientalis</i>	2.4.1 RDB=LC
Ribbed Newt <i>Pleurodeles waltl</i>	0.0.11 RDB=NT
Smooth Clawed Frog <i>Xenopus laevis laevis</i>	1.1.9 RDB=LC
Sri Lanka Whipping Frog <i>Polypedates cruciger</i>	0.0.2 RDB=LC
Three-striped Poison-arrow Frog <i>Epipedobates trivittatus</i>	0.0.1 RDB=LC
Tschudi´s African Bullfrog <i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i>	0.1 RDB=LC
White´s Treefrog <i>Pelodyras caerulea</i>	0.0.17 RDB=LC
Yellow-banded Poison-arrow Frog <i>Dendrobates leucomelas</i>	0.0.5 RDB=LC
Yucatecan Shovel-headed Treefrog <i>Triprion petasatus</i>	0.0.3 RDB=LC

	State in 31. 12. 2008
Fish (Pisces)	
African Butter Catfish	0.0.3
Schilbe mystus	RDB=VU
Angelfish	0.0.2
Pterophyllum scalare	
Bala Shark	0.0.8
Balantiocheilos melanopterus	RDB=EN
Black Ruby Barb	0.0.14
Puntius nigrofasciatus	RDB=LR
Bristlenose catfish	0.0.22
Ancistrus cirrhosus	
Bronze Cory	0.0.14
Corydoras aeneus	
Carptooth catfish	0.0.3
Clarias gariepinus	
Clown Loach	0.0.2
Botia macracantha	
Featherfin Squeaker	0.0.13
Synodontis eupterus	
Giant Gourami	0.0.3
Osphronemus goramy	
Golden mbuna	0.0.6
Melanochromis auratus	RDB=LC
Goldfish	0.0.40
Carassius auratus	
Iridescent Shark	0.0.8
Pangasius hypophthalmus	
Iridscent Mystus Cat	0.0.1
Mystus vittatus	
Kennyi mbuna	0.0.10
Metriaclima lombardoi	
Kingsley ´s Ctenopoma	0.0.5
Ctenopoma kingsleyae	
Knifefish	0.0.10
Xenomystus sp.	
Lemon Tetra	0.0.12
Hyphessobrycon pulchripinnis	
Maylandia	0.0.16
Pseudotropheus zebra	
Penguin Tetra	0.0.2
Thayeria boehlkei	

	State in 31. 12. 2008
Fish (Pisces)	
Red Bellied Piranha	0.0.6
Pygocentrus nattereri	
Red Hook Myleus	0.0.4
Myloplus rubripinnis	
Red Pacu	0.0.2
Piaractus brachypomus	
Red Phantom Tetra	0.0.10
Hyphessobrycon sweglesi	
Redfin Shark	0.0.12
Epalzeorhynchus frenatum	
Serpae Tetra	0.0.6
Hyphessobrycon eques	
Siberian Sturgeon	0.0.2
Acipenser baerii	RDB=VU
Spotted Hoplo	0.0.7
Megalechis thoracata	
Spotted talking catfish	0.0.6
Agamyxis pectinifrons	
Sterlet	0.0.3
Acipenser ruthenus	RDB=VU
Stinging Catfish	0.0.3
Heteropneustes fossilis	
Sumatra Barb	0.0.10
Puntius tetrazona	
Sumatra Barb	0.0.10
Puntius tetrazona	
Tiger Botia Loach	0.0.1
Botia hymenophysa	
Tinfoil Barb	0.0.7
Barbodes schwanenfeldii	
White Skirt Tetra	0.0.7
Gymnocorymbus ternetzi	
Zebrafish	0.0.11
Danio rerio	

	State in 31. 12. 2008
Invertebrates (Evertabrata)	
	0.01
Brachypelma albopilosum	
	0.01
Brachypelma auratum	
	0.05
Pandinus imperator	
	0.1
Theraphosa blondi	



Census of animals 2008	Status to 1. 1. 2008		Status to 31. 12. 2008	
	Species	Specimens	Species	Specimens
Mammals (Mammalia)	75	291	75	306
Birds (Aves)	45	171	43	174
Reptiles (Reptilia)	36	122	41	118
Amphibians (Amphibia)	20	159	20	129
Fish (Pisces)	39	303	37	301
Invertebrates (Invertebrata)	4	8	4	8
Total	219	1054	220	1036

REARINGS

Mammals Mammalia	Birth
Oriental Small-clawed Otter <i>Amblonyx cinerea</i>	0.0.4
Blackbuck <i>Antilope cervicapra</i>	0.2
Eastern Pygmy Marmoset <i>Callithrix pygmaea niveiventris</i>	0.0.2
Domestic Bactrian Camel <i>Camelus bactrianus</i>	2.0
Domestic Goat <i>Capra hircus</i>	2.0
Domestic Goat <i>Capra hircus</i>	7.1
De Brazza ´s Monkey <i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i>	0.0.1
Thorold ´s Deer <i>Cervus albirostris</i>	1.0
Vietnamese Sika Deer <i>Cervus nippon pseudaxis</i>	0.1
Somali Wild Ass <i>Equus africanus somalicus</i>	1.0
Pony <i>Equus caballus</i>	1.2
Hartmann ´s Mountain Zebra <i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	0.1
Baringo Giraffe <i>Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi</i>	0.0.3
Southern Two-toed Sloth <i>Choloepus didactylus</i>	0.0.1
Defassa Waterbuck <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa</i>	1.1
Kafue Lechwe <i>Kobus leche kafuensis</i>	0.1
Llama <i>Lama glama</i>	1.1
Reeves ´ Muntjac <i>Muntiacus reevesi reevesi</i>	0.0.1

Mammals Mammalia	Birth
South American Coati <i>Nasua nasua</i>	3.4
Northern White-cheeked Gibbon <i>Nomascus leucogenys leucogenys</i>	0.0.1
Geoffroy ´s Cat <i>Oncifelis geoffroyi</i>	1.2
Domestic Sheep <i>Ovis aries aries</i>	2.4
Angola Lion <i>Panthera leo bleyenberghi</i>	0.3
Red-handed Tamarin <i>Saguinus midas</i>	0.0.2
Cotton-top Tamarin <i>Saguinus oedipus</i>	0.0.1
Meerkat <i>Suricata suricatta</i>	0.0.1
Red Ruffed Lemur <i>Varecia rubra</i>	2.1
Black and White Ruffed Lemur <i>Varecia variegata</i>	2.0
Alpaca <i>Vicugna pacos</i>	0.1



Birds Aves	Hatched
Mealy Amazon <i>Amazona farinosa</i>	1.1
Military Macaw <i>Ara militaris</i>	1.0
Tanimbar Corella <i>Cacatua goffini</i>	0.1
Saker Falcon <i>Falco cherrug</i>	0.2
Budgerigar <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	0.086
Snowy Owl <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	2.1
Cockatiel <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	0.04
Red-fronted Parrot <i>Poicephalus gularis</i>	1.0
Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	0.03
Grey Parrot <i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	0.2
Greater Rhea <i>Rhea americana</i>	0.03
Ural Owl <i>Strix uralensis liturata</i>	1.0
Spot-sided Finch <i>Taeniopygia guttata</i>	0.051
Common Barn-owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	0.02



Reptiles Reptilia	Birth
Black-bridged Leaf Turtle <i>Cyclemys pulchristriata</i>	0.02
Honduran Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis</i>	0.08
Sinaloan Milk Snake <i>Lampropeltis triangulum sinaloae</i>	0.011
Oriental Water Dragon <i>Physignathus cocincinus</i>	0.01

**The Economic
Department**



ECONOMY

Jana Černá

In 2008, Ústí nad Labem Zoo employed 60.83 employees (FTE).

Analysis of the economic situation

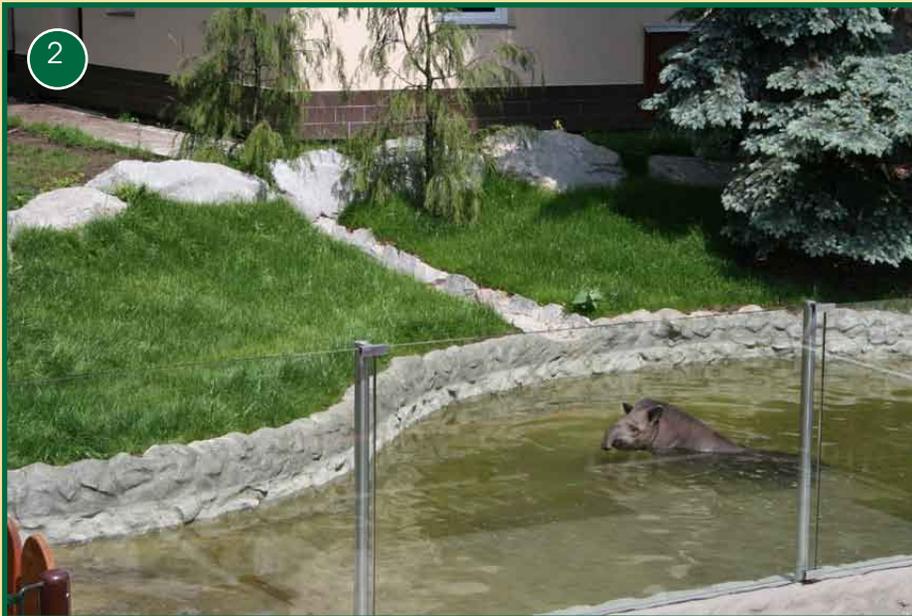
ITEM	THOUSAND CZK
Materials used	3,375.38
Feedstuffs used	4,250.31
Fuel used	490.52
Electric power	3,064.26
Water used and sewerage	1,441.55
Repairs of long-term assets	823.28
Payroll costs	12,825.48
Payroll taxes	4,480.50
Depreciation of long-term assets	2,360.00
Other costs	6,802.43
Total costs	39,913.71
Revenues from entrance fees	8,928.27
Other revenues (donations, etc.)	565.61
Inclusion of the profit from the additional activities (sales, advertising, rental fee, etc.)	1,328.32
Inclusion of funds	0.00
Allocation from founder's budget	23,705.93
MoE Grant for operations	2,537.95
Others	2929.2
Total revenues	39,995.28
Profit/loss (profit)	81.57



Costs

Payroll inc. payroll taxes were the most costing items of the organization. In 2008, the average salary amounted to CZK 17,570 per employee.

The feedstuff costs represented another major cost item. There was an increase in feedstuff costs compared to the previous year; this was caused by the growth of prices. Interesting 2008 figures concerning the quantity of feed consumed by the animals include 11,566 kg of bananas, 28,755 kg of apples, 16,329 kg of carrots (Picture 1), 43,132 kg of fodder



beet, 4,585 kg of poultry meat, 11,068 kg of beef, 8,996 kg of fish, and 44,910 mice.

The electric power costs in 2008 comprise the power for common use (CZK 1,845.18 thousand), and the power used by heat pumps within the zoo's heating system (CZK 1,595.81 thousand).

The volume of water used at the zoo increased in 2008 by opening the reconstructed South American Tapir House, with a new outdoor pool (**Picture 2**). The price for water and sewer-

age increased; so did the costs compared to the year 2007, with the largest consumers including the sea lions and seals. About 26,000 m³ of water were used in 2008.

The financial resources spent from the operational budget on servicing long-term assets of the zoo were used to repairing motor vehicles, service apartments, zoo office, rented premises, changing rooms and showers for personnel, and servicing the orang-utan and camel houses.

In addition, funding allocated from founder's budget and zoo resources presented a significant amount used for the following investment and repair operations:

- Reconstruction of Carnivore House fencing was launched, with a deadline planned for spring 2009;
- The babirusa house was re-designed for a facility serving for the South American tapir inc. reconstruction of the enclosure;
- Roads in the zoo grounds were repaired and re-constructed;
- Nilgai indoor facility construction was launched;
- Children playgrounds were built near the train stations in both upper and lower part of the zoo, and a replication of Větruše was constructed (a favourite city picnic site inc. a restaurant, **Picture 3**);
- The upper entrance was re-constructed.

Revenues

Zoo's own revenues consisted of incomes from entrance fees, rental fees, advertising, and do-



nations.

In 2008, there was a slight decrease in visitor numbers, with total attendance of 164,497 persons, which are 738 persons less compared to 2007. The decrease occurred especially in March 2008, when the weather was very cold and rainy.

The average price of a zoo ticket paid per visitor in 2008 amounted to CZK 54.28 (adult fee, children fee, a fee for children under 3 years, a fee for disabled, permanent tickets, etc.), while the average costs per ticket amounted to CZK 242.64. The balance was covered as follows: CZK 8.08 from the profit produced through zoo's additional activities like rental fees, advertising, donations, etc., CZK 164.86 from the founder's contribution, and CZK 15.42 from the contribution of the Czech Ministry of Environment (MoU). MoU's contribution was used to cover a part of the costs of caring for endangered animal species and injured or handicapped wildlife. The MoE resources were used to cover a part of the costs of feedstuffs, energy, and veterinary services, costs of zoo's involvement in the international zoo unions and associations; and education and world fauna biodiversity conservation projects developed by the zoo and supported by UCSZ.

The incomes from the additional activities in 2008 comprised the following revenues: CZK 872.32 thousand from rental of apartments and non-residential premises, CZK 2,169.22 thousand from advertising, CZK 436.40 thousand from sales of



merchandise, and CZK 802.56 thousand from other activities, such as operation of a rubber trampoline (*Picture 4*), sales of animal food in the children playground, commission from suppliers of merchandise, etc. As from 1 May 2008, a sanctuary for abandoned animals (SAA) was transferred under the zoo operations by the founder. The major cost items during the seven months in 2008 included

payroll costs (CZK 415.2 thousand), payroll taxes (CZK 145.32 thousand), feedstuff and material costs (CZK 477.38 thousand), energy costs (CZK 45.0 thousand); repair costs and veterinary costs amounted to CZK 143.78 thousand. 83% of SAA operational expenses were covered by the founder, i.e. the Statutory Town of Ústí nad Labem; 17% included own SAA revenues and donated material.

**The Technology
Department**



TECHNICAL SERVICES

Jiří Hanzlík

As well as in the preceding years, each section of the Department of Technical Services (DTS) got fully involved in repairs, maintenance, prevention of failures and all other activities at the zoo also in 2008. Through outsourcing companies, the department also managed surveillance and guarding of the zoo grounds, and operated the dead box, where a separate section is used by Ústí nad Labem Town for the purposes of collection of carcasses (i.e. dead, struck or ran over animals), and managed by the city policemen. The department also warranted keeping records on collection of any type of waste produced within the zoo operation. As from May 2008, when the dog rescue centre located in Severní Terasa (a city quarter) was transferred under the zoo management, the department took its part in the necessary repairs of this facility. During the second half of the year, project documentation was developed for general reconstruction of the house; in the meantime, the centre became an animal sanctuary and was fully integrated in the operations of the zoo. Developed as a high-profiled and fully working team throughout the recent years, the horticulture section has been successfully serving in putting the finishing touch to the zoo grounds that serve as a recreational zone in the centre of the town, leaving the marks of its work on the arrangement around the zoo with its area of 26 ha (**Picture 1**).

The team always took its part in



the events organised by the zoo for the visitors as well as events for the general public outside the zoo's area, which was especially the involvement in the events held by the Magistrate of Ústí nad Labem, such as the Ústí nad Labem Christmas programme held throughout December in the Mírové náměstí (square). A very specific task was hiring employees in the framework of the public works programme that entered the Department of Technical Servic-

es as well as other zoo departments as from September. The employment of these workers was granted from the governmental unemployment funding scheme under the Labour Office programme. The number of these public work staff members will be extended by 10-15 workers involved in the work of several departments.

The minor day-to-day maintenance work namely included workshop services, like carpent-



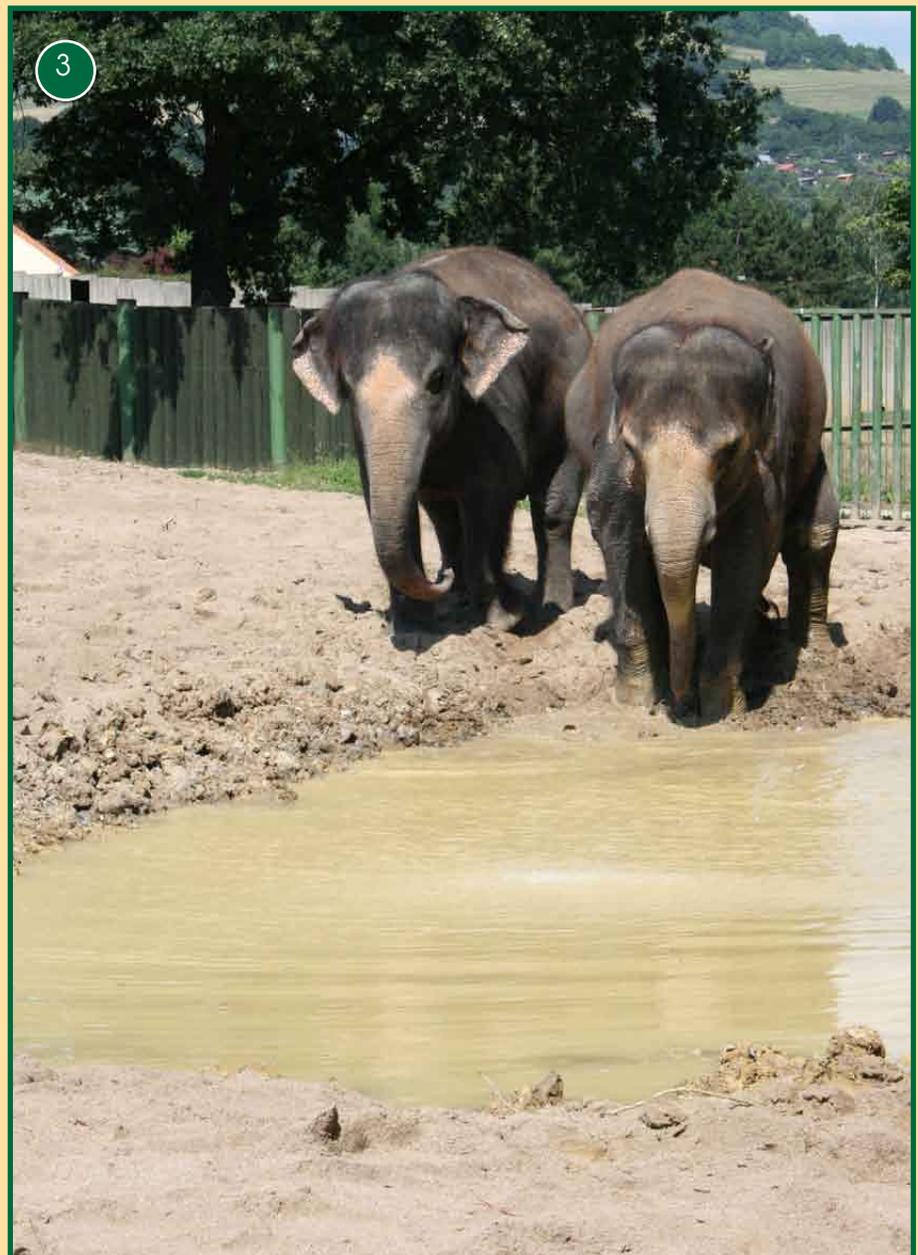
try, joinery, masonry, electrics, locksmithery, and plumbers work, provided by the department members inc. selection and supplies of any materials required. The services provided by the department personnel included:

- Minor masonry maintenance work in exhibits and houses;
- Joinery work in animal houses;
- Full range of maintenance of electric installations;
- Launching a construction of a new fence in enlarging the outdoor enclosures and yards for ponies (**Picture 2**);
- Overhaul of roof of the Orang-utan House;
- Installation of 8 information panels along exhibits and visitor paths in cooperation with the Promotion and Education Department;
- Full reconstruction of the raven aviary, with the old wooden structure taken down and a new partly bricked aviary built up; at the same time, a new shelter for storage of wooden saw-dust and shavings attached to the Giraffe House was constructed;
- Gardening work around the historical Dwarf Castle;

- Construction of a new llama shelter;
- Repair of the camel shelter

by replacing the roofing and completing arris gutters;

- Arrangements in the elephant enclosure in the summer: replenishment of sand and excavation of a natural pool waterproofed by means of clay (**Picture 3**);
- Coating of frameworks, palisade fences as well as facades throughout the year, with the largest operations being full coating of the Giraffe House and the panel fence in the lower part of the zoo along Drážďanská Street; the latter was coated from the outside;
- Green fodder was cut and supplied to each house and





enclosure 6 times a week except Sundays by the horticulture section;

- Continuous servicing of vehicles and machines inc. preparations and arrangements for successful passing in case of formal technical inspections of service vehicles by the transport services section; in addition, the section managed the operations of the much-favoured zoo train carrying the visitors from the zoo entrance up to the most elevated point of the zoo, overcoming the elevation of almost 100 m with three fully loaded wag-

ons;

- An additional Ford Transit T280 was purchased to cater for supplies for the department as well as for other zoo facilities;
- Fallen, weather-worn, and damaged parts of facades of the buildings serving mostly as a technical background for animal houses or as stores were repaired or renovated;
- The department participated on launching the waste sorting system (*Picture 4*), and also in storing and disposal of garbage and animal waste;
- The maintenance section serviced the electrical in-

stallations throughout the zoo grounds inc. periodical inspection of electric tools and low-voltage wiring in accordance with inspection schedule for each building and structure around the zoo;

- In co-operation with an out-sourcer company, the department managed 24/7 guarding services in the zoo grounds as well as cleaning services in two visitor toilets and the dead animal box;
- In cooperation with the out-sourcer managing the housing resources – seven active sub-lease contracts, all necessary repairs on the residential buildings and structures were ensured;
- In the framework of the ongoing project celebrating one hundred years from foundation of the bird sanctuary, the most extensive repairs of the Dwarf Castle in recent 10 years took place and the Heinrich Lumpe’s education trail was developed;
- The visitor premises of the Koliba Restaurant were repaired.

Overview of major repairs and capital building projects



Redesigning the fencing of the Carnivore House

Redesigning the exhibits along the southern front of the Carnivore House presents building work that is to complete the long-term reconstruction of the house launched in 2003. The work started with the general re-designing all indoor exhibits inc. the visitor hall, with subsequent re-arranging the large outdoor lion enclosure in 2005 and the

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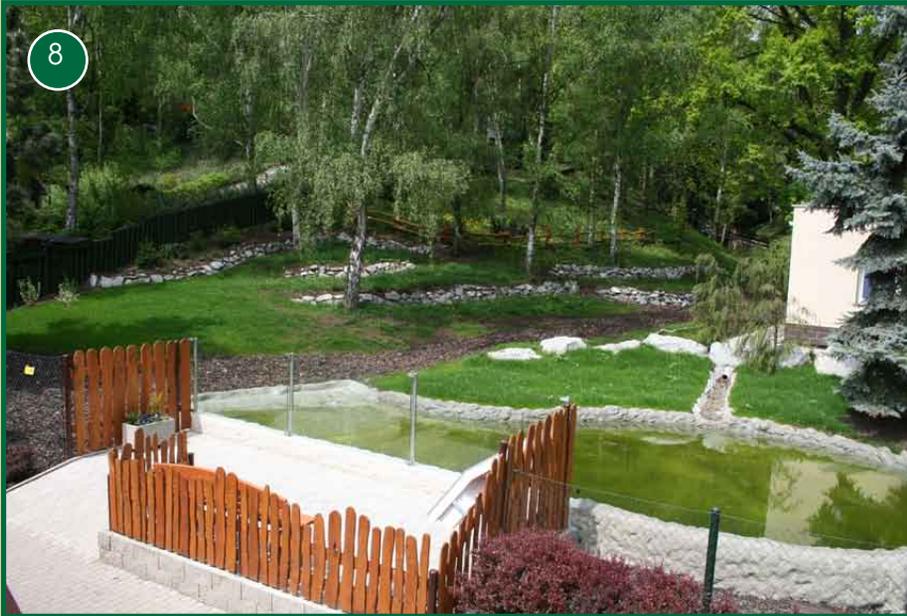


snow leopard enclosure on the northern side of the house together with the sun bear enclosure in 2006. The last modernisation period involves re-designing the outdoor enclosures for tigers and leopards. These exhibits along the southern face of the house will be enlarged by moving the existing substructure under the outside metal fencing (*Picture 5*). At the same time, all main viewing areas will be glazed by use of a 3m high glass. Three exhibits of different sizes will be developed through constructed partition walls. The inner habitat will be completed using stones, trunks, vegetation, oak-wood lining, and finishing along all outer surfaces. In the largest outdoor exhibit, a pool with a waterfall will be set up under an artificial rock made of large stones. The enclosures will be roofed by the mesh stretched using ropes attached to the bearing posts in

different levels to make up the terminal roofing (*Picture 6*). The construction work will include full pavement of the visitor paths and roofing above a newly developed and attractive place with added central seating area. The preparation phase included redesigning the existing

outdoor lion enclosure. This will be glazed as well to separate the visitor area and develop two new points of viewing into the lion enclosure. Full completion of the construction work is planned for the end of March 2009.





South American Tapir House

In the second half of the year, work was launched on a new tapir house in the lower part of the zoo (**Picture 7**) replacing the former babirusa exhibit. The house was completed in 2008. The single-storey bricked building has been integrated into the existing ground configuration of the visitor path. Inside the new house, three boxes for tapirs were constructed. The central box contains a pool with a volume of less than 2 m³. A box for capybaras was also constructed; the animals have already settled in the new exhibit as well. A new operation room was set up in the house. The completion of the building enabled the visitors walking on a part of the flat roof of the new house. In addition, the new house includes a fully redesigned outdoor enclosure containing a re-shaped pool and a new fence; the former wood palisades were removed, and landscaping as well as visitor premises completed (**Picture 8**). Grand opening of the exhibit took place on the occasion of launching the summer season on 5 April. The overall impres-

sion of the new exhibit was enhanced by means of finishing landscaping and gardening work as well as components like the roof integrated in the surrounding ground and the view of the enclosure from two perspectives. Together with completion of the exhibit, the surrounding environment was also arranged including vegetation and greenery, visitor paths, and namely the surface of the solid roads around the house. The completion process included installation of education items. The final approval of the building that was fully implemented by the zoo personnel took place in the second half of March.

Total costs:
CZK 1,694,631 (ex. VAT).

Roads and paths at the zoo: phase 2

During the process of finishing the paths and roads, the hard surface visitor area on the northern side of the zoo office was completed. A part of the slope was removed and fixed by a retaining wall. The area obtained this way was covered

using interlocking pavement. In addition, a switchboard was installed near this paved area and a decision was made to use the place for a giant giraffe-shaped inflatable rubber trampoline to serve as an attraction for kids, thus completing the nearby seating area for visitors by the refreshment kiosk. This new place has provided a good supplement to the lower part of the paved area around the zoo office, and more fun for the children visitors. The building was fully implemented by the zoo personnel, with no building permit required.

Total costs: CZK 48,222 (ex. VAT).

Nilgau indoor facility

This capital project involved construction of a new indoor facility for the nilgai herd to resolve the issue of moving the animals to the Rhino House every winter, with the associated troublesome process of anaesthetizing these large antelopes. The construction was almost fully implemented using the zoo resources with assistance of Pila Union Chabařovice (a lumber mill). In terms of design, this is a ground-floor building without a basement, with rather a small loft and saddle roof. One of the indoor boxes will serve for capturing the animals or separating young males. The facility is a wooden structure installed on a substructure 1m high erected on a base plate (**Picture 9**). This wooden house has electric panel heating and a heat-insulated wooden cladding. The structure was connected to LV power supply system; inside the boxes, water pipes opens in automatic drinking bowls. When



winter arrived, the work had to be paused, but the building had been finished and could be used to house the antelopes. The completion inc. final building approval is expected to take place in the first two years of 2009. Aside from the indoor facility, plans exist to construct a yard used for the animals in winter. The yard will be separated from the main grass enclosure by a wooden palisade erected on a supporting metal structure as it had been done

in case of the existing fence between the elephant and nilgai enclosures.

Total planned costs:
CZK 1,000,000 (ex. VAT).

Conclusion

The staff members of the Technical Service Department attended the conference of the UCSZ Development Committee in 2008. This time the meeting of engineers of all Czech and Slovak Zoos was held at Košice Zoo.

The way back from the meeting included a visit to the smallest Slovak zoo, Spišská Nová Ves.

In the upcoming period, increasing the quality of the services provided in the framework of routine zoo operations, thus supporting the efforts to raise the visitor numbers, and maintain the animal husbandry standards will be the priority for all department members.

**The Education
and Promotion
Department**



ACTIVITIES OF THE EDUCATION AND PROMOTION DEPARTMENT

Ing. Věra Vrabcová



Attendance

In 2008, Ústí nad Labem Zoo received total 164,497 visitors (*Picture 1*), which included 83,597 adults and 80,900 children. Compared to the year 2007, the number was almost equal - the decline made only 738 visitors, which is a good proof of the fact that the level of zoo's attractiveness was maintained. The slight decrease in 2008 can be still considered a success compared to the previous years as the 2007 year on year increase in visitor numbers was extreme. In addition, as the number of new exhibits and visitor services in the preceding periods was much higher compared to the last year, the 2008 figures are much more valuable. What's more, this is the fourth high-

est visitor number in zoo's history; the records still unmatched belong to the year 1988 with 178,143 visitors, and 1986 with 173,693 persons. On the top of it, the decreased attendance

in the majority of Czech zoos in 2008 with only four zoos reporting an increase should also be mentioned.





Partnership with media

The liaison with the media has had a stable level for many years. Personal communication with each editor and reporter via email, which kept everyone updated concerning all zoo-related news and events, has worked very well. This not only involves the partnership network throughout the region, but even around the country. TV (**Picture 2**) and radio channels as well as personnel from press are contacted each time. In more important cases, printed invitation cards are also distributed.

Aside from this routine communication, briefings were used to inform the media on two special events below in 2008.

26 March: *Alies to Allies Project* (in Czech: *Padíky pro alíky*) presented to the media. This was a competition involving collecting 50-heller coins to be withdrawn in August 2008. The objective was to try to beat the existing Czech record and use the revenue for the zoo's alligator breeding facility reconstruction. The event took place in the Carnivore House near a new installed giant moneybox.

8 September: The Family Passport Project organised by the Ústí

nad Labem Region's Authority formally presented. The briefing was held in *Zooškola Heinricha Lumpeho*, EN: Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School (**Picture 3**).

Events for the public

26 shows and events for children and adults were held in the zoo grounds; this involved zoo's own events, shows organised by other partners and special programmes like displays, or quizzes. The zoo promoted its own events namely by billposting services in the city mass transit system, emailing to the media, and posting on the zoo's web site. In case of own events, media partners, diverse online gateways, and promotional articles in most of daily newspapers were used.

Overview of events

January 31 to February 3: Free Entry with Full Marks All children graded with full marks could enter the zoo free of charge and watch a special show of Moritz, the California sea lion.

March 10 to 18: Spring Holiday At The Zoo A full-week programme for families with children dedicated to the current

EAZA 2007/2008 Amphibian Ark Campaign focused on amphibian conservation. In the animal house called Exotarium, various competitions using motional skills as well as knowledge were in place (**Picture 4**), all related to the given subject as well as the amphibian species on display. Total 428 family groups participated on this programme.

March 20 to 24: Easter At The Zoo The usual Win a Rhea's Egg quiz dedicated to Easter and animal-related themes. The participation in the quiz was included in the entrance fee, which was utilised by 128 families.

5 April: Grand Opening of the 2008 Season Launch of the anniversary series 100 Years from Lumpepark to the Zoo celebrating founding of the first facility in the zoo grounds was the primary focus of this event. The programme included introduction of a logo and key project activities, a book titled 100 Years from Lumpepark to the Zoo and other promotional materials dedicated to the anniversary and designed for sale, and the 100 Bird Nest-Boxes project, involving an opportunity of adopting one of the bird nest-boxes installed around the zoo. A new breeding facility for the South American tapir (**Picture 5**) and a new education facility Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School were opened. Results of the Animal of the Year 2007 poll (year 2) were announced and prizes handed over to the winners during the programme, which was accompanied with the Clarinet Society band and *Divadlo Na nitích* (a Czech theatre company) shows.

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26 April: The Earth's Day at the Zoo A programme that was available for every active visitor focused on the Earth's Day and the associated European-wide Amphibian Ark Campaign dedicated to amphibian conservation. Children from selected primary schools presented their own pre-arranged activities and projects at various sites around the zoo. Each visitor could buy a product or join the manufacturing process or also support the campaign by donating. The revenue was designated to the amphibian *in situ* conservation. Environmental education con-

tests produced by Ave Company were underway in the grass area near the upper zoo gate. At the same time, everybody could watch the company's waste handling methods (**Picture 6**). The terrace of the Koliba Restaurant hosted *Divadlo V pytli* (a Czech theatre company) with its original show including involvement of volunteers from the audience. Afterwards, a competition for secondary school students for the best MS PowerPoint presentation was evaluated and awarded. A true frog atmosphere could be tasted thanks to the Poweriser team

with their jumping boots.

1 May: May Day at the Zoo with Český rozhlas Sever (Czech National Radio North) The main part of the programme with many contests and dancing for kids took place on the terrace of the Koliba Restaurant. The event ended by naming the young two-humped camels with all of the kids around becoming formal camel godfathers. In addition, every visitor could join the established quiz named Love in the Wild.

17 May: Tracking the Fox Year 4 of a show organised by Junák – the Union of Czech Scouts. Children could fulfil diverse tasks at 15 sites placed around the zoo. A display of pictures, photos, and 3D items named Animals in Our Neighbourhood was arranged in the Carnivore House. The all day long programme included a sale of ceramic frogs, with the revenue to be transferred to the Amphibian Ark Campaign.

28 May: The Children's Day With Hitrádio FM Labe (a local radio) A variegated programme guided by skilled speakers was tak-

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ing place on the terrace of the Koliba Restaurant, where contests for prizes alternated a kid's discotheque, and a show of Sandra, a young female pop-singer and a winner of a popular Czech musical contest. A naming party with a young Hartmann's zebra and added supporting events around the zoo that focused namely on kids closed the programme.

1 June: Dreamnight at the Zoo

An event organised for chronically ill and disabled children. Launched by Rotterdam Zoo twelve years ago, this project has grown, expanding to over 100 zoos around the world. Ústí Zoo joined the network already for the third time. A programme crowded with events took place after the closing hours from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and was arranged for the children and accompanying persons. Upon arrival, each participant received a gift and honorary certificate. Then they went to the Elephant House accompanied by guides, where the elephant females could be met and petted, which was followed by visiting the Children Zoo, where everyone could pet a pony, llama, sheep or goat. The next point

was a programme by the Koliba Restaurant including a fairy tale theatre show, kid's discotheque, face painting, and refreshment. A newly installed giant trampoline was also available. Afterwards, the participants could enter the zoo train taking them to the middle part of the zoo, where they could pay a visit to the Exotarium and Carnivore House. In the Carnivore House, competitions employing all human senses were available as well as a special display of various skins, skulls and other animal-related specimens. In the Exotarium, the children could see different terrarium animals from face to face and even

touch some of them (**Picture 7**). A grand exercise of Moritz, the California sea lion, closed the evening. As the attendance was extreme, one half of the participants had to pass the programme in a reverse order.

15 June: Take Your Old Appliance and Enter the Zoo Free

An event arranged by an organization called Elektrowin. For every old and fully used electric household appliance presented for collection and environmentally-friendly disposal at the zoo entrance, the donor could obtain a free ticket into the zoo. The programme involved the opportunity of getting more details on environmentally-friendly disposal of wastes.

8-20 June: The Cacti Exhibit

An established event organised by Český svaz kaktusářů (EN: Czech Union of Cacti Growers) took place in the lower part of the zoo. Grown cacti could also be purchased. At the same time, anyone interested in cacti growing could get the information on how to do it properly.

27-29 June: Free Entry with Full Marks

All children graded with full marks could enter the zoo





free of charge.

13 July: Farewell Party with Amos

A programme arranged on the occasion of Amos, a much-favoured male orang-utan, leaving to Apenheul Zoo, Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. Amos received a grand farewell cake and gifts brought by the visitors (**Picture 8**). Children could enjoy face painting and monkey trail racing.

19 July: Porta at the Zoo

A concert show of the finalists for Porta, the oldest Czech music festival, took place on the terrace of the Koliba Restaurant. Five artists from Czech and Slovakia one by one performed their songs for the visitors.

19 July: A Day of the Frog at the Zoo A composed programme dedicated to the European-wide EAZA Amphibian Ark Campaign currently underway. The terrace of the Koliba Restaurant hosted the key part with a diverse pro-

gramme including contests for prizes and various presentations focused on amphibians.

24 July – 31 August: Tingatinga at Trappola A commercial display of paintings produced by interpreters of the authentic Tingatinga art coming from Tanzania was held inside the Trappola ZOO Restaurant.

12 August – 30 September: Petra „Velryba“ Nevečeřalová – Wild Africa A display of African photographs in the Exotarium.

19 August: Autograph Show with FK Teplice An autograph show performed by the complete team of FK Teplice, the national league football club. Every visitor had the opportunity to take a photograph with the football players and meet their new mascot with a design according to zoo's cheetahs. A joint partnership of FK Teplice and Ústí nad Labem Zoo was announced.

3 September: Let's Shake Our Hands A year 4 of a festival for disabled fellow citizens organised under the sponsorship of Mgr Petr Gandalovič, the Minister of Agriculture. Products made by clients of assisted workshops were sold at the sales points around the zoo (**Picture 9**); presentations of hobby clubs based in different social welfare institutions and other special facilities of this kind as well as theatre and musical shows were underway inside the Koliba Restaurant. There was an all day long presentation of health diet titled the Day of Safe Food. At the very end, festival participants named a baby alpaca. Disabled people presenting their ID card could enter the zoo for free.

27 September: Fireman Volunteer Day at the Zoo An event arranged in the partnership between the zoo and the Firemen Association. The participation on the programme was available

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not only to invited children, but also to any other kid attending the zoo. Several sites with contests were available around the zoo where various companies could present their activities. The programme was topped with a big clown show at the stage near the Koliba Restaurant.

28 September: St Wenceslas's Day of Records at the Zoo

A grand holiday programme dedicated to the registration of the record number of collected Czech fifty-heller coins. Under the supervision of Dobrý den Pelhřimov Agency, the yield of the Allies to Allies Project was registered with the Czech section of Guinness World Records. Prizes for the main winners of each level of the contest were handed on the terrace of the Koliba Restaurant, followed by a concert of Klidánko, a Czech music band. Presentation of unusual records was available around the Carnivore House; in addition, a group of big eaters tried to match the sun bear group in consuming bears' daily batch. Jiří Žaloudek, a muscle man, tried to beat Kala, the elephant female, in a tug-of-war competition. The programme included a grand name-giving

party with three Rothschild's giraffe calves; in the lower part of the zoo, a basketball show of BK Ústí nad Labem, the Czech national league team, as well as Poweriser jumping boot show took place.

4 October: The Day of Animals and Animal Adoptive Parents

The traditional event of saying thanks to the donors that supported our animals in form of a collective tour around the zoo dedicated to the news of the current season as well as to the 100 Years from Lumpepark to the Zoo anniversary project. The participants visited the newly opened Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School, where memorial certificates were handed over to long-term adoptive parents, and people sponsoring the highest-cost animals obtained large photographs of Petr Slavík (**Picture 10**). In addition to meeting several terrarium animals face to face, everyone could see the Elephant House behind the scenes. As usually, the programme included historical swordsmen show, and accordionist's songs played during the refreshment.

25 to 28 October: Walking on

Zoo Trails A year 15 of the established knowledge quiz with 108 families involved.

1 November: Closing the Anniversary Season A programme bringing the celebration of 100 years from Lumpepark to the zoo to an end. The grand opening of the Lumpepark Education Trail with ten information points mapping the most attractive places in the former park. Inside the Carnivore House, kids could join a creative workshop, watch short animated fairy tale movies, carve their jack-o'-lantern, and enjoy a show of a children singing choir. The highlight of the programme featured a name-giving party with lion cubs.

24 December: Christmas Day at the Zoo

A Christmas present for visitors that could watch unusual feeding of orang-utans, sun bears, and elephants arranged by zoo keepers. The attractively looking packages containing food and goodies became the most attractive

10





point of the programme. Christmas trees were also available.

27 December: Christmas Songs at the Zoo The traditional Christmas programme that took place in the Carnivore House. It contained a music and theatre show. The programme included a creative workshop for kids (**Picture 11**) as well as the possibility of giving something to the animals under a special Christmas tree placed inside the house.

Participation on the Christmas in Ústí nad Labem event organised by the Magistrate of Ústí nad Labem was another activity of the zoo. During the peak of the Christmas time, Ústí nad Labem residents could take a ride in the zoo train through the city. The event included presenting live Cameroon sheep placed in a temporary pen.

Special events

11 April: Glass Dust Bin This event organised by the Region of Ústí nad Labem was advertised as a „day for everyone sorting wastes“. The program consisted of two levels. Invited persons could join the formal announcing the results and winners of

a waste sorting contest on the following levels: Town/Village – Glass Dust Bin, School/Students – Sorting at School, and a SMS competition for individuals – Is that You? The second part of the programme comprised waste disposal-related contests and games; arranged by EKO-KOM Company, the event was taking place at the zoo and concentrated on students of Ústí nad Labem schools, who could enter the zoo free of charge on the given day (**Picture 12**).

1 July: A graduation ceremony of Přírodovědecká fakulta UJEP (EN: The University of Jan Evan-

gelista Purkyně Ústí nad Labem, the Life Science Faculty) This unique ceremony took place in the Carnivore House. During two rounds of the ceremony, the house could see nearly 40 brand new graduates in magister or bachelor studies coming for their diplomas (**Picture 13**) with over 250 family members and friends standing by - an unusually high amount compared with the number of the graduates.

23 May: The National Theatre

A unique chance of attending *Cyrano de Bergerac* played by the National Theatre Prague for everyone participating in the 1,000 Elephant Footprints Project of Ústí nad Labem Zoo that had been in place for three years, providing inconsiderable financial resources to the zoo. Upon arrival, everybody was given a historical book named 100 Years from Lumpepark to the Zoo; their help was then appreciated by Zoo Director Mgr Tomáš Kraus (**Picture 14**) who thanked everybody prior the play.

Conservation education

All types of schools could make





As from April, the new Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School was in use for education programmes. This state-of-the-art facility employs computer and projecting technology, which contributes to improving all conservation education-related activities.

On 1 February, an event titled the Project Day was held by Ekocentrum Sever Litoměřice (a Czech conservation education NGO), focused on children 14 to 16 years old. The programme also included presentation of the zoo dedicated to international

their own choice from zoo's range of conservation education programmes making use of the zoo grounds. Currently, the Promotion and Education Department can offer 16 different education programmes, out of which some are available in multiple options depending on the age of the participants. Other related activities include guided tours focused on interesting facts related to the animal collection or also trips combining a ride in the zoo sight-seeing train and visits to the animal houses. This offer was mainly used in May, June, and September. The increase of the interest in November and December was very promising.



82 activities described above were performed with total 2,320 children and students participating.

conservation programmes.

On 20 June, a workshop for primary school teachers was organised by Ekocentrum Sever Litoměřice in the Carnivore House and the Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School (**Picture 15**). The event included presentation of zoo's education programmes as well as practical demonstrations of the programmes.

On 22 and 23 April, the department members pro-actively participated at the Project Day related to the Earth's Day; the event was organised by the Joint Primary School and Kindergarten in Povrly.

On 30 June, the Education and





Promotion Department members were involved in the programme related to the Children's Day in the premises of Demosthenes Ústí nad Labem - Severní terasa (a Czech NGO). The facility that has been serving disabled children arranged a diverse programme including a space for presenting live pets and contact animals from the zoo and simple contests for anyone attending the event.

On 29 November, the department members pro-actively participated on the Day of Children Books held by Severočeská vědecká knihovna Ústí nad Labem (a regional public library). Besides a zoo information point, contact animals and a display of diverse natural specimens were presented.

Animal keeper talks

The keeper talks that make use of a close contact with animals and animal features have already become a routine part of the education work; in 2008, total eight various kinds of talk were available to visitors. The much-favoured parts include the

sea lion Moritz training, the elephant walk around the zoo and training in their outdoor exhibit, the honey tree for sun bears, the Bornean orang-utan feeding and enrichment, seal or piranha feeding, or also the pony riding being one of the top attractions for the smallest. Many of the shows contain added narration performed either live by the keepers or using speakers and a pre-narrated text.

Adoption, financial donations, advertising

The adopt-an-animal system presents one of the most attractive ways of financial support. This schedule has been in use since 1989, working well without any major change to the rules. It is a financial contribution that helps to cover feeding costs that can be donated to the zoo by an individual, company, group, or any other entity. In 2008, the number of adoptive parents reached 210, which are 30 more persons compared to the preceding year. Such an increase can be assigned to the fact

that all information on animal adoption is available on the zoo's web site, where anyone can find the financial amount or availability of desired animals. The animal adoption can also be booked using a contact form. The amount collected within the animal adoption scheme totalled to CZK 600,517. Other forms of money support included financial donations (CZK 841,916) and advertising in the zoo grounds (CZK 2,169,218), which comprises the unique 1,000 Elephant Footprints Project (Picture 16).

Fairs and exhibits

The zoo was present at the fairs and exhibits either on site through involvement of the zoo personnel, such as Go Regiontour in Brno, or through distributing its promotional materials within the following events: *Člověk v přírodě* (EN: Man and The Nature) exhibit in Louny, the exhibits organised by Výstaviště Litoměřice (a trade fair organization), and the exhibits and fairs attended by the Magistrate of Ústí nad



Labem. In November, the zoo pro-actively participated on the Exotika 2008 exhibit in Výstaviště Lysá nad Labem (a trade fair facility), where the zoo personnel used information panels and a display of terrarium animals in a very attractive manner (*Picture 17*).

Involvement in UCSZ activities

Within the 100th anniversary from Lumpepark to a modern zoo, the zoo arranged two major meetings for other zoo colleagues: it was the UCSZ Annual Meeting (13-15 May 2008), and

the meeting of education and promotion personnel (15-17 October 2008).

In addition, the zoo contributed to the UCSZ Yearbook and Annual Report through detailed reports summarising the preceding year in terms of animal numbers, husbandry news, new exhibits, events for the public, etc.

Animal of the Year 2007

Following the success of the preceding year, the poll titled the Animal of the Year took place again in 2008. The contest was

underway online on the official site www.zoousti.cz from 15 January through 15 March 2008. Six animals that raised the highest awareness of the public in 2007 were nominated. Total 1,361 respondents attended the poll, which was an increase of nearly 200 compared to the first year. The red panda cubs Pat and Mat were selected as the winners of the poll. Thanks to the zoo's partners, attractive prizes could be ensured for the respondents selected by lots. The formal announcement of the results and handing the main pri-





zes took place within the grand opening of the 2008 season.

Zoological Club

The Zoological Club members meet at their plenary meetings every three months. The programme of each meeting usually includes discussing organizational matters, and a special lecture with showing colour slides or electronical presentations. In 2008, this involved four lectures (**Picture 18**). The Fauna Bohemiae Septentrionalis edition continued by publishing another volume numbered 32 (2007) and Supplementum 5 (Draft methodology of evaluating the quality of natural habitats using analysis of butterfly taxocenosis) with 500 copies per each. The publication is always distributed to diverse scientific institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Other activities

An excursion to Tierpark Erfurt organised by the department members took place on 11 June. The trip was attended by the

employees of Ústí nad Labem Zoo as well as personnel from other Czech zoos, Zoological Club members, and other persons interested.

In the middle of June, the team of Ústí nad Labem Zoo participated on the year 11 of the Zoological Games without Frontiers event organised by Jihlava Zoo. In the first mid-year, a giant inflatable trampoline was put in service. Placed near the Koliba Restaurant, the attraction received is much-favoured by kids (**Picture 19**).

Other attractions included another series of wedding ceremonies. In 2008, not only the Elephant House, but also the Carnivore House was in use as a new wedding feast venue.

On 2 December, a meeting of city institutions founded by the Ústí nad Labem Town took place in the Carnivore House, attended by about 60 persons comprising the directors and Ústí nad Labem Town representatives.

A high level of interest in special narrated tours using the zoo train

for closed groups was recorded throughout the main season, which means April to October. During the summer holidays, a visitor poll was underway. It focused on the visitors coming to the zoo with their dogs. The poll indicated that the possibility of taking a dog companion to the zoo was very welcome, and in many cases even a crucial point determining the decision whether to visit the zoo or not. In addition, the poll produced suggestions for improving the quality of services for dog visitors.

ALIES TO ALLIES PROJECT: CZECH RECORD BROKEN AT ÚSTÍ ZOO

Roman Nešetřil

On Wednesday 26 March, the operation called *Alies to Allies* was launched.

The objective is to try to beat the existing Czech record number of collected fifty heller coins. The operation has been announced because 50 heller coins are to be withdrawn in August this year. The project follows the operation called *All of that Small Money for Baby Elephant* performed in 2003 on the occasion of withdrawing ten and twenty heller coins. The zoo managed to collect CZK 229,840, which was 1,082 kg of coins. The Dobrý den Pelhřimov Agency, the manager of the Czech edition of the Guinness World Records, is a formal partner of the project. On a visitor level, the operation is to continue until 28 September, when official registration of the Czech record will take place within the programme of the St Wenceslas's Day of Records at the Zoo event. A very attractive and unique agenda is under development, involving a tug-of-war match between a famous muscle man and a zoo's elephant female.

The *Alies to Allies* operation is to run on three levels designed for school classes (**Picture 1**), bar flies, and zoo visitors. Within the school class level, classes from Ústí nad Labem, Teplice, Most, and Litoměřice are now getting involved. The winning collectives will receive sports equipment and sweet compensation donated by our partners; entrance to the zoo including a ride by the zoo train free of charge is natural. Within the bar fly level, nearly one thousand restaurants

were addressed. The winner will obtain an excursion to the local brewery accompanied with tasting and barbecue in the zoo grounds, and the other four in the row will win a barrel of beer for its restaurant and will have the opportunity of visiting the zoo free of charge including a ride by the zoo train. The visitor level winners will be enabled to visit the zoo behind the scenes, while the other will win entrance and a ride by the zoo train free of charge.

A giant money collection box is already placed in the Carnivore House, where any collected coins will accumulate. The box has the volume of 2,352 l, which means it will contain one million of koruna if full. The revenue from this operation will be allocated to the reconstruction and roofing of the outdoor alligator enclosure at Ústí nad Labem Zoo; this is also the reason why the project was titled *ALIES TO ALLIES*.



1

ZOO
Ústí nad Labem

Vyhlašuje soutěž pro třídní kolektivy
„PADÍKY PRO ALÍKY“

Shromážděte co největší počet padesátihalérových mincí (platnost do konce srpna 2008) a přispějete k pokusu o český rekord a zápis do Guinnessovy knihy rekordů!!!

Shromážděné mince odevzdávejte za Vaši třídu
do ústecké zoo (oddělení propagace) do 15. září 2008.

Vyhodnocení proběhne 28. září 2008 v rámci "DNE REKORDŮ V ZOO".

Vítězek bude věnován na výstavbu nové expozice aligátorů Libora a Elišky.

Ceny:
1. - 5. místo
sportovní potřeby pro Vaši třídu + společná návštěva zoo s projíždkou zoovláčkem + dort

VÍCE INFORMACÍ NA WWW.ZOOUSTI.CZ NEBO TEL. 731 506 227

Partneři akce:

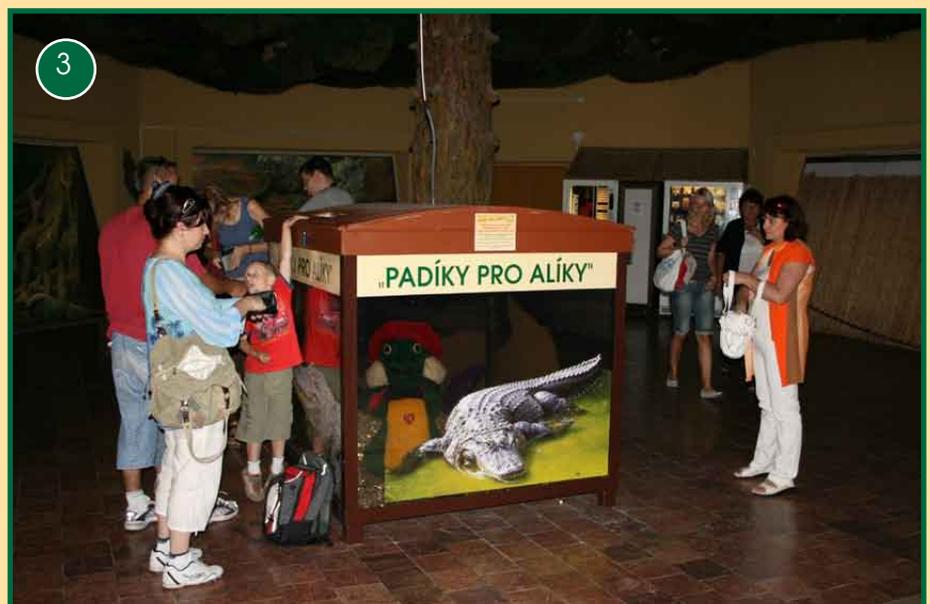


The late March 2008 media release above launched an operation, which ended up with results that no one could even dream about. The upcoming withdrawal of 50-heller coins scheduled for August 2008 was a clear encouragement for the zoo to follow the All of that Small Money for Baby Elephant operation that proceeded five years ago, bringing an unexpected response as well as a financial benefit that covered the acquisition costs of the camera monitoring system designed for the elephant house, which was then under development. The experiences with this kind of operation clearly indicated that any such action will need two basic conditions to be successful: setting out a specific capital project for which the revenue would be used associated with an attractive species, which is at the same time an "animal in need", and deriving a striking and catching name based on it. Out of the available options, reconstruction of the American alligator exhibit was selected, focused namely on roofing and heat insulation of the building. The reason for this is the fact that the alligators must be moved

twice a year (*Picture 2*), which naturally involves certain problems and risks. Even prior this operation, the Statutory Town of Ústí nad Labem, the zoo's founding body, came to help with a capital grant amounting to CZK 1.5 million earmarked exactly for the reconstruction of the gator exhibit. Thinking of the name was not that long. The title that read Alies to Allies was accepted by everyone and proved to be a lucky choice in the course of time. The fact that they collect 50-heller coins at Ústí nad Labem Zoo became very well-known not only in the close surrounding of Ústí nad Labem Town, but even anywhere around the

Czech Republic.

The operation was not projected as a public collection; the coins were transferred by those who joined as a cash donation. Anyone wishing to participate in any of the announced levels could present the coins at the zoo's entrance office, where the money were weighed and formally registered, as the competition was not about the numbers, but about weight. Any anonymous donor could put their contribution right to the giant collection box placed in the Carnivore House (*Picture 3*). With more and more money raised under the competition, the content of the glass case was growing very fast. The co-operation with the Dobrý den Pelhřimov Agency, who is a manager of the Czech edition of the Guinness World Records and a registrar of formal Czech records proved to be an excellent choice. From the very beginning, the operation was registered as an attempt to overcome a record concerning a number of collected 50-heller coins. The agency's inspectors got excited about the idea, starting promoting the operation, and even launching a separate sub-level of the collection in the south of the Czech Republic;





the revenues of this sub-level were handed at the end of the operation. The zoo got many contributions from distant places via surface post; sometimes this involved quite heavy and bulky parcels.

At the commencement, the following levels were announced: school classes, visitors, and bar flies. A great attention was paid by the media; thanks to this, the number of levels had to be soon extended by several more. The school level was set spontaneously, as some of the schools were collecting the coins altogether, refusing splitting the total sum to individual classes. Any consolidating under a single level would be clearly unfair, so an additional school level was announced. Immediately, the least kids joined, so the only way ahead was announcing one more level of kindergartens. The fifty-heller coins were collected by many businesses, cor-

porations, and other institutions, which resulted in another level for companies. This eventually doubled the starting number of levels declared, and prizes for the new levels were fortunately added by the partners. Afterwards, an interesting event was pre-arranged for first two school level winners: it was a mutual excursion with our sports partners, the national league football team of FK Teplice, and the basketball team of BK Ústí nad Labem. Thus, we were able to award all the winners not only with the usual free tickets and promotional materials of the zoo.

Namely two periods of time produced the sharpest increase in the number of collected coins. The first peak occurred towards the end of the school year, which of course involved efforts of schools and school classes. For a long time, the Teplice Town U Nových lázní School

settled on the top of the overall chart. They took a bus to bring their contribution to the zoo, combining this with their school trip (*Picture 4*). The second from the periods above arrived in the mid-September, when schools and restaurants were finishing their collection. Afterwards, everybody could only contribute as a visitor, which lasted until 28 September, when the entire operation was to culminate by the official registration of the record. In the middle of September, the bar flies were the most active participants. They were leaving their backdoor open for their contribution until the last moment in order to contribute as much as possible. Neither schools nor classes were lacking behind. There were participants bringing their contributions in multiple stages to achieve the best possible place. At the very end, the Ústí nad Labem Town Elišky Krásnohorské School out-



done everyone. Their contribution weighing almost 46 kilograms could not be overcome by anybody, which made this school a winner not only for its own level, but even for the competition as such.

16 September was a day of a big transfer. The collection box in the Carnivore House was vacated. Firstly, ten large plastic containers were supplied; however, as these turned out to be insufficient, more containers had to be provided (*Picture 5*). The fifty-heller coins filled the entire Ford Transit load area and were transferred to the economy department at the main office. Hard times began for the zoo's accountant clerks as they had to run all of the coins through a counting machine, sorting them and put them in the bags, 20,000 coins per each, to make the upcoming registration of the record as short as possible. Of course the collection pro-

cess on the visitor level continued in the meantime, thus, the empty money box was being filled again. These fifties were already waiting for re-counting by an inspector of the Dobrý den Agency. A special sensitive scale was required to make re-counting and weighing of one of the available bags possible. If the other bags were of the same weight, any unpacking

and re-counting would not be necessary.

A Day-D finally arrived: an event titled the Day of Records at the Zoo was organized on the St Wenceslas's Day. The inspector of the Dobrý den Pelhřimov Agency, Mr Luboš Rafaj, arrived early in the morning accompanied with his staff. The bags filled with re-counted coins were transferred back to the Carnivore





House; the attendants included Zoo Director Mgr Tomáš Kraus, who then also assisted with the registration of the record. Visitors could still keep on bringing their coins until 11 a.m., when the registration was launched. Luboš Rafaj added the yield of the South Bohemian collection and the final stage could begin on the stroke of eleven (**Picture 6**). Will the new record be established? Everyone then knew it would, but the only thing to do was waiting for the final result and seeing the financial effect for the gators. In the meantime, a programme was underway in the co-operation with the Dobrý den Agency, who had arranged a show around the Carnivore House, which involved display of unusual records and contests for visitors. An exhibition was performed by a Strong Man; his formal name was Jiří Žaloudek, a city policeman from Čáslav Town. An at-

tractive competition involved a match with the Malayan sun bear group. A daily diet for this group was pre-arranged in the bear outdoor enclosure and divided in four parts, as the group consisted of four animals as well headed by the male Imro. Near the walkway around the enclosure, identical batches were placed on tables for four volunteers; as soon as the bears arrived in the enclosure, the match could be started. Fruits, vegetables, boiled rice, yoghurt, cakes, and honey: who could resist? It turned out that no one could fight the appetite of the bears. The first animal eating up its batch, and the winner, was the female Kubula greatly supported by the male Imro. The sweet choicy bear was running up and down from one batch to another, tasting everything he had found; he was sure to have consumed the most of the food. In the meantime, everything

was counted and weighed, and everyone involved already knew the result. It was announced to the public within the main programme by the Koliba Restaurant. The remaining items included a tug-of-war match between the Strong Man and the Indian elephant female Kala. Kala had been training for this sports show already from the spring. In the beginning, only her keepers used to assist; however, in the final stage of the training process, everybody from the male part of the zoo personnel had to be involved and pull the rope as much as they could. But even seventeen guys were unable to beat the female's power, and each training ended up with the female running around her enclosure, dragging the whole group of men by the rope. The famous muscle man crowned with titles from international contests did not perform any better (**Picture 7**), revealing

that even a train set was nothing compared with the elephant. Next, one more event of naming the three giraffes born in the year had to take place before the moment everybody had been longing for arrived, when Luboš Rafaj took a microphone, saying: „With the greatest pleasure I can declare that a Czech record in the number of collected coins of a common nominal value has been achieved at Ústí nad Labem Zoo today. This record reads 1,072,052 fifty-heller coins and is about to be registered so with the Czech edition of the Guinness World Records. I would like to congratulate Ústí nad Labem Zoo and thank all of you who helped to achieve

the record.” This fact shocked everybody around. Converting this figure means that unbelievable 536,026 Czech koruna have been collected until 28 September. At the time when this operation was under development and later announced, no one would dare to hope for a result like this. The declaration of the record was then followed with announcing the results on each level and handing prizes to the winners. The programme was topped up with a music show of the fancied country band from Ústí nad Labem. But the operation continued until the end of 2008. Visitors could still contribute to the money box that was retained inside the

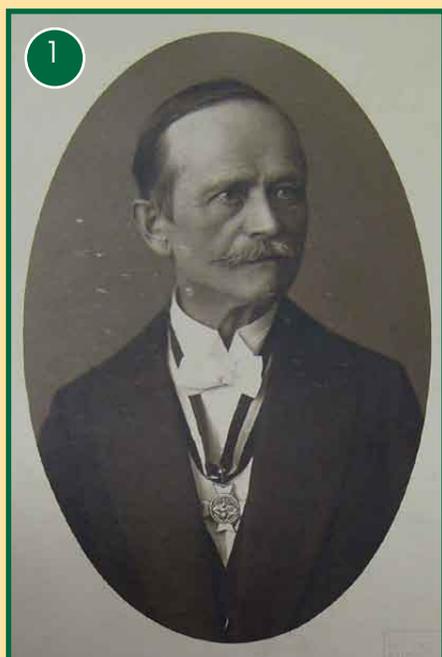
Carnivore House. For the main partner of the operation, the Ústí nad Labem department of the Czech National Bank, the major portion of the work was still about to start (**Picture 8**). The staff of the bank was sure to look very happy to see all the collected coins delivered for re-counting.

Everybody from the zoo personnel was highly pleased with the Alies to Allies operation, but not only for the financial part, which will eventually bring the most benefit to the zoo's alligators. Even now, the Ústí nad Labem Zoo's personnel are thinking of what should be arranged when the country will switch to Euro.



100 YEARS FROM LUMPEPARK TO THE ZOO

Ing. Věra Vrabcová



Ústí nad Labem Zoo can boast an unusual and interesting story. In 1908, Heinrich Lumpe (**Picture 1**), one of the major Ústí's businessmen as well as an ornithology enthusiast, purchased a lot of six hectares from the city, and founded a private birdlife reserve there. His plan was to provide songbirds with nesting opportunities and sufficient space, so in the beginning, this area became a quiet refuge with plenty of feeding places and nesting hollows. Mr Lumpe was a very enlightened person for his time, thus, he made the park available to the public after several years, as his intention was making every visitor familiar with the life of Lumpe's beloved feathered creatures. Throughout the years, the beauty of the park was enhanced step by step thanks to horticulture arrangements, development of attractive structures and fairytale sceneries designed to raise the interest of namely children visitors. For the bird park was es-

tablished exactly 100 years ago, the whole year 2008 proceeded in the name of activities dedicated to this round anniversary. A formal title 100 Years from Lumpepark to the Zoo was selected and an official logo was created for this occasion, which not only reflected the new corporate identity of the zoo, but also at the same time referred to the history by means of the silhouette of the only preserved structure – the Dwarf Castle. In the beginning of April, the logo was formally presented to the public (**Picture 2**) on the occasion of the grand opening of the 2008 season as well as other activities closely related to the anniversary. Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School that was developed based on a costly reconstruction of a former staff dining room was formally opened. It is a modern and very well-equipped education facility used not only for education programmes, but also for presentations, lectures, and talks. Next, a brand new book named 100 Years from

Lumpepark to the Modern Zoo produced by the zoo's Promotion and Education staff members in co-operation with Martin Krsek, a historian, was presented to the public. Introduction of the 100 Bird Nest-Boxes project accompanied with grand installation of the 100th bird nest-box near the historical castle was another event of the programme. Actor Karel Fiala (**Picture 3**), the doyen of the Czech film arts, was responsible for this task. The 100 Bird Nest-Boxes project follows the activities of Heinrich Lumpe exactly in compliance with the primary focus of the area with the objective to provide nesting opportunities to the birdlife. Total 100 nesting boxes of seven basic types were installed throughout the zoo grounds, which can provide nesting opportunities to as many as 21 bird species. The project includes the possibility of adopting a nest-box, where symbolical contribution of CZK 500, 1,000 or 1,500 will be used for periodical checks and maintenance of the boxes.





where the given attractive attribute was once found, but unfortunately, only a small part of it has been preserved. The production of the trail also involved a main information board located at the outset of the trail, and an information flyer. This trail was developed in co-operation with historian Martin Krsek again, who in addition participated on shooting a historical document titled "Po stopách ptačího eldoráda" (EN: Retracing the Bird Paradise). The shooting and production of the film was underway all the year round through the Videoreport Company. This document presents interesting historical facts accompanied with memories of contemporaries, and is dedicated to the facts and affairs from the distant as well as more recent history of the zoo. The movie presents a triple of explorers searching for a rare motion picture material about Lumpepark that was once filmed.

The launch of the film and the first presentation to the public is scheduled for late February 2009.

Throughout the year, several promotional items were produced to recall the anniversary above,

Every adoptive parent will obtain an adoption certificate and a report on the species that had been dwelling in the nest-box and any nesting success.

Development of the Lumpepark Education Trail was another important action. Ten sites were selected, each of them containing an information stand designed as an open book, presenting basic facts, contemporary photographs, and clips from the newspapers related to the given place of the former Lumpepark (Picture 4). Each site is located at the closest point to the place,





such as a historic postcard and a drip mat with a historical castle theme. On the zoo's web site, a special section called 100 Years was developed, presenting each activity focused on the round anniversary.

In association with the anniversary, two notable events related to the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos were held at the zoo: the UCSZ Annual Meeting from 13 to 15 May, attended by 64

participants including zoo directors and other colleagues from each of the UCSZ member zoos around the Czech and Slovak Republic was the first one. The meeting of the zoo directors was held in the Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School (*Picture 5*), while the economists assembled in the zoo staff meeting room in the main office; the rest of the participants could join a programme for accom-

panying persons. The second event, a meeting of zoo education and promotion colleagues, took place in the autumn from 15 to 17 October (*Picture 6*). The sessions were held in the Heinrich Lumpe's Zoo School and attended by total 46 colleagues from all Czech and Slovak UCSZ member zoos except for Košice and Spišská Nová Ves.



**Personal
Staff**



STAFF MEMBERS

Zoo management

Mgr Tomáš KRAUS – Director and CEO
Jana ČERNÁ – Deputy Director, Head of Economical Department
Ing Petra PADALÍKOVÁ – Head of Animal Husbandry Department
Jiří HANZLÍK – Head of Technical Services Department
Ing Věra VRABCOVÁ – Head of Education and Promotion Department

Specialist personnel

MVDr Václav POŽIVIL – Veterinary doctor
Pavel PALIČKA – Curator (up to 31/03/2008)
Ing Pavel KRÁL – Curator
Bc Tomáš ANDĚL – Curator (as of 01/09/2008)
Bc Tereza LIMBURSKÁ – Marketing specialist
Mgr Stanislav LHOTA – Researcher

Other senior staff

František TRIEBL – Head of Transport Services
Hana ROHÁČKOVÁ – Head of Horticulture Section
Jaroslava DOBROVOLNÁ – Head of Animal Rescue Centre operated by Ústí nad Labem Zoo

Zoo management: 5 persons
Animal Husbandry Department: 33 persons
Economical Department: 5 persons
Technical Services Department: 13 persons
Promotion and Education Department: 2 persons
Animal Rescue Centre operated by Ústí nad Labem Zoo: 3 persons
Public works staff: 6 persons

TOTAL as per 31-12-2008: 67 persons

**Provider
Information**



PROVIDER INFORMATION

Zoologická zahrada Ústí nad Labem, allowance organization
Drážďanská 23
400 07 Ústí nad Labem
Česká republika

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Founder: statutární město Ústí nad Labem (Statutory Town of Ústí nad Labem)
Seat: Velká hradební 8, 400 01 Ústí nad Labem
ID: 00081531
Mayor: Mgr Jan Kubata

Chief Executive Officer: Mgr Tomáš Kraus

The ZOO is a member of:

