

Births and Hatchings

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ROTTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS

Towards the end of 1996, the aquarium department of Rotterdam Zoo opened a culturing laboratory. It is generally known that a key factor in rearing marine organisms in captivity is providing the right food at the right time. Therefore the programme focused on the culture of live food. During 1997 much progress was made culturing food organisms such as unicellular algae (*Euplotus*), rotifers (*Brachionus* sp.), brine shrimps (*Artemia* sp.) and ghost shrimps (*Mysidopsis bahia*). Protocols of the most effective culturing methods were made for each species: Enrichment of brine shrimp nauplii with nutritional supplements proved to be an important factor in rearing the larvae of aquarium animals. As a result the peppermint shrimp (*Lysmata wurdemanni*) was successfully reared for the first time in Europe. The peppermint shrimp is currently bred on a regular basis from aquarium-reared animals (F2). Other successes include the rearing of tomato anemone fish (*Amphiprion melanopus*) and mangrove jellyfish (*Cassiopea* sp.). In retrospect some of the 'new' techniques had already been implemented in other institutes, but information was not directly available or applicable to an aquarium situation. This shows that the development of a joint database on rearing techniques for marine aquarium animals would be very beneficial to future breeding programmes.

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April - May - June

A male Indian rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was born on 4 January 1998. The young is a first for both the zoo and the 6-year-old mother. The calf weighed between 50 and 60 kg at birth and started to suckle five hours after delivery. The sire is 11 years old. On 5 February 1998, a male Sichuan takin (*Budorcas taxicolor tibetana*) was born. The breeding pair had a female offspring two years ago. Two male Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) were born on 13 February 1998 and 1 March 1998. Both 'Burmese' dams are first time mothers. Since 1984, six Asian elephants were born at Rotterdam of which five survived. The Javan langurs (*Trachypithecus a. auratus*) had another young of still unknown sex on 20 February 1998. All mentioned mammals born in 1998 so far are being mother-reared.

Sources: Michaël Laterveer, press releases

EMMEN - THE NETHERLANDS

No less than four Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) were born in Emmen Zoo between November 1997 and March 1998. The calves, three males and one female, are being mother-reared. The four births took place without any human interference in the group of seven adult females. The animals roam free in their 35 x 15 m night quarter.

The adult elephants are being chained daily for half an hour when feeding. The four 'Burmese' mothers were unrestrained at delivery. These births bring the total number of Asian elephants born in Emmen to eight. On 27 February 1998, a male Southern white rhino (*Ceratotherium s. simum*) was born and is being mother-reared. The calf was on his feet within an hour and weighted approximately 50 kg. The mother went into labour at about 11.30 am and gave birth at 2.20 pm. This is her second young within two years.

Sources: Tine Griede, press releases

5/19

NIKOLAEV - UKRAINIA

In the course of 1997, Nikolaev Zoo bred 76 mammal and bird species (370 specimens). Some of the most important include Andean goose (*Chloephaga melanoptera*), demoiselle crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), purple swamphen (*Porphyrio poliocephalus seistanicus*), Eurasian eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*), ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*), common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*), Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Turkmenian markhor (*Capra falconeri heptneri*) and Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*). A very special breeding success was the birth of three yellow-throated martens (*Martes flavigula*) on 30 July 1997. The breeding female had two litters before, in 1995 and 1996, which were mother-reared and died within one month after birth. This time, it was decided to rear the three young by hand. One female survived. The development of this young was monitored by a curator of the zoo.

Source: Vladimir Topchy

Young Amur leopard in Nikolaev Zoo

