

## LONGEVITY OF CAPTIVE MAMMALS

Most longevity records are based on specimens in captivity and probably often exceed what may be expected in wild populations. Still, as indications of potential life-span, they may be useful to various workers. Since the opening of the Bronx Zoo in 1899, a number of longevity records have been established in its mammal collection. Many of these were summarized by Wm. Bridges (Bull. N. Y. Zool. Soc., 35: 89-98, 1935); more recently, others were recorded by L. S. Crandall (Animal Kingdom, 52: 175-177, 1949). The tabular data below bring the record partially up to date.

TABLE 1. — Longevity records of individual specimens

| SPECIES, SEX   | DATES OF ARRIVAL<br>AND DEATH  | KNOWN AGE<br>(YR.-MO.-DA.) | REMARKS                              |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i> ,<br>Platypus, ♂ and ♀   | 26 April 1947,<br>still living | 9- 9- 0                    | Born about<br>Dec., 1945             |
| <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> ,<br>European hedgehog, ♀     | 29 Oct. 1951,<br>7 Oct. 1955   | 3-11- 8                    | Adult on<br>arrival                  |
| <i>Potos flavus</i> ,<br>Kinkajou, ♂                     | 6 Aug. 1937,<br>still living   | 19- 5- 0                   |                                      |
| <i>Panthera tigris</i> ,<br>Bengal tiger, ♀              | 11 April 1934,<br>5 Sept. 1952 | 18- 6-24                   | At least 1 yr.<br>old on<br>arrival  |
| <i>Panthera uncia</i> ,<br>Snow leopard, ♂               | 8 May 1946,<br>23 Jan. 1955    | 8- 8-15                    | Born 1945                            |
| <i>Phloeomys cumingi</i> ,<br>Giant rat, ♀               | 9 July 1947,<br>still living   | 9- 6- 0                    |                                      |
| <i>Nycticebus coucang</i> ,<br>Slow loris, ♀             | 10 Nov. 1948,<br>still living  | 8- 2- 0                    |                                      |
| <i>Galago crassicaudatus</i> ,<br>Grand galago, ♀        | 13 May 1944,<br>still living   | 12- 8- 0                   | Born in<br>captivity                 |
| <i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i> ,<br>Wart hog, ♀         | 15 Nov. 1940,<br>30 Jan. 1956  | 15- 2-15                   |                                      |
| <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> ,<br>Nile hippopotamus, ♂  | 13 July 1903,<br>1 Feb. 1953   | 49- 6-19                   | Born in<br>captivity                 |
| <i>Choeropsis liberiensis</i> ,<br>Pigmy hippopotamus, ♂ | 9 July 1912,<br>17 Feb. 1952   | 39- 7- 8                   |                                      |
| <i>Lama glama</i> ,<br>Llama, ♂                          | 17 Nov. 1904,<br>7 April 1926  | 21- 4-21                   | Born in<br>captivity                 |
| <i>Cervus unicolor</i> ,<br>Sambar deer, ♀               | 5 July 1929,<br>12 Dec. 1955   | 26- 5- 7                   |                                      |
| <i>Okapia johnstoni</i> ,<br>Okapi, ♂                    | 3 Aug. 1937,<br>5 Sept. 1952   | 15- 1- 2                   |                                      |
| <i>Bibos frontalis</i> ,<br>Gayal, ♀                     | 21 Aug. 1944,<br>still living  | 12- 5- 0                   | Born in<br>captivity                 |
| <i>Anoa depressicornis</i> ,<br>Pigmy buffalo, ♀         | 16 July 1928,<br>10 Jan. 1957  | 28- 5-25                   | Born in<br>captivity                 |
| <i>Equus burchellii</i> ,<br>Chapman's zebra, ♂          | 19 May 1929,<br>4 April 1954   | 24-10-16                   | At least 3 yrs.<br>old on<br>arrival |
| <i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> ,<br>Indian rhinoceros, ♀    | 24 May 1923,<br>still living   | 33- 8- 0                   | Born 1920                            |

The figures above are not all necessarily the longest records available, but they do represent exceptional longevities in captive mammals. "Known age" is based on dates in captivity and frequently may be augmented as indicated under "remarks." Data have been corrected as of January, 1957. All specimens were in the collection of the Bronx Zoo except the Chapman's zebra, which resided at the Prospect Park Zoo in Brooklyn, N.Y.—RICHARD H. MANVILLE, *New York Zoological Society*. (Present address: 151 Ossining Road, Pleasantville, N.Y.) Received June 28, 1956.

#### POTENTIAL LONGEVITY IN SOME MAMMALS

In the *Journal of Mammalogy* (37:118) Comfort discusses the maximum ages reached by domestic cats, and concludes that the cat appears to be quite the longest-lived of the smaller domestic animals, occasionally reaching about 30 years. It may be of interest to add the following notes on two of the larger domestic mammals, the cow and the horse. My attention was drawn, by a note in the *Spring News Letter* for 1956 of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, to "what is believed to be the oldest cow in the world (aged thirty-nine years) at West Hook Farm," in Pembrokeshire, South Wales. Enquiries to Miss Gwendoline E. Davies, the owner of the cow, elicited the following information. The cow (a Hereford cross with a Black) was born, Miss Davies informs me, at Dale, Pembrokeshire, in May 1916, and was looked after by Miss Davies from then up to the present time. During her life the cow has had over 30 calves and yielded milk up to approximately three years ago; though she is stated to be "getting very stiff now." The claim that this is the oldest cow in the world, or at least the oldest recorded cow, would appear to be justified. Flower (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1931, 204) remarks that "The Domestic Ox, *Bos taurus*, seldom gets a chance of growing to old age." The greatest age for a domestic cow definitely quoted in his paper is 16 years 10½ months, though this animal was supposed to be in fact about 20 years old. The cow mentioned above died on July 1, 1956.

In the same paper, Flower mentions that the oldest age claimed for the horse, a Manchester canal horse which died on November 27, 1822, is 62 years. Additional information about this horse is given by R. S. Summerhays in an article in the issue of *Country Life* for March 8, 1956. He writes of "the 62-year-old gelding Old Billy. . . His age needed no authentication, for Henry Harrison at the age of 17 first had him as a two-year-old, when he trained him to plough, and afterwards as a gin, or mill horse, and at his death on November 27, 1822, the old horse had been owned for many years by the Company of Proprietors of the Mersey and Irwell Navigation Company and had been used as a barge-horse. Henry Harrison knew him throughout his long life, Charles Towne and William Bradley painted him, his picture hangs in the Council Chamber of the Royal Veterinary College, and the skeleton of his skull was presented to the Manchester Museum." Mr. Edmund L. Seyd of the staff of the Manchester Museum informs me that the skull is still in that institution, and adds, "The skull is certainly that of a very old horse, some of the teeth being heavily worn, although a lot of this wear has clearly been caused by the bit."

It may be well to take this opportunity of republishing the record of a Grey Seal, *Halichoerus grypus*, a male, which reached the age of at least 41 and possibly 42 years in the zoological gardens at Skansen, Stockholm. This record, published by the writer in 1950 (*Nature*, 166:73) has been overlooked by Bourlière in his *NATURAL HISTORY OF MAMMALS* (1955), where the table of potential longevities on pp. 201–2 still gives Flower's figure of 18 years as the maximum for the Grey Seal.—COLIN MATHESON, *Department of Zoology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff*. Received May 5, 1956.