

One million visitors at Amsterdam Zoo

For the first time in the 132 years' history of the ARTIS Zoo, Amsterdam, Holland, the number of visitors reached the one million mark. This magnificent total was reached in November 1970.

During the total period of Artis Zoo's existence, more than 32 million visitors have gone through the gates. Up till 1968 the record was held by 938,925 visitors in 1968. The year of foundation was a negative record: only 8 persons visited the Zoo.

Philadelphia Zoo
Pennsylvania/USA

Group of six baby Gorillas

Our two groups of three baby gorillas each have recently been allowed to intermingle for short periods during the day. The introduction of the six was accomplished in two stages. Between their enclosures in the Rare Mammal House is a doorway blocked by both a solid and a barred door. The solid door was opened to permit the youngsters to familiarize themselves with one another by sight, smell, and limited touching through the bars. The first stage went on during the daytime for three weeks under close supervision.

Then just last week, and again under heavy supervision, the last barrier was slid back giving the two groups free access to each other's enclosure. There was a 10 minute period of cautious behavior during which the members of each group carefully decided that the others weren't a threat. The standoff ended suddenly when they became excited and started running back and forth, exploring each other's cages with all the joy expected from any group of youngsters. There was hugging, playful slapping and biting, and wrestling.

During this roughhousing, the two separate groups began to accept each other as 'fellow gorillas'. The males generally seemed more willing to interact and play than did the females with one exception. The smallest female showed no fear, and the larger males apparently took her size into consideration and were especially gentle with her. There was a little 'love at first sight', too. The one group's lone female took a shine to the lone male of the other group and after the first half-hour of play, she wouldn't leave him. This, of course, caused some jealousy with her two regular male cagemates.

The following two days, the gorillas were again allowed together, and both brief periods proved to be successful. The members of the newer group seem to have developed some loyalty, with its two females assisting the male when he gets into trouble with a member from the first group. So far the socialization periods are not being regularly scheduled because of the large number of lab personnel required to supervise the active gorillas.

AAZK Conference

The American Association of Zoo Keepers will hold its Northeast Regional Conference at New York City on June 24-27, 1971. Host keepers for this meeting will be members of the Bronx Zoo Chapter of AAZK. Headquarters for the conference will be the Statler-Hilton Hotel, 7th Avenue & 32nd Street, New York City. Anyone interested in the zoo field can obtain further details by writing to Mr. Ed Roberts, Regional Coordinator, 228 Ferry Street, Everett, Mass. 02149, USA.

The largest collection in Europe

Since several years the West Berlin Zoo is following, in the development of its animal collection, the policy to acquire essentially only breeding groups or specimens of animal species being threatened in the wild. Other less important species have to be disposed of occasionally as nearly all available accommodation facilities are occupied and new buildings and enclosures will be only built on a limited scale in future.

The annual increase in number of species and specimens is therefore less spectacular than in the past, while the quality of the collection indicated by its commercial value is improving steadily.

Among the most remarkable new acquisitions in 1970 are: 1.1 Baikal Seal, 0.1 Southern Elephant Seal, 1.1 Maned Wolves (bred at the Krefeld Zoo), 1.1 Mule Deer (gift of the Calgary Zoo), 1.1 Siberian Roe Deer, 1.2 Kaamas, 1.0 Markhor, 1.1 Dall's Mountain Sheep (0.1 gift of the Brookfield Zoo), 2.2 Kattas (1.1 gift of the Philadelphia Zoo), 1 Manchurian Crane (bred at the Frankfurt Zoo), 5 James' Flamingos, 2.8 Great Bustards, and 1.1 Red Birds of Paradise.

Among the births worth mentioning are 0.2 Indian Leopards, 3.0 Cape Hunting Dogs, 1.1 Turkmenian Onagers, 0.1 Malayan Chevrotain, 1.1 Grey Brocketts, 1.1 Barasingha Deer, 0.1 Masai Giraffe, 1.1 Nyalas, 2.0 South African Beisas, 1.1 Sable Antelopes, 2.0 Cape Buffalos, 0.1 Red Buffalo, 4.1 Bantengs, 2.2 Gaurs, and 0.1 Borneo Orang Utan.

On the 31st of December 1970, (in brackets: 1969 figures) the stock of the Berlin Zoo amounted:

1.045 (1.042) Mammals in 230 (227) species and 2.760 (2.747) Birds in 742 (736) species, representing a total commercial value of D.M. 2.278.000,— (DM 2.221.000,—).

With the stock of its Aquarium — being about 6.500 Fishes, Reptiles, Amphibians and Invertebrates in nearly 1.400 species) the Berlin Zoo thus again holds the largest collection of living animals in Europe.

Javan Rhinos

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One of the world's rarest mammals — the Javan Rhinoceros, produced two young in 1970, according to information received by the World Wildlife Fund.

The baby Rhinos were seen in the jungles of the Udjung Kulon reserve in Western Java, which is the last sanctuary of the species. Around 28 are estimated to survive there.