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Births and Hatchings

USTI NAD LABEM - CZECH REPUBLIC

A **two-toed sloth** (*Choloepus didactylus*) was born on 29 October 2002. While two-toed sloth births are uncommon in European zoos, a male had also been born at Usti nad Labem on 27 June 2001. The parents, bought from a dealer in 1999, are exhibited in the main collection together with white-faced saki. A male **wrinkled hornbill** (*Aceros corrugatus*) hatched on 5 August 2002 in a special breeding facility behind the scenes. The parents had been bought from a dealer in 1994 and had their first egg in 2001. They treated their chick properly and it left the nesting box at the age of three months. The offspring was the same size as its mother two months later. Important **Hartmann's mountain zebra** (*Equus zebra hartmannae*) births occurred in 2002. Stallion 'Nikita' born in Tierpark Berlin and at Usti Zoo since 22 December 1995 has sired young since 1999. Nikita fathered a male born on 6 February 2002 and a female born on 10 February 2002. These were the 96th and 97th Hartmann's mountain zebra births at Usti Zoo. A **Rothschild's giraffe** (*Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*) female was born on 6 January 2002 and a **Somali wild ass** (*Equus africanus somalicus*) female on 30 June 2002. The newly established breeding pair of **fossa** (*Cryptoprocta ferox*), consisting of a female from Duisburg Zoo and a male born on 14 June 1997 in Dvur Kralove Zoo, had three cubs on 22 June 2002. On 22 November 2002, after three months of dry season simulation, a clutch of about four hundred eggs in **tomato frog** (*Dyscophus antongilli*) was laid. The parental group originates from Tierpark Chemnitz and this was the first clutch laid at Usti nad Labem.

Source: Usti nad Labem Zoo

DVUR KRALOVE - CZECH REPUBLIC

A female **black rhinoceros** (*Diceros bicornis*) was born in Dvur Kralove Zoo on 2 November 2002. This was the 37th rhino birth, and 26th black rhino birth, at the zoo. The father 'Jimm' (stbk. nr. 0283), born in Dvur Kralove in 1979, was the third black rhino born at the zoo. His father 'King' and mother 'Jimmi' were wild-caught, and 32-year old Jimmi is the oldest black rhino living in Dvur Kralove. The newborn female is of the fourth generation in the maternal-line born at Dvur Kralove Zoo: her mother Elba (stbk. nr. 0619), grandmother 'Eimi' and great-grandmother 'Elvira' were all born in the zoo. Elba's pregnancy lasted 455 days – almost precisely one year and three months. Elba, born in 1996, was a primiparous female, thus we prepared very carefully for the birth. A camera recorded events in the stall 24 hours per day. The birth occurred at 11:00 AM under supervision of the rhino head-keeper Jan Zdarek and rhino keeper Jiri Gandurski.

The estimated birth weight was approximately 30 kg. The very active baby first stood up after one hour and suckled two hours after birth. Elba was very patient and friendly to her daughter from the first moment on. We call the newborn female 'Ema' – which means 'good' in Swahili and also from the famous Czech film song 'I enjoy the world with you, my sweet Ema' – because it is exactly like that.

Source: Kristina Tomasova



Photo: Dvur Kralove Zoo

HANNOVER - GERMANY

Hannover - Germany

Hannover Zoo is wild about the first baby **Asian elephant** (*Elephas maximus*) born at the zoo in thirty years. 'Manari', one of the zoo's seven females gave birth to her first baby at 01.44 AM on 2 February 2003 after a 639 day pregnancy. The new-born baby straightaway showed that she was very much alive and kicking – it took four keepers to hold her for a first examination! The keepers brought the little one back to her mother 45 minutes after the birth and braced themselves to protect her, but there was no need – Manari let the baby snuggle up and good-naturedly put up with her first clumsy attempts to suckle. Little by little mother and baby bonded, nuzzling each other with their trunks. Manari has since shown herself to be a loving and patient mother who is always very attentive to her young. The little one has already been introduced to three of her five 'aunties' in the stall – first encounters went very well and she was quickly accepted. As soon as the weather in Hannover turns warmer the zoo family's latest addition can explore the outdoor areas of the 'Jungle Palace', built in 1997. The father 'Calvin', a young breeding bull, arrived in Hannover in the spring of 2000 from the African Lion Safari in Cambridge, Ontario. He was obviously an immediate hit with the ladies – female 'Khaing Hnin Hnin' is expected to produce a playmate for 'Baby' between 15 March and 15 April 2003.

Source: Heiner Engel



Photo: Hannover Zoo



Note editorial board:

A healthy second calf (female) was born on 20 March 2003