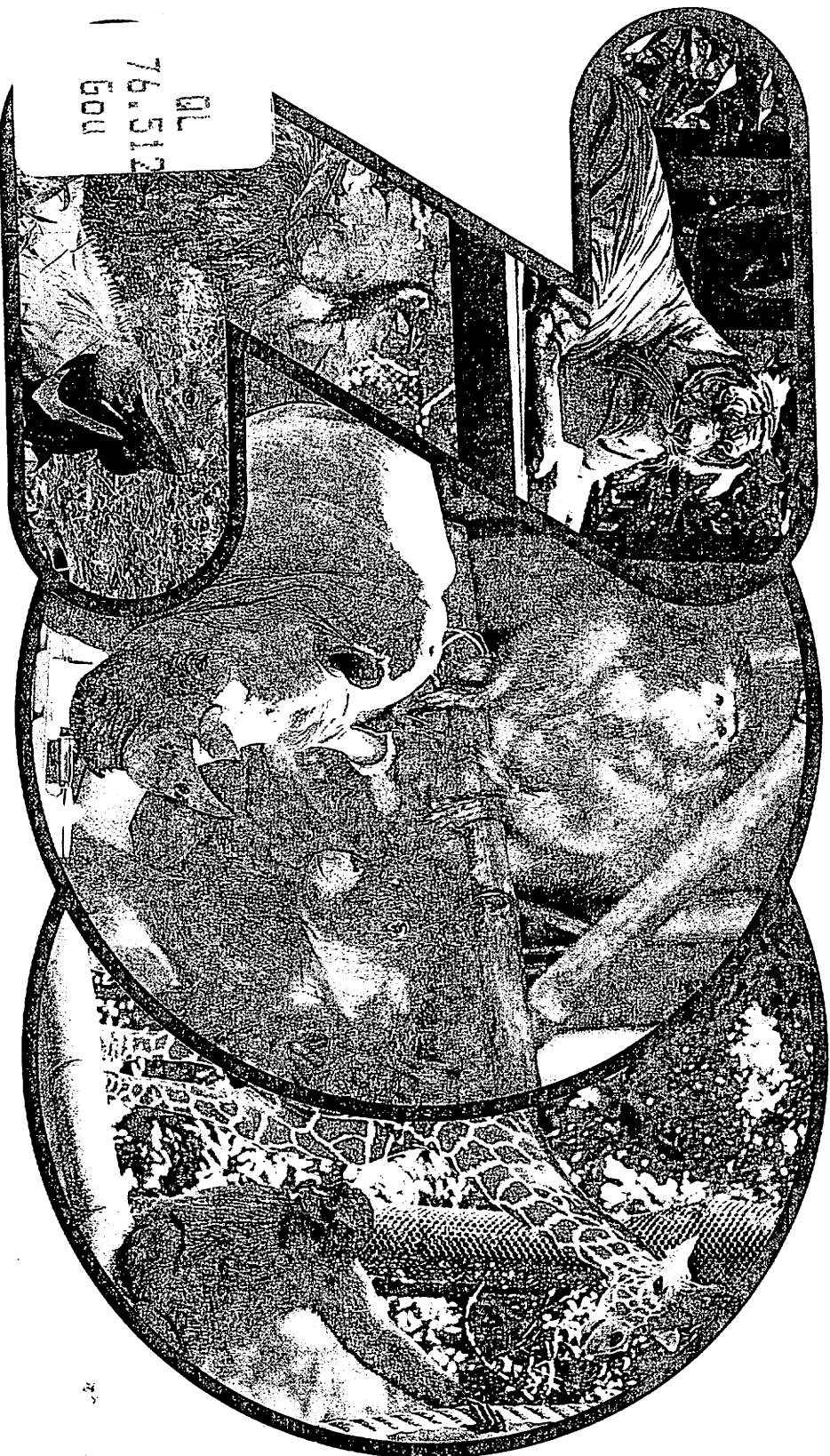


A Walk Through The



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Introduction

Welcome to the Singapore Zoological Gardens — 28 hectares of beautifully landscaped greenery on a promontory surrounded by Seletar Reservoir. Since its opening on 27 June 1973, the zoo has been a source of great pleasure to Singaporeans and overseas visitors alike.

The zoo is an open zoo and incorporates the best features of modern zoo planning. Visible barriers are kept to a minimum and are disguised by clever landscaping and planting to give an impression of natural openness. Enclosures are designed so that they represent as closely as possible the natural habitats of the animals.

The zoo is a national treasure which Singaporeans are proud to share with others. With its beautiful landscape, it has been acclaimed as 'the best in Asia. In this green environment, visitors can escape into and appreciate the calm, mysterious and wonderful world of nature.

'A Walk Through the Zoo' is a valuable guide which will help you to get the most out of your visit to the zoological gardens. A map shows you the layout of the zoo and a suggested route to follow. Not every animal is featured in the guide, but you will be able to see all the exhibits if you follow the path indicated by the arrows on the map. You will also find information on the daily activities at the zoo and the times at which you can watch them.

Animal Showtime, held four times a day, provides lots of fun and entertainment for everyone, with spectacular performances by a host of animals. In fact, it features the *only* regular orang utan show in the world! For a truly novel experience, you can have breakfast at 9 a.m. with Ah Meng, an affable orang utan, or tea at 4 p.m. with her equally adorable daughter, Hong Bao.

The animals are most active in the early morning or late afternoon, or just after rain. You need about three hours to walk comfortably around the zoo. If time is short, this guide will show you how to find the animals you especially want to see. You can pause for rest and refreshments at the Makan Terrace or at any of the other food kiosks indicated on the map.

This guide will tell you many interesting facts about the animals and plants in the zoo, and will make your visit a most enjoyable learning experience! When you return home, this beautifully illustrated book will be a lasting souvenir of your walk through the zoo.



White Rhinoceros

The white rhinoceros is the second largest of land animals, after the elephant. In fact, it is not white, but grey. One explanation is that the word 'white' came from the Afrikaans word 'wyd' which describes the shape of its mouth. This animal is a herbivore and uses its square upper lip to break off grass as it grazes.

There are two horns on the snout of the white rhinoceros; some other species have only one horn. Many people believe these horns have great medicinal value, and for this reason, large numbers of animals have been slaughtered.

The rhinoceros has no sweat glands. It protects its almost hairless body from the sun by covering itself with mud. It has poor eyesight, and tends to charge when alarmed. Despite its size, the rhinoceros can run and turn quickly.

The rhinoceros is a hooved animal and is related to the horse and tapir.

