



THE ZOO STORY

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**ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK
NEWSLETTER**

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Arignar Anna Zoological Park has always proved to be Chennai's favorite destination during vacations. More than One Lakh Twenty Thousand visitors were recorded during the Pongal Holidays. As the awareness on wildlife conservation is increasing, people show more interest in zoo animal adoption. For the first time ever, our zoo has recorded birth of a rare variant of melanised tiger cub. The cubs along with their mother drew up a massive attention and created an humongous response from the visitors in sighting them.

As the mercury level kept increasing during the summer, the Zoo management took necessary measures to keep our beloved animals at ease. One of the mission of our zoo is to provide conservation education to the public - Zoo School launched a dedicated "Youtube Channel" to educate public with a descriptive education videos. To strengthen the Zoo School education - "The Animal Book of Vandalur Zoo" was released.

With the continuous support of CZA, State Government and the dedicated Zoo team, I am sure that Arignar Anna Zoological Park will continue to be one of the best zoos at world level.

**- THIRU. YOGESH SINGH, IFS
APCCF & DIRECTOR**

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KAANUM PONGAL AT VANDALUR ZOO

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is one of the famous destination for people to celebrate the Pongal holidays. Considering the large number of visitor's footfall during Kaanum Pongal Day, the Zoo Management had taken several measures in advance in coordination with District Administration, District Police and other Departments for crowd management. Highlights of this years Pongal at the zoo are -



- Children under 5 years were provided with hand tags for their safety.
- Electronic machines were used for entry tickets, which helped to avoid long queues at the Zoo entrance
- Children's Park which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during July 2018 was a great attraction to the Children.
- Following the Government's Ban on single use plastics, the visitors were provided with paper bags as an alternative to the plastic bags they brought to the zoo.
- About 150 Uniform Forest Staff were deputed for duty along with 200 Nos. of NSS and NCC college students.
- District Police had helped to control the traffic and ensured safety to the visitors inside the zoo premises.
- Purified Drinking Water and additional Toilets facilities were arranged for the visitors. 8 Medical help desks provided inside the Zoo premises was well utilized by more than 500 visitors.
- Nearly 45,000 visitors visited the zoo on the kaanum pongal day which, is greater than the number of visitors compared to last year. During the pongal holidays more than 1,20,000 visitors visited the Zoo. Efficient planning and the zoo management's strategical execution had helped to handle the large crowd without any untoward incidents.

There's a big difference between simply liking animals and being a true animal lover

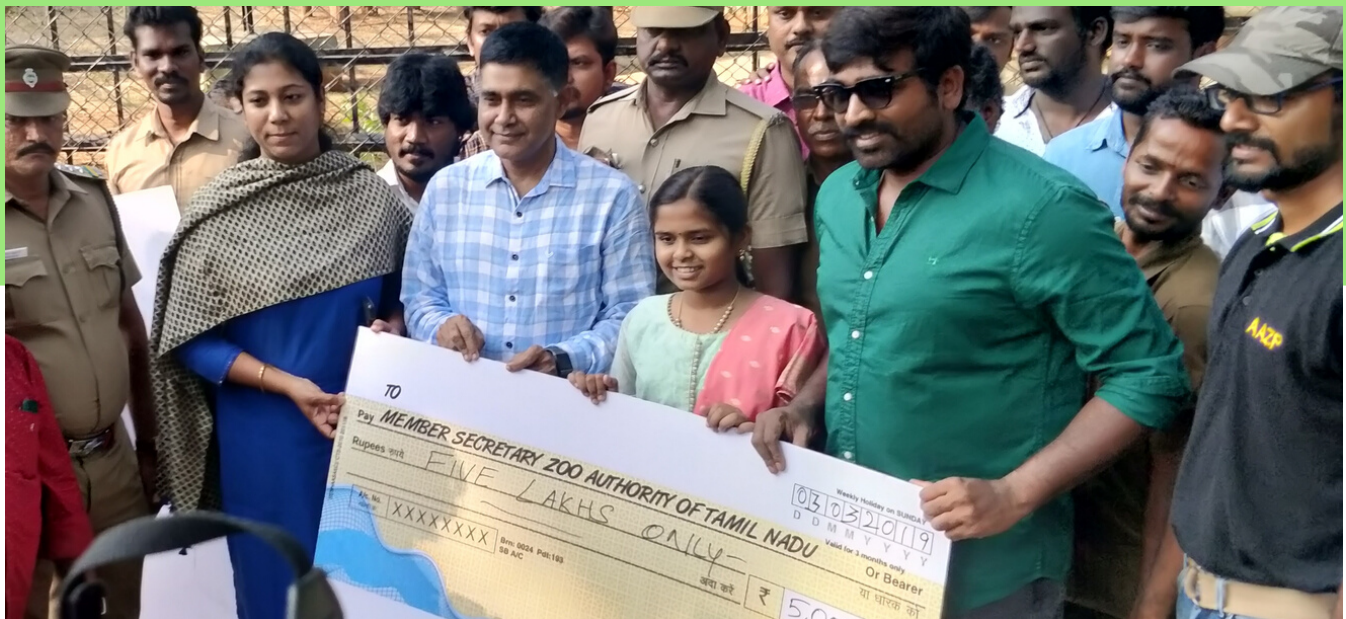
CELEBRITY ANIMAL ADOPTERS

Zoological parks play an imperial role in ex-situ conservation of wild animals. Animal adoption is a means through which people could take part in conservation. This is further emphasised regularly at Zoological parks. Arignar Anna Zoological Park houses more than 2500 animals including various birds, mammals and reptiles.

Vijay Sethupathi, a leading South Indian actor contributed to conservation by adopting a 5 year old Tiger Adhitya and 6 year old Tigeress Arthi.

He adopted for a period of six months and wished he could continue the adoption further, expressing his affection towards wild animals and his interest on their well being.

Further, Arignar Anna Zoological Park provides good opportunity to adopt any animal from smallest bird to the biggest Elephant for one day or any number of days, so that people from any economic status can express their interest towards animal conservation through adoption.



ANIMAL ADOPTION IS NOW MADE ONLINE

Online facility for animal adoption has been introduced by Arignar Anna Zoological Park which caters to the animal adoption plans of individuals and organizations, according to their interest and convenience. The details of the Animal Adoption facilities and charges are available in the zoo website. (www.aazp.in/animal-adoption).

Based on the adoption amount the adopters will be categorized as - Diamond, Gold, Silver & Bronze.

Through this facility the adopters can complete the payment process online. The adopters will receive a certificate and receipt for adoption by E-mail. Additionally, the amount spent on this is also eligible for Income Tax exemption under section 80G. Thus Arignar Anna Zoological Park has catered to the interests of nature and wildlife conservation enthusiasts in animal adoption from any part of the world.



RARE VARIANT OF MELANISED TIGER CUBS

On 9th January 2019, a female white tigress named "Namrutha" which sired with "Nagula" male tiger (Carrying white gene) had given birth to a male and two female cubs at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur. Out of the three, two cubs (1:1) were found to have darker stripes unlike the normal tiger, expressing characteristics of melanistic tiger. A Black tiger is a rare colour variant of the tiger and is not a distinct species. Most black mammals are due to the non agouti mutation. So called melanistic or Black tigers are due to pseudo-melanism. Pseudo melanistic tigers have thick stripes close together that the tawny background is barely visible between stripes. The other cub is 'white' coloured same as its parents.

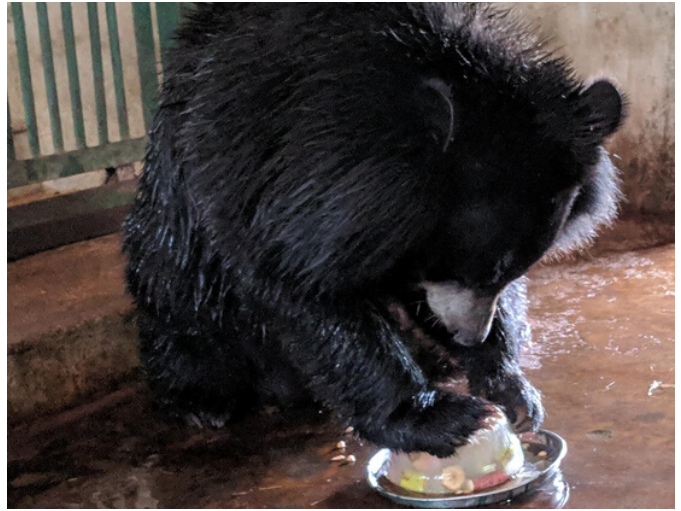
The Arignar Anna Zoological Park has released the 3 month old, 2 black tiger cubs and one white tiger cub in the enclosure along with its mother "Namrutha" for public to visit and to enjoy the rare sighting of 'Black tiger cubs'. Arignar Anna Zoological Park has 28 tigers including the recent new bornes. The cubs along with its mother can be watched through the Zoo live streaming facility in the website (www.aazp.in)

REFRESHING CAMPS FOR ELEPHANTS

Captive elephants housed in various forest department camps had undergone Rejuvenation camp at their respective sites between 08.02.2019 & 27.03.2019. The elephant calves housed in Arignar Anna Zoological Park also had this special rejuvenation at the Zoo. Special feed and enriched supplements were provided during this period. The innocent playfulness of the calves during the bath and special feed ceremony enthralled visitors of all age groups. These type of camps not only meet out the nutritional needs but also enhances the mental health of the elephants maintained in captivity.



CHILLING SUMMER AT ZOO



Extreme temperature causes significant stress for all wild animals. Managing wild animals during these hot days requires, an intellectual forward planning. Arignar Anna Zoological Park follows unique and innovative summer management plan for all mammals, birds and reptiles. All the animals were provided with sufficient shade and adequate water. Mega herbivores were provided with water showers and sprinklers. Extra thatched sheds were provided well in advance of summer. For most of the bird enclosures gunny bags were tied and sprayed with cool water during hot hours of the day, this reduced the temperature inside the enclosure drastically. Carnivores were provided with frozen meat while primates and bears were given fruits frozen in ice cubes. In spite of high temperature, there was good sighting of butterflies in the butterfly park. Proposed summer management done at the park by providing foggers, misters, and by providing adequate shade to the host and nectar plants. Cervids in the zoo and in safari were provided with extra shade, water and special feeds. Reptiles were provided with extra haul-outs. Arignar Anna Zoological Park excels in beating the heat by scientific summer management plan.



VETERINARY STORIES

LEOPARD CUB RASHED IN EMERGENCY



Customs officials seized a leopard cub from Chennai airport. The animal was found after customs officials stopped a passenger after routine frisking. This cub was further shifted to Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur and as per the standard operating protocol the cub was stabilized and essential supplements, additional nutrients with special regard to probiotics were given. The cub had attained adequate growth. Zoo veterinary hospital has a full-fledged Neonatal Intensive care Unit (NICU) that facilitates such cases with greater success.

Veterinary Hospital also specializes in treating reptile patients. Certain critical parameters such as preferred optimal temperature zone (POTZ), renal portal system and cold blooded nature of these animals it has always been challenging task in treating them. Star tortoises have been chemically immobilized using ketamine and this protocol has been standardized. Most commonly, the dissociative anesthetic agent ketamine HCl is used in reptiles to produce immobilization and induce anesthesia.

Ketamine has a wide range of safety in most reptiles and can be administered intramuscularly. Allometric scaling was vital in estimating their body weights. Although the renal portal system has been identified in chelonians, the pharmacokinetics of injectable agents had been shown to be altered if injected into the caudal half of the body. Using radio labeled injectables may give conclusive results.

STANDARDIZING IMMOBILIZATION PROTOCOL FOR CHELONIANS



LEOPARD RESCUE

A sub-adult female leopard of approximate aging less than a year was rescued from a tea estate in Gudalur Division, Nilgiri District. It was reported that animal was struck in a snare which was kept for capturing wild boar and was treated for the snare injuries in Forest Veterinary hospital in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. Animal was brought to Zoo Veterinary Hospital, Arignar Anna Zoological Park on 20.02.2019. Animal was examined by the Zoo Veterinary doctors. After thorough examination animal was moved to Rescue centre facility. Snare injury was noticed around the thoracic region and few lacerated wounds were also noticed. Animal was under treatment for 10 days of its post arrival. Animal recovered completely. AAZP presently houses six leopards,



“The work to protect one species benefits us all.”

ZOO SCHOOL'S CAMPS & WORKSHOPS



During the year 2018, more than 400 students were trained as Zoo Ambassador following which Arignar Anna Zoological Park - Zoo School had decided to provide this delightful training opportunity to Government School students of Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram at gratis. More than 50 students participated in the programme, they were provided with educational kit and got trained by our Zoo Experts. At the end of the programme the students were titled " Zoo Ambassador" with certificate, badge and free passport for Zoo visits upto 10 times in a year.

ZOO AMBASSADOR TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

Arignar Anna Zoological Park Vandalur celebrated the World Wildlife day at Zoo School Auditorium. This year World wild life day was dedicated to ocean life in the theme "Life Below Water: for people and planet" 80 Students from five different government schools participated in the awareness programme. Tmt .S.Sudha, I.F.S., Deputy Director - AAZP presided the awareness campaign and gave a keynote address about the breathtaking diversity of marine life, the crucial importance of marine species to human development and explained how we can sustain the natural resources for future endeavours . A Quiz contest about marine life was conducted and prizes were distributed to the winners.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FOREST

March 21, 2019

On the occasion of International Forest day, March 21, 2019, a special educative trail was organized by Zoo School in Guindy National Park in collaboration with a NGO partner. More than 100 Zoo Ambassadors participated in the trail which included botanisation, identification of fauna and other group activities at Guindy National Park. Quiz and oratorical competitions were conducted for the student participants and prizes were distributed. More than 250 school students were educated on the importance of forest and their conservation in the technical session. Shri.R.K.Upadhyay, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Chairman (TAFORN) Shri.Sanjay Kumar Srivasthava, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Shri.Yogesh Singh, I.F.S., Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, AAZP and other senior officials participated in the programme.



On the occasion of International Day of Forests 2019 on the theme "Forest and Education", Tamilnadu Forest Department along with Zoo School, Arignar Anna Zoological Park has launched a YouTube Channel by name "Arignar Anna Zoological Park's- Zoo School". The YouTube channel is launched to provide educative videos on animals, their behaviors, videos on zoo events, special programme and many more interesting moments happening in our zoo. The video series would help the children and others not only to get to know the interesting facts on animals but also to understand the importance of conservation. The Zoo school has planned to come up with more such educative videos on animals and Forest in the upcoming days.

"Animal Book of Vandalur Zoo" was also launched to educate the students about the differences and various striking features about the faunas housed in AAZP



WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Wildlife photography is about documenting various forms of wildlife in their natural habitat. It acts as a tool to spread awareness on conservation among the public. Following the previous year's workshop which received an overwhelming response, Zoo School organized two days Wildlife photography workshop on April 6 & 7, 2019. An eminent Wildlife Photographer Ms.Rathika Ramasamy handled a detailed session on - Basics of wildlife photography, field identification, photography techniques and Ethics of wildlife photography. Participants were taken to the field inside the zoo campus and photo capturing techniques and methods were taught to the participants. Day 2 session was focused on Post-Photo processing techniques and software used in photo processing. Participants expressed that they had an opportunity by Arignar Anna Zoological Park to interact and acquire rare technical tips and guidance through this workshop.



Bird Painting Workshop

Zoo school conducted a special Bird Painting Workshop on 13th April 2019 at Zoo School auditorium, nearly 50 students participated in the workshop. Senior Bird Scientist cum Painter Dr. R.J. Ranjit Daniels conducted the training session and demonstrate the details, techniques materials and method used for bird painting. Hands on training was given to the participants.They had a great time in learning the basics of Bird Painting. The young aspiring painters participate with more enthusiasm. We are sure these young artists are going to spread the message of conservation through their excellent works. Participation certificate was given to all the participants.





- *Lion & Deer safari*
- *Zoo with more than 2600 + animals and 175+ species*
- *Point Calimer and Vedantangal Birds Sanctuary Aviary*
- *Terrestrial Walk through Aviary*
- *24 hrs live streaming of 14 Zoo animals to the public in the Website*
- *Zoo Animals and Visitors are under surveillance - Zoo E eye*
- *Zoo mobile app for booking tickets,Zoo navigation and animal information.*
- *Arignar Anna Zoological Park's - Zoo School - Youtube channel*
- *Zoo Souvenir Shop*

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