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THE ZOO STORY

ZOO NEWSLETTER



ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK



Arignar Anna Zoological Park is the Centre for excellence in captive breeding of endangered species. We take the pride to thank our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and the Chairperson of Zoo Authority of Tamilnadu for naming the lion and tiger cubs born at the zoo on 10.8.2019.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park extended its role and encouraged the involvement of corporate companies to be a part in the conservation of wildlife through a special interactive session with zoo dignitaries and invited them to contribute through CSR activity. We thank all the companies who participated and provided valuable resources for the enhancement of the zoo.

After three decades, longtime dream for a pair of rhino was accomplished by means of animal exchange programme with Hyderabad and Patna Zoo. We are glad and grateful that all our hard work has paid the way. This issue of the newsletter will brief about the epic journey of the rhino exchange.

The Zoo fulfills the mission of conservation education in a perpetual manner through various educational awareness programme conducted by the Zoo School throughout the year. The second season zoo ambassador programme, summer camp was conducted and so far 1000 students were trained by this programme. Special workshop on birds and bird Identification was conducted as first of its kind. The Zoo education programme has received overwhelming response from the public. We are also proud to be the legendary model for other Indian zoo and pioneer in terms of zoo education.

With the continuous effects taken by the Zoo Management and the support of state government, I am sure that Arignar Anna Zoological Park will continue to be as one of the best zoos at the World Level.

Thiru. Yogesh singh IFS.,

**Additional Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests & Director**

In This Issue

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of TamilNadu visit to the Zoo
- Tales on the Epic Rhino Exchange
- Roles of Corporate in Conservation of Forest & Wildlife
- Animal Adoption Programme
- King is back
- Veterinary story - Rat Snake Treatment
- Internal Fixation of fracture in Bonnet Macaque
- Zoo Ambassador Programme
- Zoo School - Awareness Programme
- Workshop of Birds and Bird Identification
- And Many more...

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visit to the Zoo



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Thiru. K. Edappadi Palaniswamy, The Chairperson of the TamilNadu Zoo Authority named the 3 lion cubs and 4 tiger cubs born in the Zoo.



Thiru. Dindigul Srinivasan Hon'ble Forest Minister of Tamilnadu, Thiru. Shambhu Kallolikal IAS, Principal Secretary , Environment & Forest Department, Thiru P. Durairasu IFS. PCCF (Head of Department), Thiru. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava IFS. PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiru. Yogesh Singh IFS. APCCF & Director - Arignar Anna Zoological Park were present during the ceremony.

Three lion cubs born to lion 'Siva' and lioness 'Neela' were names as Pradeep, Dhakshana and Niranjana (1 Male and 2 female respectively). Similarly the Tiger cubs born for Vijay & Uthra were named as Rithvik (male). The tiger cub born for Nagula & Namrutha was named as Yuga, Mithran and Venmathi (1 male and 2 female respectively).

Arignar Anna Zoological Park after three decades welcomes the "The Great Indian one- horned Rhinoceros" as announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu during July 2018. The 4 years old one - horned male rhino was brought from Nehru Zoological Park - Hyderabad. And the enriched rhinoceros enclosure was opened for public display by our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and he also announced that one female rhinoceros will be brought from Sanjay Gandhi Zoological Park - Patna shortly to Zoo.



TALES ON THE EPIC RHINO EXCHANGE

The Rhino Dream of Tamil Nadu

The Dream of acquiring Great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros to Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur dates back to the announcement made by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Ms.J.Jayalithaa in a media in 2014.

From then it was tried hard by many political leader and officials to bring the majestic giants to vandalur zoo. Attempts were made desperately from all possible sources. Hon' ble Forest minister of Assam visited Vandalur zoo. On seeing the efficient and zealous team, care and service provided to the animals here, the minister got impressed and also got convinced for giving a Rhinoceros from Assam state. In the mean while it was also announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, that a pair of Rhinoceros will be brought soon to the chennai zoo, But when the processes were advancing progressively, the forest minister was transferred to some other department and the program collapsed and dropped due to unforeseen reasons.

Dream to reality

As the hard work always pays, the interest and approaches to bring rhinoceros was not given up anymore. A team from chennai zoo personally visited the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Patna, Bihar animal exchange program was planned. But they were ready to give only a senile female. Being not convinced for this proposal, a continuous attempt and discussion between both technical staff and officials was made until a consensual decision between both zoos was arrived for an animal exchange programme which includes an young female Great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros for chennai zoo. Meanwhile chennai zoo was also looking for availability of Male Rhinoceros all over zoos of India and abroad.



Then it was found that Hyderabad zoo had an young male Rhino in surplus. Soon an intensive and persistent attempt was made to know their interested species from chennai zoo. The mission was finally accomplished with a set of animals from chennai zoo. Actions were taken rapidly to include Indian Rhinoceros to the animal collection plan and to get the consent for animal exchange program from Central Zoo Authority (CZA) of India.

Rhino

Acquisition from Hyderabad Zoo

Soon after the approval of the animal exchange program by central zoo authority (CZA) of India, the travel plan to bring the animal safely was made. A team, including Veterinarian and biologist visited Hyderabad zoo and stayed few days to select and observe the selected Rhino named 'Ramu' and its enclosure. The animal was sensitized to crate few days before travel, by feeding the animal in that crate itself. Once the animal is comfortable with the crate, the travel plan to Chennai was scheduled.

Rhino

Acquisition from Patna Zoo

The animal exchange programme to acquire a young female Rhino was planned with a little more confidence but on the same time with more care and caution as the travel distance was more than 2000km crossing over almost six different states. The route map and directions were planned well ahead on discussing with the forest department officials. The forest officials and the zoos on the route were also intimated about this transit through them to render any assistance incase of any exigency. The animal selected was observed and inspected by Chennai zoo team, who stayed there for three days for this purpose. A 2 years old Rhinoceros named 'Rhine' was selected and decided for exchange on consensus of the both the zoos

"AAZP INVOLVES IN CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ENDANGERED RHINOCEROS."

TALES ON THE EPIC RHINO EXCHANGE

HERCULEAN AND HISTORICAL ANIMAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Team involved in identification of animals for animal Exchange



Beginning of the herculean Journey



Crafting and loading of the majestic Giant to transport truck



ARZP & NZP Team



The crate being secured well to vehicle with ropes



Patrol Vehicle behind the crate



Watering and wallowing after the night journey



Enroute Veterinary inspection



Journey in swampy terrain with the exceptional care of loaded animal



Unloading of crate with the help of crane



Ramu exploring his New Enclosure



Rhine exploring her New Enclosure

Role of Corporates in Conservation of Forest & Wildlife



Arignar Anna Zoological Park Vandalur, Chennai hosted an One Day Interactive session in the topic "Role of Corporates in Conservation of Forest & Wildlife" on 7.6.2019 at Zoo School Auditorium. Thiru. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu Forest Department gave the special address, Thiru. Yogesh Singh IFS, APCCF & Director, AAZP gave the welcoming speech. The zoo documentary was screened to various lead representatives of around 30 different firms and institutions.

The session comprised of two technical modules. Module one was detailed by Dr. G. Agoramoorthy, M.Sc., Ph.D., Distinguished Research Professor, Tajen University, Taiwan & Executive Board Member, South East Asian Zoos Association on "Partnership in Conservation across the Globe". The second module was elaborated by Dr. Brij Kishore Gupta M.Sc., Ph.D., Monitoring and Evaluation officer, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi on "Indian Perspective of Ex-situ Conservation and role of Stakeholders". The third technical module was handled by The Tmt. Sudha Ramen IFS, Deputy Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park on "Avenues for Corporate/Private organizations to contribute and collaborate with Zoo the Management" followed by a group discussion by the distinguished members of the house on their firm specialty with prime focus Corporate Social Responsibility with a collaborative approach. Post lunch the members were taken for field visit. The event was a grand success.



ANIMAL ADOPTION PROGRAMME

Animal adoption programme is one of best successive initiative that encourages the love, affection and passion towards the wild animals. The animal adoption programme provides an opportunity to the public to become conservationist. On 10.7.2019 Thiru. Kannan Parthasarthy and Tmt. T. Gayathri from St. Thomas mount adopted Lion Tailed macaque and Nilgiri langur by contributing Rs.2,00,000 (2 Lakhs) for the animal's food and maintenance.

" WILDLIFE IS MOTHER NATURE'S GREATEST TREASURE, TO PROTECT IT, WE MUST TAKE EVERY MEASURE "

KING IS BACK

A pair of new members have arrived to the zoo's reptile family. AAZP recognized their importance and got an opportunity to bring one of the Southeast Asia's charismatic reptile species to the zoo, that are hardly sighted. AAZP took the necessary steps, through animal exchange program and brought these King Cobras from Pilikula Biological Park, Karnataka. Arignar Anna Zoological Park pioneer model in the animal exchange programme with other major zoo across the globe. A simulated natural habitat set up has been provided for the snakes and this rare kind of snakes hold a fearsome reputation. So, with much safety, the visitors can now come and witness the world's longest venomous snake



ZOO TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS



Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Zoo Technical Advisory Committee III meeting was held on 19th July 2019. Technical Committee members, Thiru .Yogesh Singh I.F.S APCCF & Director AAZP, Tmt. Sudha Ramen, I.F.S. Deputy Director, AAZP, Thiru. K. Sekar, Assistant Director AAZP, Zoo Veterinarian and Biologist were present during the discussion. Deputy Director S.Sudha I.F.S. AAZP briefed the Follow up action taken on the minutes of the II technical committee meeting held on 08.03.2018. The following agenda for the III technical advisory committee meeting was discussed by the board.

The committee recommended MoU with TANUVAS and A.I.W.C. The committee suggested the concept of 'Green Zoo', in which an energy audit and water audit were supposed to be taken with respect to present timeline. The committee welcomed the enhancement of safari in addition to present lion and deer. The committee welcomed the idea of solar fencing in the pre-existing enclosures. The committee approved the execution of innovative upcoming projects. The members were happy about the present zoo publications, periodic newsletters and collaborative Zoo School activities. The members appreciated the officers for programs conducted by Zoo School contributing largely to Zoo out reach.

CARE FOR THE STAFF HEALTH

Free Bone density health check up screening was conducted for zoo staff. The camp was conducted on 4.7.2019 and 5.7.2019. During the camp, Zoo staff were educated about the dietary rich food for the good bone and good health. The Camp was organised with coordinate with Lions Club of Chennai and Mother Earth Foundation. More than 300 zoo staff along with their family members screened for bone density.



RAT SNAKE TREATMENT



There are more than 40 species of reptiles including various kinds of snakes are being housed at our Zoological Park. Reptile husbandry is still under developed and not completely understood. Hence reptiles maintained at captivity get many ailments, among them abscessation is not uncommon.

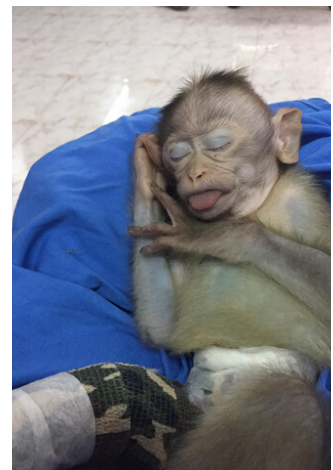
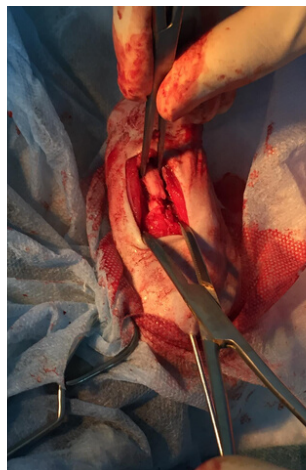
A rat snake with swelling at two sites was brought to zoo veterinary hospital. One of a size around 2 centimetre in diameter and the other one of around 0.5 centimetre, at the second, one third of the body segment right laterally with the smaller located 4 centimetre caudal to the other one. On needle aspiration and cytology analysis of the mass, it is diagnosed to be abscess.



Unlike in mammals, abscess of reptiles will be encapsulated which indicates surgical excision as simple draining of abscess will not cure the condition completely. Hence, a decision for surgical excision is made. The snake weighed 1.6 kg, with length of 210 centimetres and condition of body fair to good. After physical evaluation of the animal, the entire second third segment of the snake is scrubbed on physical restraint and moved to the operation theatre. Animal is premeditated with meloxicam, induced with ketamine and incubated soon after the abolishment of righting reflex. Further the anaesthesia is maintained by inhalation technique using Isoflurane, under continuous monitoring and mechanical ventilation. Then after preparing the site surgically, skin incision was made with a care not to incise the abscess capsule. Multiple capsulated abscess are removed from cranial site and closed with opposition pattern. Similarly at the caudal onewhere one encapsulated abscess present is also excised and closed. Isoflurane is weaned few minutes before end of surgery and animal is flushed with oxygen 10 minutes and further incubated until recovery. Soon recovery, the snake is transferred to a separate case and maintained. Snake is recovering well.

INTERNAL FIXATION OF FRACTURE IN BONNET MACAQUE

A female infant bonnet macaque of age around 3 months was brought to zoo veterinary hospital with immense pain and swelling on right hindlimb. On physical examination, examination crepitus was felt in the mid shaft if the femur and it is diagnosed as complete short oblique over- riding fracture of right femur and the same was confirmed in radiography. Under general anaesthesia, intramedullary pinning with cerclage wiring was done. As the patient is an infant anaesthesia dose was titrated very carefully and special care was given during recovery to take care of post-aneasthesia hypothermia. The animal regained the locomotory functions on the 7th post-operative day itself and recovered uneventfully.



ZOO AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Summer Camp - Session 2

The Zoo School of Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandular Last year introduced a new type of education-cum-entertainment camp for school students. During April/May Zoo School of Arignar Anna Zoological Park conducted the second camp of the Zoo Ambassador programme. The registration of the programme was hosted in the Zoo official website and the registration got filled up within a day of opening the registration slot. It is rememberable that the zoo ambassador programme has received excellent overwhelmed response from the students, parents and teachers.

Zoo Ambassador programme - Summer Camp was scheduled as a three day programme in 6 batches with 50 students per batch. The registration of the programme was hosted in the Zoo website www.aazp.in. The Programme was conducted between 9 to 12.30 pm.

In addition to it during the month of April/ May special Zoo Ambassador programme for government school students and zoo ambassador programme for Zoo Staff children are conducted to enhance the knowledge of conservation education at free of cost. So far 391 students were trained as Zoo ambassadors in summer camp batch 2019.

The objective of this programme was to provide an opportunity to the students to learn about the different animal species, identify the role and responsibility of each and every animal in maintaining the ecological susceptibility and their adaptive features.

The students were provided with educational kit that includes descriptive book about the animals of vandular zoo -The Animal book of Vandular Zoo, jute bag, stationeries and separate activity booklet under each topics. The entire programme was mentored by Zoo veterinarians, Zoo Biologist and Zoo Educator.

Day 1 : Mammal Day

Day 2- Bird Day

Day 3 : Reptiles, fishes and butterflies

Followed by the valedictory ceremony students were titled as " Zoo Ambassador of Vandular Zoo" with a certificate, badge and zoo passport which includes 10 free visit to the zoo.

Zoo Ambassador Programme is conducted throughout the year by ZooSchool

To know the schedule visit www.aazp.in or Email aazpzoooschool@gmail.com



ZOO SCHOOL - AWARENESS PROGRAMME



International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May) Banner Campaign was conducted and the visitors were sensitized on the importance of biodiversity and visitors expressed their thoughts in 120 feet banner. More than 2000+ visitors participated.



World Environment Day (5 June) Organised in coordination with Rana Group of companies. 1000 Native Tree sapling and jute bag were distribution to the visitors. Tree planting activities were conducted inside the zoo premises.



World Ocean Day (8 June) - Awareness campaign on Ocean conservation was conducted at various places inside the Zoo. 1000 + visitors participated and show their support and take a pledge to conserve ocean species by raising their hands.



International Yoga Day (June 21) More than 100 zoo staff along with family members participated in the yoga event. And learnt asanas, meditation and mudras. And the Staff were sensitized on the art of yoga practice regularly.



International Tigers Day(July 29) - Educational Awareness programme conducted highlight the importance of Tiger Conservation - 150 Government School students from Kanchipuram District actively participated



International Elephant Day & International Lion Day - Painting & Oratorical Competition was conducted 250 students from Chennai, Tiruvallur and kanchipuram District participated, Winner were awarded and participation certificate was given to all participants.

WORKSHOP ON BIRDS & BIRD IDENTIFICATION

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Zoo school conducted a special Birds and Bird Identification workshop on 26th May 2019 at Zoo School auditorium, nearly 50 students and adults participated in the workshop. Professor and Head of the Department of Wildlife Science Dr.C. Sreekumar conducted the training sessions and the participants were taken to wild bird watching inside the Zoo campus followed by technical session which covers various techniques in bird watching, bird sighting and documenting the data collected in the field. Students were provided with workshop, and participation certificate at end of the programme.



TRAINING PROGRAMME IN ZOO



Forest Guard apprentice trainees from Tamilnadu Forest Department



Judicial officer trainees from Tamil Nadu State judicial Academy



Internship training TANUVAS



Internship training - Final year students TANUVAS



Wildlife Nutrition internship training B.Vsc II year student TANUVAS



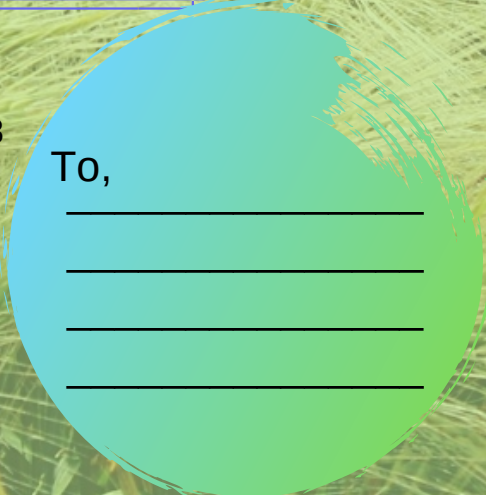
Wildlife tracking programme -MVC students



- 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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