



THE ZOO STORY

ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK NEWSLETTER

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Design - Sudha S, IFS (Deputy Director, AAZP)

Content

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| • Dr. Manimozhi | • Dr. Sridhar |
| • Dr. Kamaraj | • Dr. Pradeep |
| • Dr. Sekar | • Dr. Boon Allwin |
| | • Dr. Kalaighan |

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I extend my gratitude to the State Government to have given me the opportunity to work for Arignar Anna Zoological Park, one of the best zoological park of the country which has records of successful animal conservation since long. We have been working towards excellence in conservation and captive breeding of endangered animals through scientific management practices.

Post Cyclone Vardhah, the zoo had suffered several losses, but with our continuous efforts we are working to restore the zoo back to its glory. We had several events that had happened post June 2017. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu chaired the 19th Governing Board Meeting of Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu and had visited the zoo to name a lion cub. Minister of Forest and other Ministers along with Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary(E&F) also visited the zoo.

We conducted several successful exchange programmes with major zoo's of the country and are working with more exchange programmes for the future as well.

The Mission of our zoo also includes conservation education to the visitors and offering excellent public service, We have made lot of improvements in the visitor amenities. We are working to equip the zoo digitally as well.

With the continuous support of CZA and State Government, I am sure that Arignar Anna Zoological Park will continue to be as one of the best zoo at the World Level.

S. Yuvaraj , IFS

APCCF & Director
Arignar Anna Zoological Park



We had a grand naming ceremony of our little star "Vishnu" - male lion cub born to Jhansi and Veera, on Oct 12, 2017. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, along with Minister of Forest and other Ministers graced the ceremony. Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (E&F) & PCCFs were also present.

Expanding our Animal Collection

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur has a detailed animal collection plan which was developed even at the time of its foundation. The Zoo has done well in having viable collections of endemic and the endangered species representing India and other countries. This was majorly possible by means of exchange programmes. The Arignar Anna Zoological Park has the distinction of one of the largest animal as well as species collections in the country.

The important criterion for any successful exchange programme is that not only the behavioral compatibility of the animal to the new environment is required but the animal should also be able to breed well in the new environment. Inbreeding among zoo population is an important problem, which results in depression of genetic vigor. Hence new blood lines are required to be regularly introduced to maintain the genetic vigor of the important species.

Animal exchange is a standard practice wherein the surplus and single sexed animals are being exchanged between the zoos to balance their sex ratios as well as to sustain the population in the Zoo. Considering the above the animal exchange programmes were carried out at Arignar Anna Zoological Park with Mysore Zoo, Nandankanan Zoo, Hyderabad Zoo and many other zoos.

MYSORE ZOO

- Wild dog
- Brown antlered deer
- Lady Amherst pheasant
- Nilgai
- Lion tailed macaque
- Sambar

NANDANKANNAN ZOO

- Himalayan black bear
- White ibis
- Water monitor lizard
- Open billed stork
- Siamese crocodile
- Nilgiri langur
- White peafowl
- Painted stork
- Reticulated Python

HYDERABAD ZOO

- Lion tailed macaque
- Reticulated Python
- Mouse deer
- Jungle cat



We were happy to have Smt. Pramila Rani Brahma, Minister of Environment and Forests, Assam State Government, in our zoo on Nov 5, 2017

I visited the Zoo of Tamil Nadu - I have seen so many animals, are here. The Authority has maintained so nicely. It is tremendous. I enjoyed very much and will try to follow for my state Zoo, Assam.

S/D
5/11/17
(Pramila Rani Brahma)

The story of Blue & Yellow Macaw Breeding in our Zoo



This is the first record of AAZP, the most popular exotic bird - Blue & Yellow Macaw bred successfully. The private sellers use well sophisticated and more expensive ways to breed this bird. But in AAZP, suitable environment and continuous monitoring, led to successful breeding of this bird.



Blue & Yellow Macaw is an excellent pet that become very attached and loving towards their care takers. The main attraction is their beautiful and exotic looks as well as their affectionate and playful activities. These birds require a large space in captivity condition. If proper enrichment is not provided, the birds turn into screamers, feather pluckers and bitters, resulting in difficult captive breeding. Usually the bird makes loud noise if alarmed or excited. But AAZP provided a soothing environment to these birds. Daily bathing facilities were provided to prevent itches that may result in feather plucking and self mutilation.



Like all other macaws, blue and yellow macaw has habit to chew continuously. This is the most common and natural behavior in this species. This natural behavior of the bird was not disturbed and further the enclosure was also planted with self-medicated plant species. Whenever they chew these plant products, they have some medicinal effect on the birds. Tulsi, Karpporavalli, Amaranthus, Ficus spp, Moringa tinctoria, Thinneerpathini, Vallarai, Papaya, Vasambu, Neer Pirambi, Guava, etc..., were planted and maintained well in the enclosure. In addition to these, AAZP also gives variety of diet that includes fresh fruits, vegetables, green leaves and a quantity of dry food mix to these birds.

The bird enclosure measures 144m³ space (6m×6m×4m). The enclosure was build in such a manner that it was half-covered with concrete structures and half with 1"×1" chainlink. This gives protection during summer, winter and rainy season. The half chainlink portion gives suitable enrichment for birds for hanging freely in roof portion.



In 2015, AAZP had only 4 adult blue and yellow macaw birds. Two eggs were recorded on 20.02.2017 but these eggs did not hatch successfully. With continuous efforts on enrichment and bird's diet, it was observed on May 30,2017, a pair of eggs was newly laid. After 28 days they hatched successfully. At present AAZP has 3 pair of blue and yellow macaw in captivity.

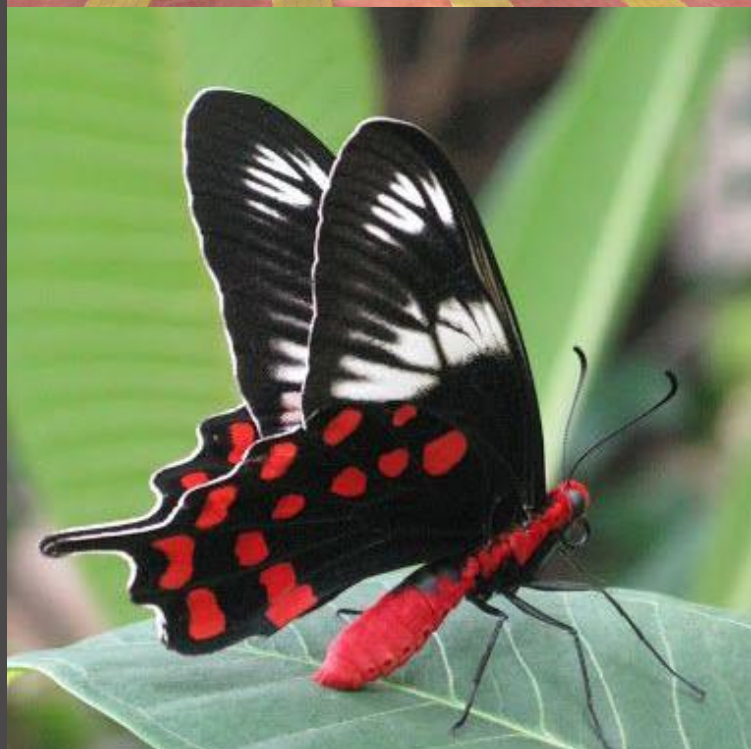
Our Pride - Butterfly Park

Butterflies are among the most beautiful organisms in the universe, which have fascinated naturalists for centuries. There are approximately 20,000 species of butterflies distributed throughout the world. In India, with its diversified eco-systems has rich butterfly fauna of about 1500 species. Tamil Nadu has so far recorded 319 species of butterflies, which include rare and endemic species.

Butterfly parks in zoological parks serve as window through which visitors watch nature and get inspired to become conservationists and future custodians of nature. The butterflies are important pollinators of several wild and domesticated plants and depletion of their population could adversely affect the regeneration of the plants. Considering the role of butterflies in maintaining nature's ecological balance, a butterfly park has been established in Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Chennai with assistance from Tourism and Culture Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and Ministry of Tourism, Government of India at the cost of Rs.400 lakhs. Then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu opened it to the public on 15.09.2015.

*" Sixty six species of
butterflies were identified
and documented here during
2016-2017 "*

The butterfly park is located near Otteri Lake, western part of the zoo over an area of 2.7 hectares. Butterfly Park is designed in such a way that it houses nectar & host plant gardens and indoor conservatory. An indoor conservatory in a shape of a caterpillar to the size of 60 m length, 26 m width and height of 6 m with roof of white poly carbonate sheet to allow natural sun light passed on to the ground. A predator insect proof stainless steel mesh has been provided all around the structure. Nectar and host plant gardens have been provided outside the indoor conservatory to supply breeding materials to the indoor conservatory. Visitors including large number of school and college students are visiting the Butterfly Park regularly.





EPISODE OF SASI'S DIGIT AMPUTATION

Sasi, an 8 year old Lioness had a deep lacerated wound on 4th digit with dislocation at 2nd phalangeal joint in left forelimb. Soon, under general anaesthesia, the forth digit was amputated at the level of second phalanx and skin was opposed by intra-dermal suturing with absorbable suture material so as to reduce the chances of the animal to disturb the sutures. The Lioness recovered uneventfully after 18 days of the procedure with normal weight bearing on the affected limb.

Right eye with persistent peripheral anterior synechia



Enucleation of the eye (OD), under general anaesthesia



STORIES FROM THE VETERINARY SECTION

VICKY'S GLAUCOMA

Vicky, a 9 year old male Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) was affected with bilateral glaucoma, severe on right eye (OD) with persistent peripheral anterior synechia. Glaucoma a condition where there will be an high increase in the intra-ocular pressure of eye. Complete loss of vision on right eye was diagnosed based on the behavioural changes of the animal. Animal was darted with xylazine and ketamine using a blow pipe and maintained under ketamine-diazepam intravenous anaesthesia. Enucleation of the right eyeball was performed after retrobulbar nerve block. Induction and recovery was smooth. Animal recovered uneventfully on 14th post-operative day.



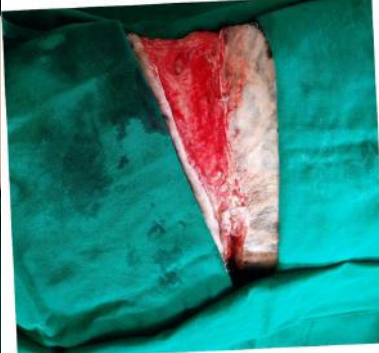
Silly Infights of Siamese Crocodile

A five year old, male Siamese crocodile of 12 feet length, was a new entry to Arignar Anna Zoological Park, who escaped through the partition and fought with the already existing two female Siamese crocodile and had deep lacerated injuries all over body. On observation, it was found that the victim was anorectic and reduced locomotion. The wound was flushed and dressed with antibiotic cream by an innovative pole brush technique followed by administration of antibiotics, analgesics and supplements. One of the female crocodile which was found to be attacking the male crocodile, was translocated to a different enclosure by physical capture and restraint safely. After ten days of treatment, the mobility improved and after 28 days, all the wounds were found to be healed well and animal started consuming feed.



Treating Snare Injury of a Free Ranging Leopard at our Zoo

One fine morning, the forest Veterinarian at Mudumalai tiger reserve got information about a juvenile leopard that was caught in snare, at Lovedale, Nilgiris. The snare has slithered through the trunk of the animal causing severe circumferential lacerations with intense pain. The animal was transported to the Arignar Anna Zoological Park immediately, for further therapy and discernment.



A decision to perform a surgery that aimed at reconstructing the lost tissue was taken, keeping in mind the aesthetic appearance also. The animal was immobilized with a combination of injection xylazine and ketamine hydrochloride at the recommended dose rate. The anaesthesia was maintained for a period of 2hr.39.50 minutes, using additional top ups of ketamine to maintain the surgical plain of anaesthesia.

During the surgery, the wound was lavaged, debrided and necrotic borders were trimmed. The wound was closed with an extensive reconstructive procedure to prevent wound tension and to facilitate faster healing. Post surgery, the recovery time was recorded as 1.51 mins.

Post operative antibiotics and analgesics were given for five days using blow darts. The animal was again immobilized on the 8th day for review, the animal showed an uneventful healing and recovery.



*“ We do care about
animals in wild ”*

Rehabilitation of confiscated Star Tortoises

Star tortoises are threatened species of tortoise that are found in dry scrub areas in the Indian sub continent. This species is quite popular in exotic pet trade that makes it endangered. A total of 2515 tortoises were brought to the Zoo Veterinary Hospital (ZVH) in-patient ward at the early morning of 22/08/2017. Immediately the tortoises were housed in the cages according to their sizes in the ZVH. Later in the morning the animals were segregated, identified and were sexed, and it was found to be Adult male-123, adult female-320, medium juveniles-192 and small juveniles-1861. Biometrics and temporary marking were done for easy management. Initial first aid and rehydration was carried out. On 23rd the entire lot was transferred to the ZVH transit cages. Endoparasitic screening from stratified groups was done. The new outdoor enclosure was evaluated; the enclosure confounding factors were regulated.

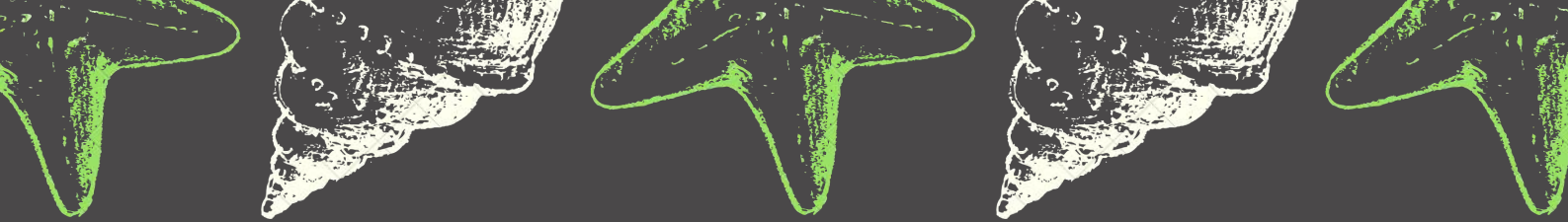
“SHINING STARS”

On 24th the lighting, both artificial and natural were regulated using shade-nets, as natural lighting is pivotal for the production of vitamin D in tortoises and it also has the advantage of providing heat. It is also considered that natural lighting is a potent appetite stimulant for reptiles. Water was made available at all times with well spread ventilated conditions. Definite cutaneous and respiratory losses must be compensated and are very essential for captive reptile husbandry. Small trays of various sizes were placed in the enclosure at appropriate places. These species being terrestrial and arid dwellers usually drink water from crates, there is also an observed phenomenon of nearly facilitates defecation and encourages activity and alertness.



Feeding, the nutrition of captive tortoises is the limiting factor for the survivability of the animals. These species being herbivores, the diet chart from the pre-existing feeding schedule of the captive star tortoises of AAZP was taken as the pioneer reference in feeding these animals. The feed chart as follows, carrot (30gms), ladies finger (30gms), tomato (30gms), and greens (50gms). In addition to this, based on the availability cactus was fed during the morning hours. The calcium to phosphorus ratio is regulatory to reptiles, based on the calcium content and the fleshy nature ladyfinger was included into the diet.

The enrichment works were carried out in the enclosures, shredded deer antlers were used as nutritional and behavioral enrichment. As seen from the Mortality chart the death rate slowly reduced and it zeroed out from 28.08.17, providing valuable proof the animals have adapted to living conditions and that the feed, water and husbandry management have been at ideal state. Further, DNA analysis and tracing of geographical origin has initiated. Now this stabilized population is being fed with naturally available herbages like Tridax (kinathu paasan), cactus, hibiscus, Ipomea, Adamant creeper (Pirandai). The meteorological parameters such as Cloud cover, Rainfall, Wind direction, Temperature, Relative Humidity are being recorded on a weekly basis to validate the environmental confounding factors from the TNAU weather portal unit.



Little New Stars of AAZP

HIPPO



OSTRICH



LION



Memorable Events

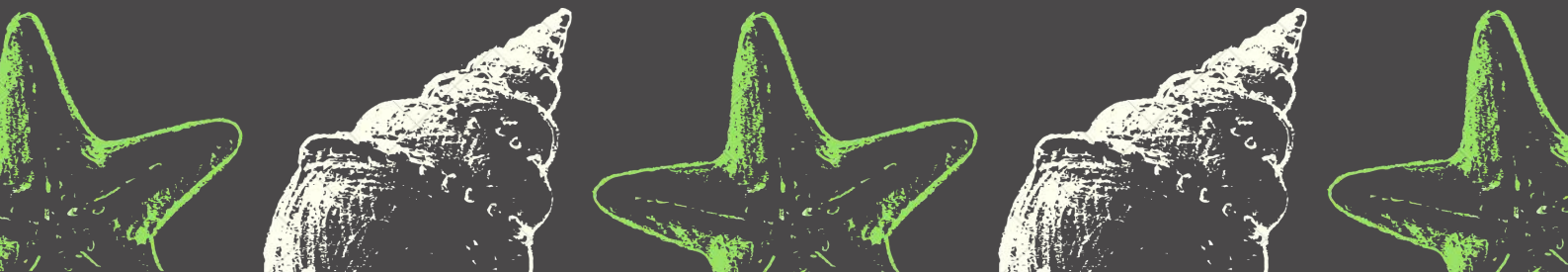
ZAT GOVERNING BOARD
MEETING



FAREWELL TO OUR
ZOO ENGINEER



IFS PROBATIONERS
VISIT





" People forget the good that zoos do. If it weren't for zoos, we would have so many species that would be extinct today. "

Betty White

Arignar Anna Zoological Park

AAZP

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Chennai, Tamilnadu 600048
www.aazp.in

directoraazp1@gmail.com
Ph.Off.044-22751089,
Fax.044-22750741

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