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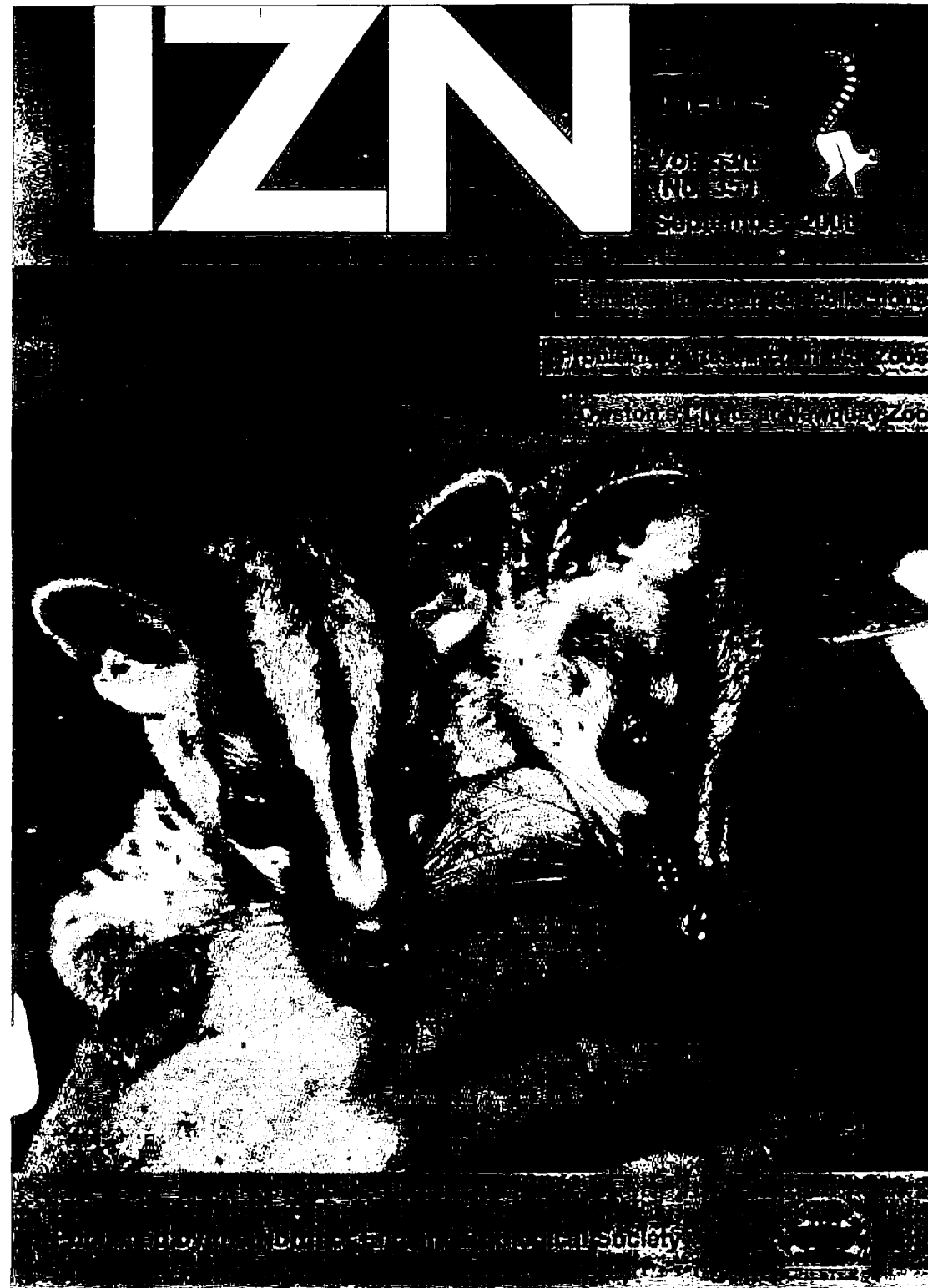
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Cover Illustration: Twin Owston's civets born at Newquay Zoo, U.K. (Photo:
Michelle Turton)





A chinkara resting in its hole.



A dorcas gazelle in front of its hole.

Although ten different species inhabit the bachelor enclosure, only three of them are regularly found in the holes – the already mentioned *G. dorcas* and *G. bennettii* and the Speke's gazelle (*G. spekei*). The first two species are the predominant users of the holes, because in the species hierarchy they are superior to the much smaller *G. spekei* thanks to their greater body size and strength.

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The viability problem within the captive white rhino population is well known, so in 2001 we decided to cooperate with the 'integrated approach for the enhancement of reproductive performance of white rhinoceroses in the EEP' that was initiated in 1992. The stakeholders of this project are the colleagues from the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) in Berlin, the Biochemistry Institute of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, and the Salzburg and Dvur Králové Zoos.

Budapest Zoo has kept 1.1 southern white rhinos since 1983. Due to their 'brother-sister' relationship there was no chance of natural breeding. The first logical step was that the experts from the IZW performed an evaluation of the reproductive organs of both animals, and this occurred in September 2001. This assessment revealed that the sperm of the male, Easy Boy, was suboptimal and that the female, Lulu, already had pathological alterations in her reproductive tract. After several examinations, β -carotene supplementation and an unsuccessful artificial insemination (AI) attempt in 2003, a successful AI took place in April 2004. This was already a small miracle, as during the last few months further reproductive pathology had started to develop in Lulu.

The expectations were incredibly high, as this was not only the first-ever white rhino pregnancy in Hungary but the third anywhere which was a result of AI and the first which was the result of AI and reached the status of the second trimester. But despite the detailed planning, a thorough emergency plan and all possible efforts, Lulu gave birth to a dead female calf on 9 August 2005. The calf died during the birthing process due to disconnection of the umbilical cord and subsequent suffocation. The post mortem findings revealed that the intensive resuscitation efforts were already too late as she died well before leaving the birth

canal. It is hard to convey the degree of our disappointment and sorrow, but this changed after a while.

It is often stated that rhinos and horses are very similar in certain ways; and after birth the first oestrus of a horse is probably the most fertile one. So, our task was known: catch this moment and use it, as there will not be many more opportunities – Lulu is not a young animal any more!

The first examination took place in August 2005, and showed that the pregnancy – despite its sad outcome – had been the best treatment for Lulu's ageing reproductive organs. The cysts and fibrotic scars were gone and the evaluation showed that she could conceive if the timing was right. The next examination (at the end of August) showed early signs of ovarian development, and we needed to make a calculation when to inseminate. On 8 September 2005, almost exactly a month after the sad stillbirth, another AI was attempted. The same team worked together again, and this time everything seemed perfect – the timing, the follicle, the sperm quality. And indeed, it was: the subsequent blood and faecal hormone values proved that Lulu was pregnant again. Moreover, a 4D ultrasound examination gave us the visual proof in December 2005. We expect the delivery in January 2007. We are waiting patiently. . .

Endre Sós and Viktor Molnar in *EAZA News* No. 55 (July–September 2006)

Catskill Game Farm, New York, U.S.A.

It was recently announced that the Catskill Game Farm will be closing on 9 October 2006. This closure marks the end of an era of traditional privately-owned zoos. The farm was established in 1933 by Roland Lindemann, a German immigrant and banker, as his hobby in the Catskill Mountains in New York state. Mr Lindemann's main aim was to preserve and breed rare ungulates. In its

heyday Catskill was said to be the largest ungulate collection in the world, and one of the largest zoos in America; but the pioneering effort and accomplishments of the Lindemann family have been largely forgotten by today's generation of zoo professionals.

Some concept of what the farm was like in its heyday may be gleaned from an entry by the late Marvin L. Jones in Rosl Kirchshofer's *The World of Zoos* (Viking Press, New York, 1968), from which the following details were obtained. The zoo proper had an area of 132 acres [53 ha], but a further 788 acres [315 ha], not open to the public, were used to house and breed rare and threatened species. Some 2,000 individuals of about 185 species were held. These included numerous deer (sambar, hog, axis, American wapiti, Père David's, European red, muntjac, reindeer, elk, fallow, sika, Formosan, Dybowski's, and Siberian and European roe), equids (Hartmann's mountain, Damara, Grant's and Grevy's zebra, Persian onager, African wild ass and Przewalski's horse), bovids (various bison taxa, Cape and dwarf buffalo, banteng, gaur and domestic yak), and antelopes (addax, greater kudu, beisa and scimitar-horned oryx, gemsbok, nilgai, bushbuck blackbuck, springbok, Persian gazelle, nyala, white-tailed and white-bearded gnus and several species of duiker). In addition, there were musk oxen, markhor, Siberian ibex, giraffe, white rhinoceros, elephant, wombat, various kangaroos, puma, Aldabra giant tortoise, and birds including several rare parrots.

Ken Kawata

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Since 1996, when we hired Richard P. Reading to start a Conservation Biology Department, the zoo has been involved in a wide range of conservation projects in Mongolia. In 1998 we began working in Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve, some 300 km south-east of the capital