

## APELDOORN - THE NETHERLANDS

A special birth took place at Apenheul on 13 January 1997. Kessie, a 16-year-old **Woolly monkey** *Lagothrix lagothericha* gave birth to a female offspring and is raising it successfully. It is special, because Kessie had major problems accepting her youngsters in the past. In 1988, her first daughter was born, which she would not accept. It was then decided to try something that on different occasions had worked well with other primate species at Apenheul. Kessie was given a low dose of anaesthetic to make her drowsy. Then the infant was put on her chest and given the opportunity to suckle. While regaining her senses, Kessie did not display any aggressive behaviour towards her offspring; possibly the suckling baby stimulated maternal behaviour. Once completely recovered, she was confused, but with a lot of reassuring words from her keepers she decided to keep the baby with her. This story repeated itself in 1990 and 1994. In January 1997, however, she immediately accepted her offspring without any assistance from the keepers. Kessie's last infant is the 42nd Woolly monkey born at Apenheul. Apenheul's Woolly monkey colony

now numbers 38 individuals, which is about half of the European population of this rare EEP species.

Source: Warner Jens



Young Woolly monkey at Apenheul

Photo: Apenheul, Jan Vermeer

## ST-MARTIN-LA-PLAINE - FRANCE

In December 1993, a 1.5-year-old confiscated female **Snow leopard** *Uncia uncia* was officially donated to Saint-Martin-la-Plaine Zoo. The former owner had no permission to keep this animal, which was captured as a kitten (with her mother, which eventually died) in Kirgiziya. This new founder, 'Alma-Ata', was therefore considered to be the most important wild-caught female by the EEP co-ordinator. She was paired with a male born in 1991 at Port Lympne Zoo (UK). This couple produced three still-born young in 1995. On 22 April 1996, 1.2 healthy kittens were born. Mother and cubs were isolated during the first two weeks. Afterwards the male was reintroduced without any problem. Following Leif Blomqvist's recommendation, the three young will stay with their parents for 18 months and will then be sent to other EEP approved institutions. In January 1997, matings were again observed.

Source: Marc Bousseky

## TALLINN - ESTONIA

Tallinn Zoo reports the birth of 0.1 **Polar bear** *Ursus maritimus* on 1 December 1996. Mother 'Uaidi' was born in Kazan Zoo (Russia) in 1984 and arrived at Tallinn on 5 March 1987 while father 'Franz', born in 1987, was captured by Tallinn Zoo's assistant director Vladimir Fainstein during an expedition to Franz Josef Land in April 1988. This was the second birth of a Polar bear at Tallinn. The first cub (a male) was born on 23 December 1995 and sent to Kaunas Zoo (Lithuania) in February 1997.

Source: Vladimir Fainstein

## WALSRODE - GERMANY

A pair of **Nocturnal curassows** *Nothocrax urumutum* produces eggs regularly, but never builds a nest or incubates the eggs by itself. Up to now, one single egg has been fertile; it hatched at the end of 1996. The chick was successfully reared. A **Brown pelican** *Pelecanus occidentalis* hatched in the incubator and grew up well. Another fertile egg is at the moment (February 1997) still in the incubator. Walsrode's Brown pelicans had a young already in 1996, but the parents did not feed it.

Notable arrivals were: 1.1 **Red-tailed amazon** *Amazona brasiliensis* from Mallorca, 1.1 **Blue-eyed cockatoo** *Cacatua ophthalmica* from Chester Zoo (UK), 0.1 **Thick-billed parrot** *Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha* from Chester and 3.3 **Blue-crowned lorikeet** *Vini australis*. The latter are on breeding loan from San Diego Zoo (USA) where a prolifically reproducing flock exists.

Furthermore 1.1 **Horned guan** *Oreophaps derbianus* arrived in early February 1997 from the private collection of Dr. Estudillo-Lopez (Mexico), where more than 25 chicks of this rare species have been bred during the past nine years.

Source: Dieter Rinke

## DVUR KRALOVE - CZECH REPUBLIC

A female **Black rhino** *Diceros bicornis michaeli* was born on 5 August 1996 at Dvur Kralove Zoo. The calf, 'Elba', is genetically very valuable as her father was imported into the EEP population from Sydney Zoo (Australia). He started breeding at the age of 18. Mother 'Eimi' gave birth for the first time. Grandmother 'Elvira' was the first Black rhino to be born at Dvur Kralove in 1977 and 'Elba' is the 19th. Dvur Kralove Zoo is the only institution in the EAZA region to have bred four rhinoceros taxa: Indian, Black, Southern white and Northern white rhino.

Source: Kristina Tomasova