

# Births and Hatchings <sup>TOMASOVA</sup>

## DVUR KRALOVE - Czech Republic (Uvervaly)

A female **Angolan guereza** (*Colobus angolensis*) was born on 19 July. This is the 13th young of this species at the zoo and the third offspring of the 6.5-year-old mother, who was born at Dvur Kralove herself.

→ The birth of 0.1 **Black rhino** (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) on 20 August represents another significant breeding success. This is the 20th Black rhino born at Dvur Kralove since breeding started in 1977. The calf is the fifth offspring of the 19-year-old mother and the fourth of the 18-year-old father. Both parents were born at Dvur Kralove Zoo themselves. The F2-baby is being mother-reared.

Furthermore 2.2 **Bongos** (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*) were born between 31 July and 5 August 1997, bringing the total number of Dvur Kralove-born Bongos to 63.

The **Grevy zebras** (*Equus grevyi*) delivered 1.1 foals in June and July. These are the first offspring of "Hans", a stallion of an under-represented bloodline. This breeding success is the result of the EEP co-operation with Nuremberg Zoo (Germany). The 130th giraffe birth at Dvur Kralove took place on 24 June 1997 when a **Reticulated giraffe** (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) was born to its approximately 15-year-old wild-caught parents.

Source: Kristina Tomasova

### PRAGUE - CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague Zoo reports the birth of 1.1 **Amur leopards** (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) on 6 May 1997. This birth is of great importance for the EEP population of this species, because both parents are wild-born. Mother "Kuli", who was born in North Korea in 1992, was very nervous after delivery. In order not to disturb her and her offspring, the Lion House was closed to the public for six weeks. For two weeks, the keepers did not even know how many young were born.

The father is on breeding loan from Moscow Zoo (Russia). Prague Zoo started keeping Amur leopards in 1961 when a six-month-old, wild-caught male arrived from Moscow. He died in 1976 without having reproduced. Currently, the Zoo houses 2.2 adult Amur leopards which all originate from North Korea.

The first birth took place in March 1996, but the female offspring died from pneumonia when she was a month old.

In June 1996, Prague Zoo received a pair of **Brown hyenas** (*Parahyaena brunnea*) from South Africa, probably from the wild. One female offspring was born on 14 February 1997 but lived

only for one day. Three and a half months later, on 30 May 1997, the female again gave birth, this time to 1.2 offspring. These were immediately taken away from the parents to be hand-reared by a very experienced senior keeper, but one female died soon afterwards. The male's birth weight was 540g; the surviving female's birth weight was 860g. Their average weight increase was approximately 500g per week. The eyes opened on the fifth day and the first teeth appeared in the fourth week. In the beginning the hyena cubs were fed every three hours with special milk powder ("Canina"). Later, the longest interval between each feeding session was approximately six hours. At the age of two months the young hyenas started to eat chicken meat, liver and sometimes a piece of banana or special "Canina" puppy food.

Prague's first Brown hyenas arrived in 1967 from Nuremberg. This pair was wild-caught and produced more than ten offspring at the Zoo. Nearly all of them were eaten by the parents, usually on the day of birth, and only one reached the age of two months. The first young which reached maturity, was reared by a dog in 1972. In 1975, two offspring were successfully hand-reared. The female died in 1990 and the male "Tufi" in 1995 (euthanised). He was most probably the world's oldest Brown hyena.

Prague Zoo was again very successful in breeding **Black storks** (*Ciconia nigra*). Five chicks hatched in 1997: three were parent-reared and two were reared by a pair of White storks (*Ciconia c. ciconia*). Prague's Black stork breeding pair is kept in a big aviary together with Black vultures (*Coragyps atratus*), Egyptian vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*), Turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) and Tawny eagles (*Aquila rapax*).

Prague Zoo was also able to continue its successful breeding of **Southern ground hornbills** (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) in 1997. Two chicks hatched and were successfully reared by their parents which sometimes received a helping hand from the keepers. Prague's first chick hatched in 1994 after

Young Brown hyenas being hand-reared at Prague Zoo



Photo: Zoo Praha

40-42 days of artificial incubation and was successfully hand-reared.

Since then, four Southern ground hornbills have been bred at Prague. In the EAZA region only three institutions are breeding this species. These are, beside Prague, the Birdpark Avifauna at Alphen (The Netherlands) and Linton Zoo (Great Britain).

Source: Tomas Kapic

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