

LISBON ZOO
PORTUGAL

BLACK RHINO BORN

(36)

BELLE VUE ZOO
MANCHESTER
ENGLAND

NEW TROPICAL HOUSE

In the Zoological Garden of Lisbon a female Black Rhinoceros saw the light of day on the 9th January, 1969, after a gestation period of 14 months and 21 days.

She is descended from the 'Coroca' couple, also parents of 'Pinoca' born on the 22nd September 1965. The new baby, very robust and agile, has been named 'Janota'.

(A. de Mello Gouveia)

BELLE ISLE AQUARIUM
ROXAL OAK, MICH U.S.A.

2 STINGRAYS BORN

Perhaps the most exciting and important event to occur for us so far this winter occurred at the Belle Isle Aquarium, which is a part of the Detroit Zoological Park operation.

It is believed that the birth of two young rays to the pair of fresh-water stingrays (*Potamotrygon motoro*) is the first such captive reproduction recorded for the species. The adult pair were received August 8, 1962 from their native waters in the Amazon basin of South America. The gestation of the "viviparous" rays is believed to be at least 21 months. During the gestation period a near-placental relationship develops between the embryo and the uterus of the mother. Prior to parturition in this case the cloacal margins of the female became noticeably swollen. Intra-uterine movements of the young were first observed 61 days prior to birth. The young were approximately 4 inches in diameter, the adults about 14 inches. The babies are startlingly large in comparison. There is some evidence of parental protection; the adults cover the young when the tank is disturbed.

The fresh-water stingray is perhaps more greatly feared in its native waters than even the piranha. The long serrated spine in the tail is attached to a venom gland. The resultant wound from stepping upon or carelessly handling these fish may become painfully infected and is often slow to heal.

(James K. Langhammer)

UENO ZOO'S UNPATTERNED GIRAFFE

"Ryoko", the unpatterned Giraffe born at the Ueno Zoological Park in Tokyo, Japan, is now 15 months old, and traces of a pattern have begun to appear on her neck and flanks.

(A & Z)



A new £60,000 Tropical House in which hippopotamuses, tapirs and other exotic animals may be seen in a completely natural river setting, will be opened at Belle Vue Zoo Park, Manchester, this summer.

Visitors will be able to walk through the equatorial environment on a raised causeway which will give an unrestricted view of the animals. The causeway sweeps through a rocky gorge from which a lofty waterfall tumbles.

Brilliantly coloured birds will fly freely in the surrounding jungle foliage while other birds will be housed in spacious avaries integrated with the tropical scene.

The stone wall cladding enhances the natural jungle effect and the unique roof structure — a parallel series of hyperbolic pre-stressed concrete shells — gives the new Tropical House an open-air appearance.

Photograph: Architect George Hayes points out a detail on a model of the new Belle Vue Tropical House to Zoo Superintendent Raymond Legge (left). Watching: Deputy Chairman Morris Marshall (right) and Works Manager Fred Jenkinson (extreme right).
Photograph: courtesy Manchester Zoo.