



saiga wanders through a resting herd of axis deer at the Wild Animal Park.



saigas frequently bear twins, but this year the Park had only single births.

The Invincible Saiga

One time, their migrations across the steppes of Europe and Asia rivaled the wildebeest migrations in Africa. Their numbers remained great until the mid-19th century, when they began to be hunted relentlessly — whole herds being killed at a time. By the end of World War I, only about a thousand of the unusual saiga antelopes remained. At that point, governments began to protect them, and they became objects of scientific study. Fortunately, a large annual birthrate can offset large-scale losses, and their waning numbers began to recover.

Historically, factors other than man frequently decimated the saiga population. During storms they move in the direction the wind blows, and because they all move in the same direction, herds grow rapidly in immense proportions. When conditions become severe, they also die in enormous numbers. During the rigorous winter of 1953 and 1954, 80,000 of Europe's 180,000 saigas starved and froze to death, but were still able to repopulate vast areas of their former range.

Males fare less well than females. Be-

cause the males fight and fast during breeding season, they face the harsh winters in poorer condition than the females. Sometimes a mere three to four percent of the male population survives a bad winter, but in the spring, the steppes support groups of 150,000 to 200,000 saigas — 95 percent of them, mothers and young.

From that earlier depleted population, the saiga has recovered until it is now the most populous ungulate in the Soviet Union, with numbers in the neighborhood of four million. Because their habitat is strained to support such a large population, controlled hunting is now allowed, and the saiga is used as a source of meat and leather. It is estimated that up to 40 percent of the population can be harvested annually, and the same numbers will be sustained the following year.

Despite their tenacious survivability in the wild, they are often difficult to keep in captivity. Russian saigas *Saiga tatarica tatarica* have been in residence at the Wild Animal Park since November, 1970, and in that time, 13 young have been born, with three offspring produced in 1980. **M.S.**

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COVERS

Front: Rhinoceros viper *Bitis nasicornis*
Inside front: Russian saiga *Saiga tatarica tatarica*
Inside back: *Chorisia speciosa*
Back: Wahuhi, Pacific great horned owl chick
Bubo virginianus pacificus

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Armored but Vulnerable

"Apart from the shape of the head, it was a miniature image of its parents even to a complete suit of armor." The baby described was a great Indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* born in the Basel Zoo, Switzerland.

The year was 1956, and this was the first captive-bred-and-born Indian rhino to survive. Even then the spectacular Indian rhino, with its knobbed and folded hide resembling plates of armor, was one of the rarest animals on earth, and the Basel Zoo was hoping to help safeguard its future through captive breeding.

Once their own colony was established, they began sending the offspring to other zoos. The third calf, a male, was called Lasai ("the fat one") and was sent to the San Diego Zoo with the hope of establishing a breeding group in the New World.

Lasai arrived in San Diego in 1963, and in 1965 was joined by Jaypuri ("untidy

girl"), a yearling female from the Kaziranga game reserve in Assam. The two grew up at the Zoo, and in 1972 were transferred to the 50-acre Asian Plains exhibit at the Wild Animal Park.

After a few years of disappointment, the breeding program was crowned with success in the birth of a healthy female, Gainda, born in March, 1978.

This year, in the early hours of August 8, Jaypuri gave birth to a male calf, Pandu. Thomas Kauffels was the lucky keeper to discover the infant, and the event was a fitting highlight to his final week in San Diego. Tom has completed a year-long keeper training program at the Zoo and the Wild Animal Park. Before coming to San Diego, he worked as a keeper at the zoo in Krefeld, Germany, and he has now returned to his native Germany to become a keeper at the Hannover Zoo and to complete his veterinary studies. **E.H.**

Zoo Run for MS

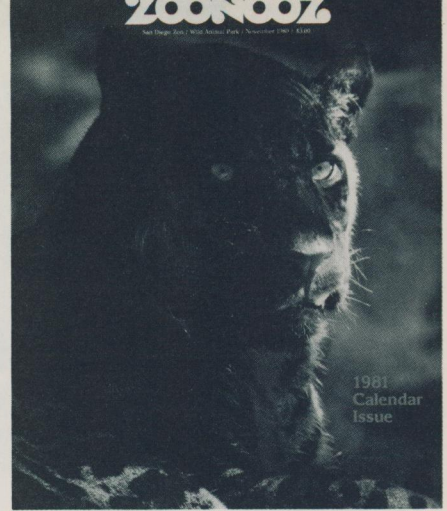
Lace up your racing shoes and get ready for a day of family fitness and fun starting at 8 a.m. Sunday, November 2, at the first-ever San Diego Zoo Run for MS. Proceeds from the 10,000-meter race and the 5,000-meter fun run will go to the San Diego Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Both runs start in front of the municipal gymnasium in Balboa Park.

Racers, runners, and joggers of all speeds are invited to do their best in the 10,000-meter (6.2-mile) feature race which will wind through beautiful Balboa Park and end at the Zoo. The first three finishing men and the first three finishing women in each of five age categories will receive trophies and certificates. All who complete the feature race will receive an accurate time, an official Zoo Run T-shirt,

and a free pass to the Zoo, redeemable on race day or anytime during the following three weeks.

For the less energetic, a 5,000-meter (3.1-mile) fun run will begin at 8:10 a.m. the same day and will finish near the fountain in front of the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater. Finishers in the short run will earn a Zoo Run T-shirt as well as roundtrip passes for the Zoo's Skyfari aerial tramway.

Although entries will be accepted up until race time November 2, there will be a \$1 late fee after October 17. The fee for the 10,000-meter race is \$7 (\$8 after October 17), and for the 5,000-meter fun run is \$5 (\$6 after October 17). Zoo Run for MS entry blanks are available at the Zoo and at the Wild Animal Park as well as at local athletic shoe and sporting goods stores.



Attention Cat Lovers!

Next month's ZONOOZ will contain a 1981 calendar, which features cats of the world. ZONOOZ calendars are always popular items, and, of course, all members receive one as a regular issue of the magazine. Those who wish to purchase additional calendars for friends and relatives may order them by sending payment of \$3.50 to Zoo Calendar, P.O. Box 551, San Diego, CA 92112. The price includes postage and handling. The calendar will be available for \$3 at the gift shops at the Zoo and at the Wild Animal Park.

Holiday Gift Tours

Stuff your stockings with a wild experience this year — for under \$10! Starting now, you can use your 15 percent member's discount to purchase behind-the-scenes tours of the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park as holiday gifts.

Order tours for your family and friends at the members-only price of \$7.25 for adults and \$5.50 for children. The non-member rate is \$8.50 for adults and \$6.50 for children. We will send a holiday card in your name and enclose gift tour coupons. Each coupon can be exchanged for one behind-the-scenes tour.

Recipients of gift tours can choose their favorite behind-the-scenes tour from *The Inside Story* and *Reptiles on Review* at the Zoo, and *A Walk on the Wild Side* at the Wild Animal Park. Reservations for the scheduled tours can be made when convenient, and the coupons are valid through December 31, 1981.

Don't miss this wild gift idea! For more information and a gift tour order form, call the Zoological Society's Special Tours office, 231-1515, Ext. 318, or write to: Special Tours, P.O. Box 551, San Diego, CA 92112.