



Yerevan ZOO Plans for 2013



- The construction of the new enclosures for tigers and bears will be completed in 2013
- In the spring of 2013 the Spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) will move to her new home. The new enclosure has an area of 650 square meters and it is in accordance with the EAZA standards.



Other projects to be completed in 2013 are:

- Children's Zoo
- Kitchen
- Medical center
- Reconstruction of the winter housing for the elephant
- Construction of a center for Animal-Assisted Therapy

This year Yerevan Zoo intends to obtain the following species:

- Ostrich
- Bengal tiger
- Zebras
- Lizards
- Ant bears

Yerevan Zoo Marked the New Year with Many Activities



This is already the second year that Yerevan Zoo has invited everyone to join the "Living Christmas Tree" campaign, initiated by the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC). The campaign offers everybody the possibility to rent or purchase potted Christmas trees, in order to contribute to the protection of Armenia's forests.

Moreover, from December 15, 2012 until January 13, 2013 Yerevan Zoo had a booth at the Christmas Market, taking place for the first time on Northern Avenue in Yerevan. This was possible due to the support of Yerevan Municipality. In the booth the Zoo magazine, the 2013 Zoo Calendar, as well as handmade Christmas decorations, prepared by the members of Yerevan Zoo Eco Club, were available. On offer were also Christmas tree toys, Zoo souvenirs and, of course, notebooks, albums and New Year post-cards made of recycled paper.

The Christmas market was also an excellent opportunity to introduce the "Living Christmas Tree" campaign to broader public. Many passers-by were motivated to visit the Zoo and to contribute to the cause by renting or purchasing potted trees as wonderful Christmas gifts. In general the number



of people who are ready to purchase or rent a potted tree instead of a logged one rises each year. This is a hopeful sign that environmental awareness is growing among Armenia's citizens. It is also important to mention that all profit from the campaign has been donated to Yerevan Zoo for the animal's care. The trees, which have been rented and given back, will be planted in the Zoo in spring. Everybody who rented a tree will be invited to the tree planting event.

Animal Enrichment and Feeding Presentations in Yerevan Zoo



It is already one year that Yerevan Zoo organizes regular animal feeding presentations to trigger the animals' urge to move and their natural behavior. The presentations include 20 animal species (predators, hoofed animals, birds and reptiles) and are always combined with information given by the zoo keeper about the specific behavior and needs of the animals.

Additionally, the animals are encouraged to be more active by the help of different games. To raise the Zoo staff's skills in this specific field, three employees of Yerevan Zoo participated in a training course in Tbilisi from November 19th to 22nd. The training was devoted to the behavioral problems of animals in captivity. To keep animals psychologically healthy, it is important to pay attention to their natural behavior and provide necessary activities. To reach these goals modern Zoos implement special so-called enrichment programs. Different enrichment methods were presented during the training organized by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) in Tbilisi. The Zoo staff members had the opportunity to learn about new methods of animal keeping. The training was conducted by Dr. Emilia Lastica – a famous veterinarian from the Philippines and Valerie J. Hare – co-founder of "The shape of Enrichment" non-profit corporation. The training was specially organized for Zoos with limited financial means and therefore more easily available and affordable enrichment methods were introduced. The participants gained a lot



of useful information, for example not to spread food directly on the ground, as this can be a possible source of infection for the animals.

But animals in captivity are not only in need of enrichment activities to trigger their natural behaviour but they often need also individual psychological care. Many animals in the Zoo suffer from loneliness, stereotyping habits and the bareness of their cages. Since last year the Yerevan Zoo has a psychologist who

tries to develop a unique approach for each animal. Sona Hakobyan – Yerevan Zoo psychologist – observes the individual animals thoroughly, evaluates their problems and then develops special tailor made activities in order to raise their living quality. In the beginning the psychologist mainly gained her information during the feeding times when she joined the Zoo keepers. But now Sona Hakobyan says that fortunately the Zoo keepers have become very careful and always inform her about individual animals displaying abnormal or strange behavior.

Number of Yerevan Zoo Visitors in Winter



As usual the number of Yerevan Zoo visitors has decreased in comparison with other seasons of the year. However, if we compare the numbers of 3 previous winters, we can see the obvious upward tendency of the number of visits: in 2010 only 1714 people visited the Zoo in the winter months, in 2011 this number was 2104 and in 2012 - 3886. During the winter season the Zoo is open from 10 AM to 5 PM.



Animal feeding presentations are held according to the new winter timetable until March 31st. We would also like to remind everyone that the feeding presentations of the following animals are held every Saturday and Sunday: Siberian Tigers – 12 pm, Fallow Deer – 12.30 pm, Llamas – 1 pm, African Lions – 1.30 pm, Reptiles – 2 pm, Eurasian Griffons and Eurasian Black Vultures – 3 pm.

A special animal enrichment program is being implemented in Yerevan Zoo to provide our animals with different activities. For this reason several Boomer balls and other items have been acquired from abroad. These toys make the animals' lives more active and improve their living conditions, especially for those species currently living in the cramped winter houses.

The Zoo Eco-club resumed its classes on January 26th. The Eco-club members not only participate in environmental, zoological classes, but also help to take care of the animals, participate in their activities and feed them. This enables the kids to build positive relationships with animals, learn new things and inspire their general love of animals. Moreover, the Eco-club is a place for young people to get a close insight into the broad range of professional skills and jobs which are necessary to run a Zoo.