

# December Newsletter

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Yerevan Zoo wishes you  
Mary Christmas and Happy New Year



Dear friends,

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let the 2013 be a year of new achievements for you. Every year we evaluate our achievements and then set new goals for the following year. All our achievements of the past year were only possible thanks to the generosity of our partners and friends.

Thank you for your support.

## Yerevan Zoo and Jerusalem Biblical Zoo's cooperation

This year Yerevan Zoo had many achievements. Becoming a candidate-member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) was one of the most important of them. In April 2012 during the conference in Munich the application of Yerevan Zoo was admitted by EAZA through a strict selection. EAZA now has 345 members from 41 countries. It was founded in 1992 and the aim of the organization is to establish and support the cooperation between European zoos and aquaria in research, education, nature protection and other fields. EAZA helps its members to improve animals' welfare and standards of zoo management. The status of candidate-member will enable the Yerevan Zoo to become modern and correspond to the internationally recognized standards. The Yerevan Zoo will become a part of the huge international network.

Another important event was the official invitation of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel and Jerusalem Biblical Zoo. The invitation became a basis for cooperation. From November 19th to 24th Yerevan Zoo director Ruben Khachatryan visited the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo. During the visit many issues were discussed and several agreements were reached.

According to them, the Yerevan Zoo being an EAZA candidate-member will construct new enclosures and the Jerusalem Zoo will donate some animal species that the Yerevan zoo has never had before: chimpanzees, anteaters, giraffes, etc.

It is also envisaged to organize joint visits, experiences exchanges, etc. The Yerevan Zoo veterinary will visit the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo to participate in a training course. In 2013 the director, chief veterinary and other staff of the Jerusalem Zoo are expected to visit the Yerevan Zoo to hold trainings, share their experience, etc. In the future the cooperation will be broadened in the educational field and the Yerevan Zoo will practice anima therapy (treatment with the aid of animals) which is a new medical treatment method in Armenia.



Yerevan Zoo wishes you Mary Christmas and Happy New Year and invites you to visit the New Year fair which will take place in the Northern avenue from December 15th to January 15th. The fair is organized for the first time by "Pascal & Diodato" café and Yerevan Municipality. By the support of the latter Yerevan Zoo is participating in the fair and the Christmas decorations, Christmas tree ornaments and different souvenirs made by the Yerevan Zoo Eco-club members are presented in the Zoo booth. The "Zoo" magazines, pins with the pictures of the zoo animals, painting albums and New Year postcards made from recycled paper can also be found there. The 2013 Yerevan Zoo calendar will be available as well where the paintings of ten famous Armenian artists.

Up to December 30th within the framework of the "Living Tree" project the visitors will have the opportunity to see the samples of live Christmas trees and then to rent or buy one from the Yerevan Zoo. The whole profit gained from this project will be used for the Yerevan Zoo animals care and the trees will be planted in the Zoo territory in the spring. So visit our booth till January 15th in the Northern Avenue.



## Appropriate facilities are provided for the Zoo animals' mating season



Mating season has started for many animals of Yerevan Zoo. This year Egyptian Vulture, Eurasian Black Vulture and Lammergeier will propagate. Eurasian Black Vultures (*Neophron percnopterus* Linnaeus) and Egyptian Vultures (*Cinereous Vulture*) are Threatened Species according to the IUCN Red list and Lammergeiers are considered to be Vulnerable Species. Before reproduction season blood tests were taken to find out the genders of these birds. Then appropriate places were created for birds' breeding and they were taken to larger enclosures. By the way, Eurasian Black Vultures already have a formulated pair.

In other sections of Yerevan Zoo where animals live in pairs, they breed in more predictable terms. Now the mating season for Fallow deer, Armenian Mouflons, Bezoar Ibexes has started and the results can be observed in the spring.

There are 24 Eurasian Griffons in the Zoo. They live in groups and despite the insufficient place they regularly propagate and lay eggs every year. The Eurasian Griffons are "peaceful" birds and they live in big families not only in the Zoo but also in wildlife.

## Armenian Artists' Donation to Yerevan Zoo

On December 14th a great event organized by the Yerevan Zoo and the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) took place. The peak of the evening was the auction of valuable paintings the profit of which would be used to improve the veterinary care of the zoo. The auction was very lively and 14 beautiful paintings of ten famous Armenian artists were presented. Ara Aslayan, Saro Galents, Rebert Elibekyan, Gagik Ghazanchyan, Marie Adamyman, Nur (Arman Davtyan), Sargis Anonyan, Arshak Sarkissian, Gabo (Gabriel Manoukian) had created their paintings of animals and donated it to the Yerevan Zoo for this special cause without receiving any honorarium. They created their unique masterpieces with their own characteristic styles. It was obvious that the auction bidders were extremely impressed by the paintings. Their active involvement in the auction showed that they realized the importance of their contributions. Both fund-raising dinner participants and the painters were unified over one aim – to support jointly the zoo and animals. Mikayel Dovlatyan, film director and the member of the Advisory Board of Yerevan Zoo was one of the authors of this initiative. "It was a hard decision to make as the zoo was considered by many as a place for entertainment and watching animals only. But the zoo should be an educational centre not only for kids but also for adults where they can learn about the importance of the wildlife and the immunity of nature from humans." Now we can say for sure that the wish of artists, organizers and evening participants came true as all the pictures were sold and the total sum composed around 30 million drams. Yerevan Zoo director Ruben Khachatryan expressed his deepest thanks to everybody who supported and contributed to the realization of the Yerevan Zoo plans.

