



Yerevan Zoo news



Alongside with the official Season opening on May 1st, the Yerevan Zoo has come up with a number of beautiful surprises among them a new rest and leisure zone, the new zoo map and the opening of a brand-new Zoo Bus Station.

1. The new zone for rest and leisure is located near the hippos and takes up an area of around 120sqm. It fits with the natural landscape of the zoo, as well as enhances the visitors' opportunities to observe the Armenian mouflons.



2. From now onwards the visitors can easily find everything they want to see on the new zoo map showing the locations of all places as for example the educational center, the entertainment areas, the animal enclosures, the café and many more. All zoo visitors, irrespective of their age, can easily orientate themselves as the map works with visual signs and colors.

3. The new special Zoo Bus has started to operate regularly on May 1st. The visitors can easily jump on the new Zoo Bus and avoid searching for a free parking space near Yerevan Zoo! The Zoo Bus operates from the special Zoo Bus Station in the city center at Isahakyan Street just nearby Yertasadarkan Metro station. The construction of the Bus station has been kindly supported by HSBC Bank Armenia. The Bus ticket includes the zoo entrance fee - so by using the bus you not only avoid curving around for parking but can also pass by the long queues at the Zoo ticket both.

4. Yerevan Zoo has started to apply QR codes for all animals as a part of the process to register all of them by using the latest informational technologies. Each animal will have an implanted chip card recording all data of the specific animal (medical data, origin, age etc.). The system will be part of the zoological parks global informational network. The registering of animals is the only legal way and one of the main preconditions to become a full member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

5. The launch of the new Zoo website offering quick and easy access to all important information. The new website has also a brand new kids' corner where the Zoo magazine, the animal feeding times, the bus schedule and various intellectual games can be found providing children with useful information and nice surprises.

Good news



Until the beginning of May 2013 already five Armenian mouflon babies (*Ovis orientalis gmelinii*) were born in the Yerevan Zoo. The Armenian mouflon is listed in the Red book. According to the IUCN Red list, this specie's conservation status is "Threatened". The quantity of Armenian mouflons in the wild

does not exceed 250-300. The habitat of Armenian mouflons is the mountain range of Urts, Vayoc Dzor, Bargushat and Zangezour.

Although the mouflons living in the Zoo are not a pure species, their reproduction is quite important for species conservation. The mouflon offspring indicates that the reproduction project launched last year with the aim to breed Armenian mouflons in captivity continues successfully. Currently there are 25 mouflons in the Zoo compared with 12 in 2011. It should be mentioned that even the invasion of "wild dogs" which killed some time ago 2 mouflon babies and 1 old aged mouflon has not created an obstacle for the successful implementation of the project

The park visitors can observe the mouflons and their offspring from the new green zone, which is a nice place for leisure and rest.

Animal Photo Exhibition



The twenty-four-year-old photographer of the Yerevan Zoo, Alex Tarverdi is a geographer who has lived most of his life in London. During this time Alex joined the London Zoo as a volunteer. He remembers himself travelling when he was a student and taking photos all around the world. However at these times he could never imagine that photography will become the most important part of his life. Alex has left England for Armenia, his motherland, since 2012 and joined the Yerevan Zoo as a volunteer. Since November 2012, he works for the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC) as a photographer and web administrator.

On May 12th Alex was excited to invite his friends and guests to his first photo exhibition organized by FPWC in the Green Bean Coffee Shop, Yerevan, Armenia.

"I remember myself watching animals' behavior for hours when I was a kid. Currently my work in the Zoo helps me to understand them better, thus I try to show their feelings and inner world through my photos,"-says the young photographer.



Although Alex tried to present almost all animal species in his photos, however, he says it's quite difficult for him to emphasize his favorite photo as all animals have their own unique behavior, character and feelings. Each of the framed animal photos can be obtained by the visitors against a donation of minimum 15.000 AMD for the zoo animals. As a special gift the donors will receive a handmade crocheted animal provided by the Homeland Development Initiative Foundation.

A lot of guests visited the exhibition on May 12th among them the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Norway, Mr. Timothy D. Straight, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to America to the Republic of Armenia Mr. John Heffern with his wife, singer, composer Arthur Ispiryan with his wife, a number of artists, representatives of non-governmental organizations and many others.

June 1st: The official opening of a new hyena enclosure



June 1st is celebrated worldwide as International Children Day. And again the Yerevan Zoo has come up with a lot of interesting events, games and competitions. The same day the official opening of a new hyena enclosure will take place. The construction was kindly

supported by the former director of HSBC Bank Armenia, Ms. Astrid Clifford. The new enclosure is constructed in accordance with European standards and takes up an area of around 650sqm. The new enclosure provides living conditions best adapted to the animals natural habitat. It has even a den with a heating system that will protect the hyena from severe and cold days in winter.

