



## Visitors from EAZA and ARTIS Royal Zoo Amsterdam in Yerevan Zoo



On April 9 Janos Szantho, Curator of Artis Zoo in Amsterdam and Yerevan Zoo's EAZA Mentor, visited Yerevan Zoo in order to monitor the progress in the transformation process the institution has to undergo. As a candidacy member of the European Association for Zoo and Aquaria (EAZA) Yerevan Zoo has a time span of five years to adjust to the association's guidelines in animal welfare, veterinary care, breeding and education.



Janos Szantho was accompanied by two colleagues - Anatal Perlin and Frank Verstappen. Anatal Perlin is a member of Artis Zoo management team and is responsible for education, marketing and press. She counselled the Yerevan Zoo press and communication team in efficient strategies to address the public and media. Frank Verstappen works as a veterinarian for Artis Zoo. He is specialized in the treatment of birds and reptiles. During the visit he not only inspected the general veterinary conditions in Yerevan Zoo but additionally conducted a workshop for the staff of the zoo's veterinary department. This workshop was also attended by the veterinary personnel of Tbilisi Zoo which – like Yerevan Zoo – has acquired the EAZA Candidacy membership in 2012.

The visitors also brought medicaments and instruments for the new veterinary facility which is going to be built in Yerevan Zoo until the end of this year. These items are a donation of Artis Royal Zoo to Yerevan Zoo in the frame of the partnership between both institutions. Since 2011 Artis Royal Zoo has donated services, equipment, and medicaments worth approximately 75.000 Euro.

Yerevan Zoo Director Ruben Khachatryan comments on the visit: "The continual contact and exchange of experiences with our EAZA mentor Janos Szantho and his colleagues from Artis including the Artis director Haig Balian is extremely valuable for the progress of Yerevan Zoo on all levels. The Artis team is always available and responsive when we need advice and support. This support ranges from prompt counselling and even practical intervention in veterinary cases, to advice in all questions concerning EAZA guidelines, zoo management, zoo planning and the design of new enclosure. We appreciate this generous support highly and we are grateful to Artis not only in the name of Yerevan Zoo but also in the name of the municipality and all citizens of Armenia."

## Yerevan Zoo Director Ruben Khachatryan visits Tbilisi Zoo



Recently, Yerevan Zoo Director Ruben Khachatryan had met Tbilisi Zoo Director Zurab Gurielidze. As a result of the meeting, the zoos in Yerevan and Tbilisi agreed on a long-term cooperation, which will already start with some practical steps this April. The first step is a visit of several staff members of Tbilisi Zoo in Yerevan to participate in a workshop conducted by veterinarians of Artis Royal Zoo in Amsterdam.

Moreover, very soon a partnership between the two Zoo's educational centers will start. It is also planned to exchange animals according the guidelines of the European Association for Zoo and Aquaria (EAZA). After the meeting parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding. It's worth mentioning that both Zoos have acquired the candidacy membership of EAZA in 2012.



May 1st:

## Sun and Fun for all Zoo Visitors



As it is a good tradition since many years Yerevan Zoo celebrates the start of the zoo season on May 1st. This time the organizers of the grand opening prepared a whole bunch of surprises, new attractions and special events for the visitors of all ages. The weather was excellent, and in the bright sun the zoo presented itself as a green and clean park, with flower beds and many shady resting areas ideal to enjoy a relaxed time with the entire family. Already at 10.00 in the morning many excited children accompanied by their parents and grandparents were queuing at the entrance to embark for an adventurous day in the zoo. Thanks to Yerevan Municipality children under 16 were granted free admission on May 1st. Exciting animal feeding presentations, quizzes about animals, concerts, theatrical performances and informative stands set up by various organizations and companies were waiting for the visitors among them also Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan with his family. By the end of a sunny day approx. 35.000 citizens had visited Yerevan Zoo.



During this May 1st Yerevan Zoo also offered for the first time the opportunity to start a visit not directly at the entrance gate but already in the city center at the brand new Zoo Bus Stop located just nearby Yeritasardakan Metro Station on Isahakyan Street. The construction of this special bus stop was possible thanks to the kind support of HSBC Bank Armenia. The bus stop includes a ticket booth where passengers can directly buy their zoo tickets as well as some zoo souvenirs and the zoo magazine. The new bus stop raises the attention of all passers by with an original, environmental friendly design offering even two bird-houses on the roof. But the Zoo Bus itself is yet more spectacular - painted all over with funny animals. From now on the bus shuttles every 30 minutes from the city center to the zoo and back offering a convenient, save and environmental friendly transportation for all zoo visitors.

## Painting contest dedicated to the International Day of Birds is now open!



April 1st Yerevan Zoo has announced a contest dedicated to the International Day of birds. The educational and creative contest is a part of FPWC's annual Earth Day Campaign.

Kids age 5-16 can visit Yerevan Zoo, chose their favorite bird and paint it on a paper. The finished paintings should be handed in at the security desk at the zoo entrance. Don't forget to write your contact details on the back of the paper! The contest with the motto "Your Favorite Bird" starts on April 1st and finishes on June 30th. Kids will not only be able to win prizes but also to enrich their knowledge about birds.

Come with your painting utensils to Yerevan Zoo, paint your favorite bird and win a bicycle! If you have any further questions, call us at (+37410) 555209 or write an e-mail to: [birds@yerevanzoo.am](mailto:birds@yerevanzoo.am).