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# “Our Zoo News”

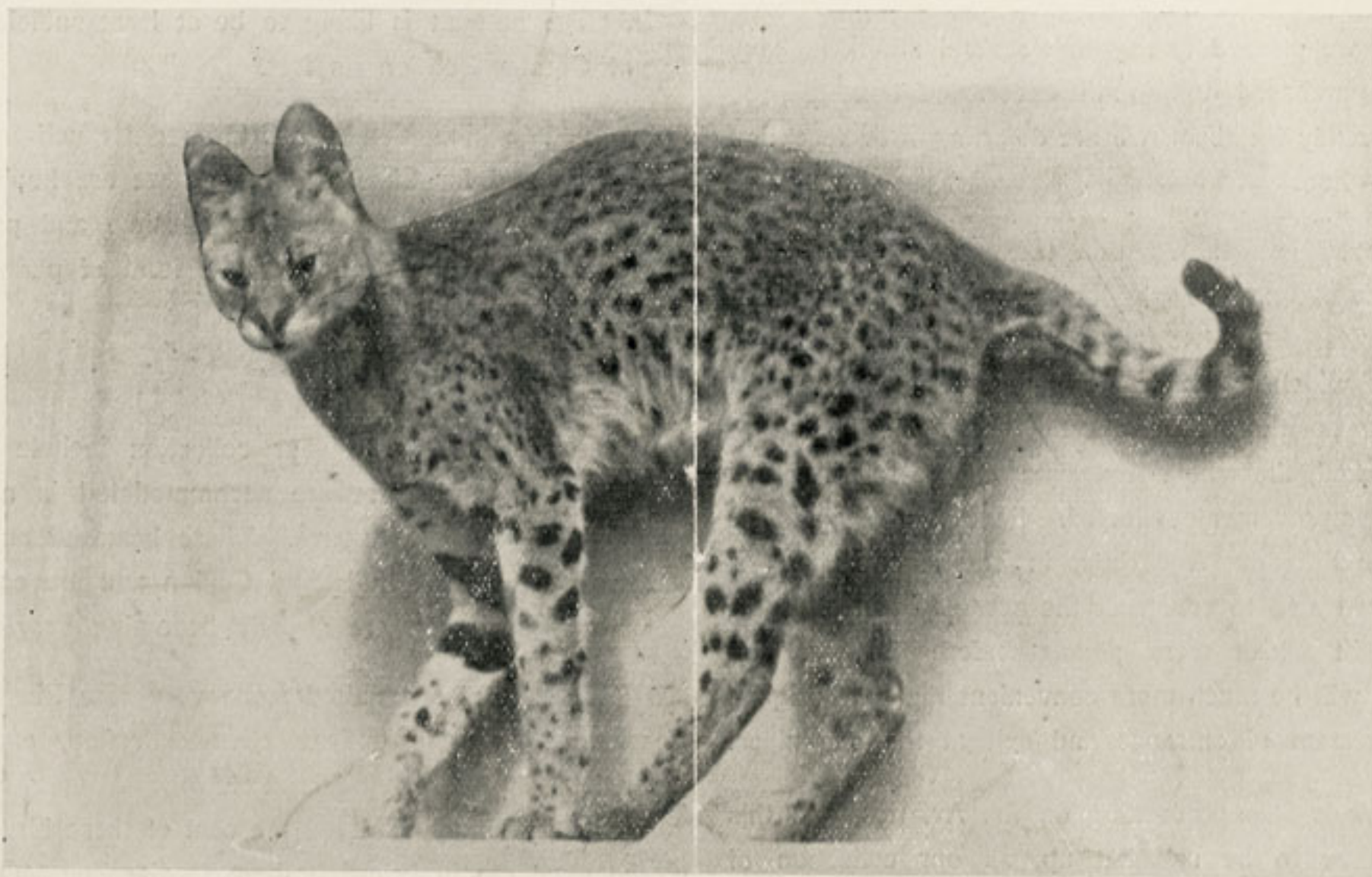
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Servaline Cat. (*Felis Servalina*).

(See Article on back).

Photograph by Graham Renshaw, M.D., F.R.S.E.

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# The North of England Zoological Society Limited,

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER.

Tel. Chester 1898.

January, 1946.

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The delay in publication of this issue, and also the reduction in size, is regrettably due to pressure of work and shortage of staff. We hope to compensate our readers in future issues.

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## "Our Zoo News".

Although our staff is very limited, work is progressing satisfactorily on the building-up again of the Zoo. During the war, many things which sorely needed attention had of necessity to be neglected.

We are pleased to say that several additions have been purchased but, until accommodation can be made ready for them, we are deferring their reception at the Zoo.

A start has been made towards re-opening the Aquarium, and the gas boiler which used to heat the water-pipes has been replaced by an electric boiler, which is much more suitable having regard to the position it occupies. Before the tanks are re-stocked, the whole Aquarium will be re-wired and many improvements effected. Reptiles will again be exhibited in the Aquarium, in addition to fish. It is hoped also to construct the new separate entrance and exit which were planned before the war and which will be much more convenient than the original arrangement of entrance and exit at the one place.

Work is also proceeding on the Aviaries, and this will have to be speeded up, as our collection of birds is rapidly increasing and should be quite an attraction by the spring.

Delay in delivery of material is now holding up the actual work on the open-air Lion enclosure, but we are able to do bits here and there which will all help towards the eventual achievement of this long-desired enclosure.

Readers will no doubt have learned from the daily Press of the bequest by the late Miss Tomkyns-Grafton of the residue of her Estate to The North of England Zoological Society, and we understand that the amount is likely to be at least sufficient to put Chester Zoo on its feet.

The late Miss Tomkyns-Grafton did much for the animals and for Chester Zoo, and we are hoping to commemorate her memory for all time and put on record our appreciation by some form of permanent memorial.

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Several additions to our collection include some Axis Deer, and these are accommodated in a new enclosure on East Avenue. These beautiful animals, which come from India and Ceylon and are covered with white spots, are already becoming very tame.

We have also acquired some very nice Pheasants, which will make an attractive collection, and the Society is deeply indebted to the Misses Hewitt who very kindly defrayed the cost of these birds and the expenses in bringing them to the Zoo. One of these beautiful birds is a hen Temminck's Tragopan and we shall be very pleased if we can obtain a cock bird for her. We have now the following Pheasants at the Zoo:

Silver Pheasants, Golden Pheasants, Edwards Pheasants, Reeve's Pheasants, Amherst's Pheasants, and of course the Tragopan mentioned above. Every

effort will be made to accommodate these birds where they will have a chance of breeding so that, if we are successful, we shall have surplus stock to sell or exchange for other varieties.

Several pairs of breeding Parrakeets have also been purchased, and our Aviaries should soon be ready to receive them.

With the collapse of the east side of the kitchen-garden wall, we have started to erect our new Aviaries on the site, and will continue in a northerly direction, dismantling the remaining wall as we proceed with new Aviaries. When complete, this range of Aviaries will not only make a very attractive show but will form a pleasing approach to the new section of the Zoo which was opened-out last year. We propose to build all the shelters of these Aviaries of concrete, and thus obviate the very frequent repairs needed to those built of wood. This will, at the same time, make it more difficult for rats—the curse of all Zoos—to gain entry to the birds, where they can do any amount of damage.

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### “CASSANDRA”.

We regret to report the death, which occurred on Christmas morning, of Cassandra—one of our best breeding Lionesses. Early on the morning of 24th December, Cassandra gave birth to two cubs; one (a male) was dead when we first noticed that an event had taken place, but the other (a female) was alive and well. It appeared that there were more cubs to be born, but when daylight broke on Christmas morning, it was obvious that something was wrong as no further cubs had arrived and Cassandra was becoming very exhausted. By 10.30 a.m., it was realised that something would have to be done to help her, so steps were taken to try to bring about the birth of the remaining cubs. Unfortunately, however, Cassandra's strength gave out during the operation and she died. Investigation revealed that two cubs remained, both far too large to be delivered, being the size of month-old cubs.

The orphan was taken to the house and at once adopted by the Secretary's wife and daughters, and is now making good progress on the bottle.

Cassandra was the eldest daughter of Faith, and had been an outstanding Lioness from birth. She first distinguished herself, as a cub and in company with her two sisters, by killing a sheep.

As a breeder, she was an excellent mother, and had previously given birth to three families. Her first was a litter of three, all of which she reared; her second family (two males and two females) she also reared successfully; and her third family numbered six, two of which died during their first hours, leaving four females all of which she successfully reared. It was unfortunate that her fourth family should have been the cause of her death as, apart from the enormous size of the cubs which she was unable to deliver, she was in perfect condition and would have mothered her cubs well.

In addition to the loss in Cassandra of a valuable and popular exhibit, we have lost a good money-maker; her three previous litters realised £470, which was a substantial help towards the finances of the Society.

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On 15th January, Cordelia (litter sister to Cassandra) gave birth to three cubs. Unfortunately, these arrived about a fortnight before we expected them, although they appeared to be quite normal and not in the least premature. The day was one of the coldest so far experienced this winter, and Cordelia did not at first seem to be much interested in her family. We succeeded in getting two of the cubs away from her, which seemed to bring her to a realisation of her responsibilities. She then commenced to mother her remaining cub, only to have the misfortune to lose it the following day. The other two cubs were at once put on the bottle, but it soon became evident that neither of them would thrive and, in fact, they only lived a few days. We hope that, next time, Cordelia will choose summertime to have her cubs, when they will stand a better chance of survival.

## THE SERVALINE CAT. (*Felis Servalina*).

By Graham Renshaw, M.D., F.R.S.E.

Lecturer in Zoology, Extramural Department,  
University of Manchester.

Closely related to the well-known Serval Cat of many Zoological Gardens, the Servaline Cat is distinguished from it by the much smaller size of the spots, the fur being dotted over with a multitude of tiny black markings. There are bold black marks about the neck and throat; there are whitish bands at the back of the ears, and black stripes inside the fore-legs as in the true Serval. Both species are about the size of a moderately large dog, have elongated ears almost suggesting cones of paper, and short tails.

The Servaline Cat was first known from an imperfect skin received from Sierra Leone; the name *Felis-servalina* was proposed in 1839 by Mr. Ogilby. Little was known about the animal for many years, but on 15th June 1874 one was trapped at Kisémbó in South-West Africa and brought home alive by Mr. Shield, who presented it to the London Zoological Gardens. A second example presented by Lieut. V. Lovett Cameron was received in 1876, and a third was purchased in 1880 for the same famous collection. In 1889 a fourth *Servalina* was living in Amsterdam, and in June 1898 a fifth example was added to the Regents Park collection. This individual, very amiable and fond of being stroked, seemed to the writer to be quite characteristic, as its fur appeared to lack the greyish tinge seen in the true Serval.

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## PROLONGED LIFE OF ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY.

By Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake of Maidstone Zoo  
Park, Kent.

Undoubtedly, wild animals and birds can, and do, live longer in captivity than they do in the wild state, as instanced by the large carnivora. I myself have kept Lions in captivity for nineteen years, by which time they were "old men", stiff in their joints, and with teeth worn down to mere stumps. In the wild state they must have starved; in captivity, minced meat, cod liver oil, and a dry bed, kept them alive

and happy, sleeping most of the remainder of their lives away.

It is just the same with the large herbivores. When old-age comes along, with indifferent teeth, grass is not a very stimulating and easy diet; in captivity, crushed corn, bran and other cereals are added, easily consumed and easily digested.

I have in my Zoo Park at the present time a female spotted hyena which I purchased in 1924 and which is still going strong. Only last month, she murdered a young and vigorous male that had lived with her for some eight years.

In the days of the Amateur Menagerie Club, of which I was the Hon. Secretary, we offered medals annually for meritorious feats in connection with the breeding and keeping alive of wild animals and birds. I can trace no records of the Prize-winners, but I do remember that my mother won a medal for keeping in captivity a Pope Cardinal for over eighteen years.

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## News from other Zoos.

### MAIDSTONE ZOO PARK.

By Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake.

For the first time in over forty years, during which period I have always had one or two Brown Bears in my collection, a cub was born on 4th January 1946; unfortunately, it lived only thirty-six hours, due no doubt to the very severe weather, so I am hoping for better luck in 1947.

Representing the Zoological Society of Glasgow and West of Scotland, the Earl of Dumfries (President), Mr. A. McNab (Vice-President), Professor Hindle, and Mr. S. H. Benton (Director-Secretary), paid a visit to my Zoo on Monday, 21st January, to get a general view and ideas for incorporating in their new Zoo. They have asked me to help them in the general lay-out, which needless to say I was only too pleased to agree to. I am convinced that the more Zoo-minded the public become the better it will be for us all.

Additions to Maidstone's collection include a Capuchin Monkey and a Yellow and Blue Macaw.