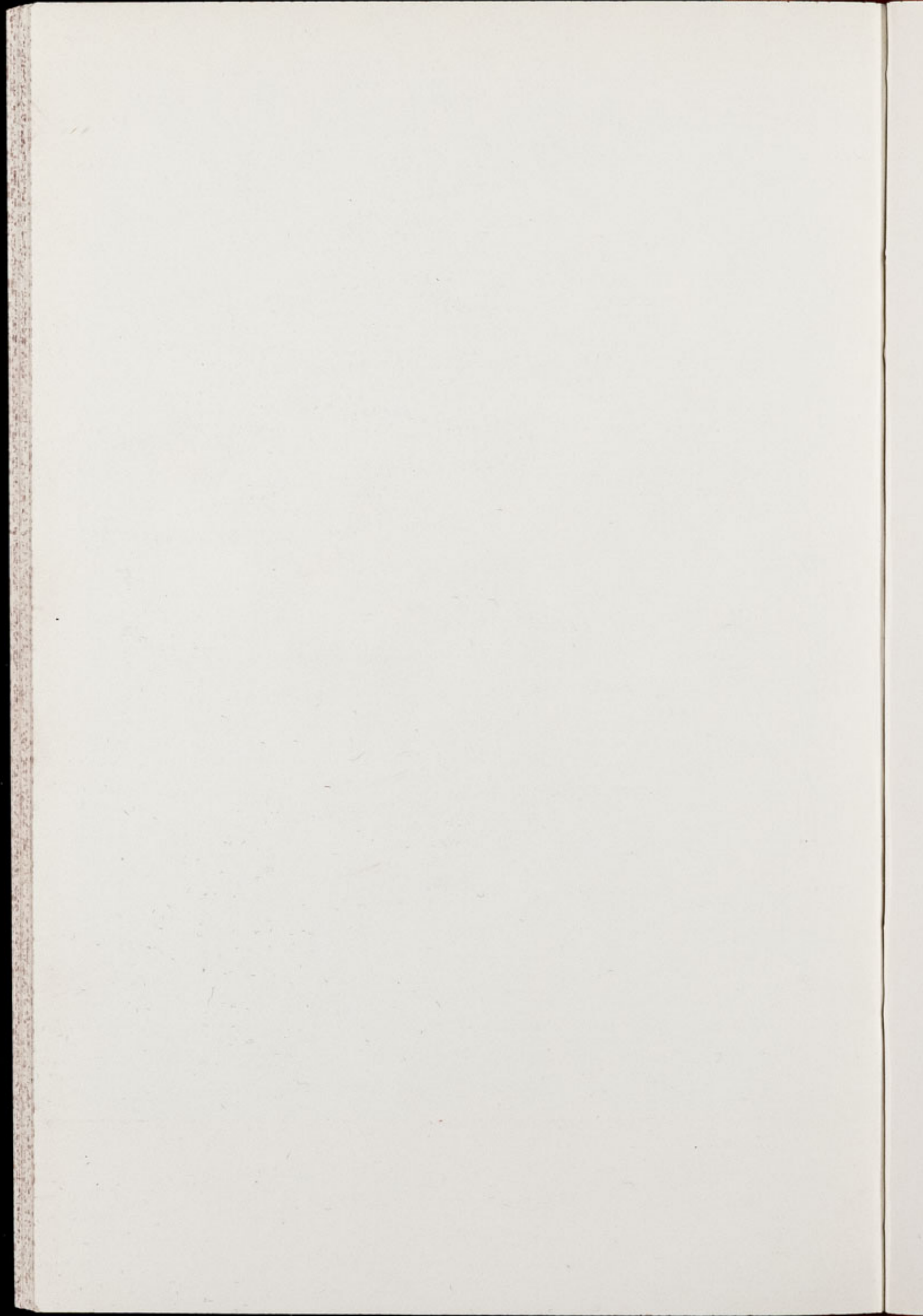


CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

December 1972

Price 6p



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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CONTENTS:

<i>page two</i>	Jaguarundis. Arrivals and Births.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Plan.
<i>page eleven</i>	General News. Reptile Notes.
<i>page twelve</i>	Preuss's Monkey.
<i>page fourteen</i>	Bird Notes.
<i>page sixteen</i>	Subscription forms.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>page three</i>	Jaguarundi
<i>page seven</i>	Plains Viscachas
<i>page thirteen</i>	Bearded Lizards
<i>page fifteen</i>	Preuss's Monkey

COVER: *One of Chester Zoo's Lesser Pandas (Ailurus fulgens)*

By Courtesy of Stephen Morgan

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — NINETY-FIVE PENCE POSTAGE PAID

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JAGUARUNDIS

The animal in the photograph on the right is Fara, the female Jaguarundi (*Felis yagouaroundi*) which, with her mate Charaleta, arrived at the Zoo from Canada recently and is undergoing a period of six months in quarantine at the Cat House. The interesting history of this pair was described in the November issue of the "Zoo News".

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

From Malaysia we have received a true pair of young Binturongs (*Arctictis binturong*). They are now approximately four months old and were sent to us by Mr. T. R. Kniveton of the Forestry Department in Sarawak. Since Binturongs are carnivores, it will be necessary for them to spend six months in quarantine. However on mild days they will be permitted into their outer enclosure in the Cat House where visitors can see them.

Mr. and Mrs. Kniveton have been looking after the Binturongs since they were discovered as babies by a logging gang some forty miles south of Marudi on the Baram River. Though in the wild state the Binturong is reported to be a nocturnal animal, Mr. and Mrs. Kniveton found that these young Binturongs were entirely diurnal, spending most of the day at play together. They thrived on a diet of diced banana, paw-paw, orange and rambutan (the red fruit of an East Indian tree, which has a pleasant sub-acid pulp and is covered with soft spines), a little raw meat, cooked rice and milk. Naturally this diet will be continued at the Zoo — with one or two substitutes!

We were advised by the donors that the male is the larger and apparently more confiding of the pair, though neither animal has ever attempted to bite. Mr. and Mrs. Kniveton gave them the



FEMALE JAGUARUNDI (*Felis yagouaroundi*)

K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

freedom of a large room amply furnished with climbing equipment which the Binturongs used to full advantage.

The area in which the young Binturongs were located was swamp forest, the typical habitat of this species. The Binturong ranges throughout South East Asia from Indonesia and the Philippines, through Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Burma into Assam, Nepal and Bhutan. It is a comparatively slow moving animal which spends almost all its life in the trees. On the ground its gait is somewhat clumsy and shuffling. However it is an expert climber and in this is assisted in being the only mammal in the old world to possess a prehensile tail. The Binturong is thought not to support its whole weight by its tail but instead to employ it as a brake by wrapping it around a branch when climbing.

In no part of their range could the Binturongs be described as numerous, though being active at night and asleep in the higher branches during the day, probably many escape notice. They measure between two and three feet long and have long shaggy black coats peppered with grey and brown. Tufts to the ears and the whiskers are white, and the fur on the face is sometimes whitish also. The diet of the wild Binturong includes small mammals and birds as well as a considerable proportion of plant food such as leaves, shoots and fruit. Two to three young are the normal litter, born after a gestation period of thirteen to fourteen weeks.

An adult female Binturong has also just arrived in the collection. She lived previously in Jersey Zoo and has been acquired as a mate for the single male at Chester. Both can be seen in an enclosure in the Small Mammal House, No. 84, where at the time of writing they are giving each other a respectable berth. It should not be too long before they settle down and we will then have two potential breeding pairs.

Three African Civet kittens (*Civettictus civetta*) arrived from Jersey with the female Binturong and are accommodated in the same house. A male and two females, the kittens were bred at Jersey Zoo from unrelated parents on the 21st August and are now about three-quarters grown. There is already a single adult male African Civet at the Zoo but the younger animals cannot be introduced to him as he would attack and probably kill them.

The word "civet" refers also to the musky secretion from this animal's anal glands, which is used in the manufacture of perfumes. It can be obtained from several other species of Civet as well and serves as a fixative in the processing of a perfume.

The African Civet is found over most of the African continent south of the Sahara where there is the brush and long grassland it prefers. When adult it measures about four feet from head to tail and has an erectile crest along the ridge of its back. The legs, cheeks and throat are black while the rest of the body is black with white and buff spots and stripes. In these young Civets the neck has broad whitish stripes with the lines of spots becoming more buff coloured towards the tail.

The African Civet hunts at night and lies up in a burrow during the day. Its catholic diet includes small mammals, birds, reptiles, fruits and other vegetable matter. The usual litter size is two or three kittens and in the wild state these are born in a burrow.

During the past month the only births recorded have been those of three Plains Viscachas (*Lagostomus maximus*). The young represent two litters, one born to the original female which arrived in November 1970 and the other to her eldest daughter, bred in May 1971. This is pleasing as of course it means a second generation zoo breeding. Actually both females produced twins but one baby belonging to the litter of the elder mother died very soon after

birth. The three remaining young are progressing satisfactorily and already beginning to show themselves outside the nestbox. The photograph on the right shows some of the present group of Plains Viscachas which from the original pair is now eleven strong.

Three other new arrivals have been accommodated in the Monkey House. They are a male White-lipped Tamarin (*Saguinus illigerii*), a female Silvery or Black-tailed Marmoset (*Callithrix argentatus*) and a female Common or White-eared Marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*).

Their enclosure is furnished with a number of branches and two nestboxes in an elevated position, into which the Marmosets retire at night. One of the major problems in keeping Marmosets is that they are acutely susceptible to a deficiency of Vitamin D. To combat this, an ultra violet lamp is suspended above their enclosure to ensure constant "sunshine". Supplements of Vitamin D are included in their zoo diet of mixed fruits, high protein pellets, hard-boiled egg and sweetened condensed milk.

Marmosets and Tamarins are amongst the more primitive of the primates. All are found in either South or Central America where the majority inhabit dense equatorial rain forest. They live in the tops of the trees, associating in family groups of a dozen and more individuals. Their natural foods include spiders, insects, fruit and other vegetation.

Members of the genus *Saguinus* are referred to more often as the Tamarins. One major difference between these and the *Callithrix* and *Cebuella*, known as the Marmosets, is in the lower canine teeth. In *Saguinus* and also the genus *Leontideus*, these are distinctly longer than the adjacent incisors. In *Callithrix* and *Cebuella*, the lower canines barely extend beyond the incisors.



PLAINS VISCACHAS (*Lagostomus maximus*)

K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

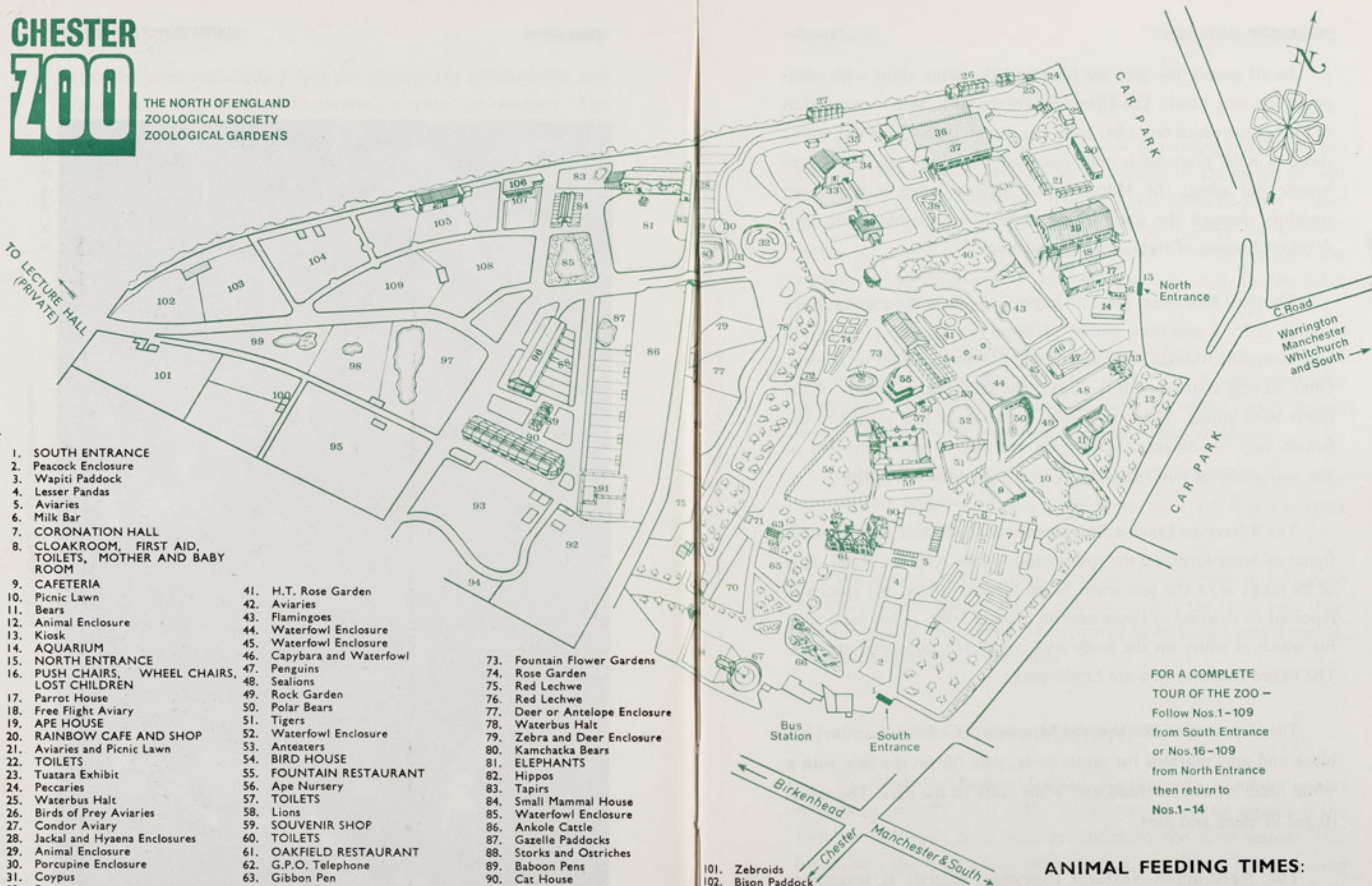
TO LECTURE HALL
(PRIVATE)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. SOUTH ENTRANCE | 41. H.T. Rose Garden |
| 2. Peacock Enclosure | 42. Aviaries |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock | 43. Flamingoes |
| 4. Lesser Pandas | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 5. Aviaries | 45. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 6. Milk Bar | 46. Capybara and Waterfowl |
| 7. CORONATION HALL | 47. Penguins |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID,
TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY
ROOM | 48. Sealions |
| 9. CAFETERIA | 49. Rock Garden |
| 10. Picnic Lawn | 50. Polar Bears |
| 11. Bears | 51. Tigers |
| 12. Animal Enclosure | 52. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 13. Kiosk | 53. Anteaters |
| 14. AQUARIUM | 54. BIRD HOUSE |
| 15. NORTH ENTRANCE | 55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS,
LOST CHILDREN | 56. Ape Nursery |
| 17. Parrot House | 57. TOILETS |
| 18. Free Flight Aviary | 58. Lions |
| 19. APE HOUSE | 59. SOUVENIR SHOP |
| 20. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 60. TOILETS |
| 21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT |
| 22. TOILETS | 62. G.P.O. Telephone |
| 23. Tuatara Exhibit | 63. Gibbon Pen |
| 24. Peccaries | 64. Animal Enclosure |
| 25. Waterbus Halt | 65. Cheetahs |
| 26. Birds of Prey Aviaries | 66. Ornamental Rock Garden |
| 27. Condor Aviary | 67. Malayan Bears |
| 28. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures | 68. Animal Enclosure |
| 29. Animal Enclosure | 69. Aviary |
| 30. Porcupine Enclosure | 70. Wallabies |
| 31. Coypus | 71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
AND KIOSK |
| 32. Beavers | 72. Waterbus Halt |
| 33. Giraffe House | |
| 34. Camel House | |
| 35. Waterbus Halt | |
| 36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND
REPTILE HOUSES | |
| 37. CHIMPANZEES | |
| 38. Floribunda Rose Garden | |
| 39. Mammal House | |
| 40. Gibbon Island | |

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|--------------------------------|
| 73. Fountain Flower Gardens |
| 74. Rose Garden |
| 75. Red Lechwe |
| 76. Red Lechwe |
| 77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure |
| 78. Waterbus Halt |
| 79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure |
| 80. Kamchatka Bears |
| 81. ELEPHANTS |
| 82. Hippos |
| 83. Tapirs |
| 84. Small Mammal House |
| 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 86. Ankole Cattle |
| 87. Gazelle Paddocks |
| 88. Storks and Ostriches |
| 89. Baboon Pens |
| 90. Cat House |
| 91. Lions and Tigers |
| 92. Antelope Enclosure |
| 93. Antelope Enclosure |
| 94. Antelope Enclosure |
| 95. Zebra Enclosure |
| 96. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 97. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 98. Wallabies and Waterfowl |
| 99. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 100. Llamas and Alpacas |

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|--------------------------------|
| 101. Zebroids |
| 102. Bison Paddock |
| 103. Pere David's Deer Paddock |
| 104. Eland and Marmots |
| 105. RHINO HOUSE |
| 106. TOILETS |
| 107. Mpila Snack Bar and Kiosk |
| 108. Antelope Enclosure |
| 109. Antelope Enclosure |

Animals may be moved from
time to time



FOR A COMPLETE
TOUR OF THE ZOO -
Follow Nos.1-109
from South Entrance
or Nos.16-109
from North Entrance
then return to
Nos.1-14

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
BEARS—3-15 pm
POLAR BEARS—4 pm
SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-40 pm, 3-40 pm, 4-40 pm

In all genera the legs are long and the arms short with comparatively long hands. The digits bear curved nails, with the exception of the big toe which has a flat nail. The thumb is also long but unlike those of most primates is not opposable. The long tail is not prehensile but assists the Marmoset to balance when it is moving sprightly through the trees. These animals are credited with well developed senses of sight, hearing and smell.

The male Marmoset plays an important role in the rearing of the young. After a gestation period of some twenty weeks, twins are born normally, though sometimes there is a single infant or triplets. Often having assisted with the birth, the father takes charge of the newly born young. They are carried on his back and passed to the female only for nursing. Marmosets are weaned at six months of age and attain sexual maturity at twelve to fifteen months.

The Silvery or Black-tailed Marmoset (*Callithrix argentatus*) is found in dense forest on the south banks of the Amazon River. Part of its range is in the renowned Mato Grosso where this species is reported to descend at times near to ground level. It has long silky fur which is white on the body and completely black on the tail. The naked face and ears are bright pink.

The Common or White-eared Marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*) has black and grey marbled fur on its body, pale fur on the face with a white blaze on the forehead and white tufts to the ears. The tail is ringed in black and grey.

The White-lipped Tamarin (*Saguinus illigerii*) is sometimes referred to as the Red-mantled Tamarin from reddish hues across its shoulders. Against its black face the muzzle is covered with white hairs while the rest of the body is mainly blackish brown.

GENERAL NEWS

Mr. W. H. Timmis, the Curator of Mammals and Birds, has been granted leave of absence, as at the end of December he will be taking a trip to Indonesia. With two colleagues he plans to stay for a period of four to five weeks to film and make a population survey of the Komodo Dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) on the western tip of the island of Flores, as well as studying the other fauna of the region.

The baby Hippo (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) born in October has been sexed as a male. Several weeks ago it was introduced successfully to the father, Generino, and the whole family spends most of its day wallowing in mud in the outer enclosure.

Whilst transferring the Arabian Gazelles (*Gazella arabica*) to their winter quarters, it was possible to ascertain that the three young born this year are a male and two females.

The second litter of Lion cubs (*Panthera leo*) born in July, have been vaccinated against Feline enteritis and at the same time their sexes were also determined. They proved to be a male and a female, the earlier litter being two males.

REPTILE NOTES

Six Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) were born recently. This is the third breeding of the species at the Zoo, all of which have been produced by the same female. Unfortunately the male which sired the first two litters, of four young in 1969 and seven in 1970, died last year. In May of this year we acquired another male. After he had been in the collection for about a month he began displaying interest in the female and a true mating was observed. The young were born approximately twenty weeks

later on the 9th November. All six baby Rattlesnakes are reported feeding and may be seen in a vivarium with a young Northern Pacific Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis oreganus*).

Not yet on show are two young Eastern Water Dragons (*Physignathus lesueurii lesueurii*) measuring about a foot long. These lizards have a range from Cape York to New South Wales in eastern Australia and invariably are found in the vicinity of water, into which they flee in danger. They are capable of submerging for about thirty minutes without taking breath.

An adult Eastern Water Dragon is usually about three feet long. It has a long tail which is flattened laterally to facilitate swimming and when moving quickly through the water the lizard folds its legs back against its body. It is mainly brownish in colour with a black stripe on the side of the head and black spots on the back. In the male in particular the belly is often deep red, though this colouration is not yet apparent in our specimens. At the present time they are feeding on various insects.

In the photograph on the right are two Bearded Lizards (*Amphibolurus barbatus*) which have been mentioned in earlier issues. The specimen in the foreground is the later arrival. It is larger and distinctly darker than the other Bearded Lizard. This species is also found in Australia.

PREUSS'S MONKEY

The arrival of this uncommon species of African guenon was mentioned in the October issue of the "Zoo News" though we have not been able to publish a photograph of the Preuss's Monkey (*Cercopithecus preussi*) until now (on page fifteen). This species is found in a restricted range in the Cameroon Mountains and on the island of Fernando Po in West Africa. The specimen we have acquired is a female.



BEARDED LIZARDS (*Amphibolurus barbatus*)

K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

BIRD NOTES

New arrivals include a Hill Mynah (*Gracula religiosa*) and six Rockhopper Penguins (*Eudyptes crestatus*). The latter birds have been introduced to the four resident Rockhopper Penguins in enclosure No. 47. This species is found on islands, such as the Falklands, in the southern oceans.

A Lapwing or Green Plover (*Vanellus vanellus*) is another new resident at the Zoo. This bird was presented by a Police Sergeant from Staffordshire, who had nursed it since it had been found injured. Part of its wing was badly damaged and had to be amputated but the Lapwing has made a good recovery. It may be seen in one of the outer aviaries of the Temperate Bird House, No. 54.

In the Oakfield flight, No. 5, another Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*) has left the nest, making the fourth hatched this year.

A further thirty-eight Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) have left the nest, making a grand total for this year of seventy bred. At the end of 1969 we had only twenty-one Cockatiels but now there are nearly two hundred in the long Rainbow flight, No. 21. Only three birds have been presented during the past three years, the rest have been bred. At least 123 Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) have also been reared this year.

At the present time it seems likely that during 1972 we have achieved first breedings of three species of birds. One success, with the Red-headed Buntings, was indicated as a result of our own investigations but the other two were something of a surprise.

When three Jungle Mynahs (*Aethiopsar fuscus*) left the nest in the Tropical House, we reported that it was the first time these birds had bred in our collection. A little while later the Curator noticed that the Jungle Mynah was absent from a recent list of birds bred in the British Isles and following enquiries it has been assumed a "first" breeding in this country for Chester Zoo.

Four Jungle Mynahs were received on the 9th September, 1971,



FEMALE PREUSS'S MONKEY (*Cercopithecus preussi*) K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

and were released into the Tropical House, joining a single specimen which had been in the collection since 1966. On the 22nd August last, two Jungle Mynah chicks were observed emerging from one of the many nestboxes provided in the house. Two days later another chick was noted from a second nestbox.

The Sundervall's Waxbill (*Estrilda rhodopyga*) was bred here initially in 1968 when a single chick was reared. Another two left the nest in 1971 and this year the pair have produced a further two. However we did not learn until fairly recently that, as far as is known, no one else in the British Isles has bred this species. Like the Jungle Mynahs, the Sundervall's Waxbills are in free flight in our spacious Tropical House.

The third probable success came with the Red-headed Buntings (*Emberiza bruniceps*). Four of these birds were acquired in May 1971. One died last November and was replaced by another adult specimen which arrived in July 1972. The first chick was observed on the 1st August, and a second left the nest on the 16th of that month. As no other records could be traced, we had good reason to suspect that this was the first time the Red-headed Bunting had been bred and at the moment this seems to be the case.

The Jerdon's Starlings (*Sturnus burmanicus*) and the Mexican Yellow Grosbeaks (*Pheuticus chrysopheplus*) have each been bred only once before in this country. In the case of the Grosbeaks the first occasion was in 1916!

SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

New readers of the "*Chester Zoo News*" who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms are on display in the souvenir shop. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs 95p, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shop or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

The following notice is displayed on several boards in the grounds

Please comply with it at all times.

FEEDING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS

IT IS AN OFFENCE for any member of the public to offer food of any description to any Animal or Bird in Chester Zoo.

This regulation is made for the sake of the health of the Animals and Birds. Since the NO FEEDING rule was introduced, the number of deaths has dropped appreciably and sickness, due to wrong feeding has been virtually eliminated.

What you may be offering to an animal may only be a sweet or an inoffensive piece of bread, but it can mean a death sentence for the animal. For example, a cough drop, which may relieve your cough, can cause instant death to many Animals and Birds in the Zoo.

You must not lose sight of the fact that you are only one of over a million visitors who visit the Zoo annually. If for instance an elephant had one bun from only one tenth of a day's visitors during the summer, it would eat between three and four thousand. You can guess the result.

We realise what a temptation it is for visitors, particularly children, to feed our Animals and Birds and this is why we invite members of the public to be present at the official feeding times.

This is a polite warning to you, asking you not to feed the animals. If you ignore it, the Keepers are authorised to ask you to leave the Gardens.

If you really love Animals and Birds, you will appreciate the wisdom of the ruling—No Feeding by members of the public.

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS CONDITION.

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