

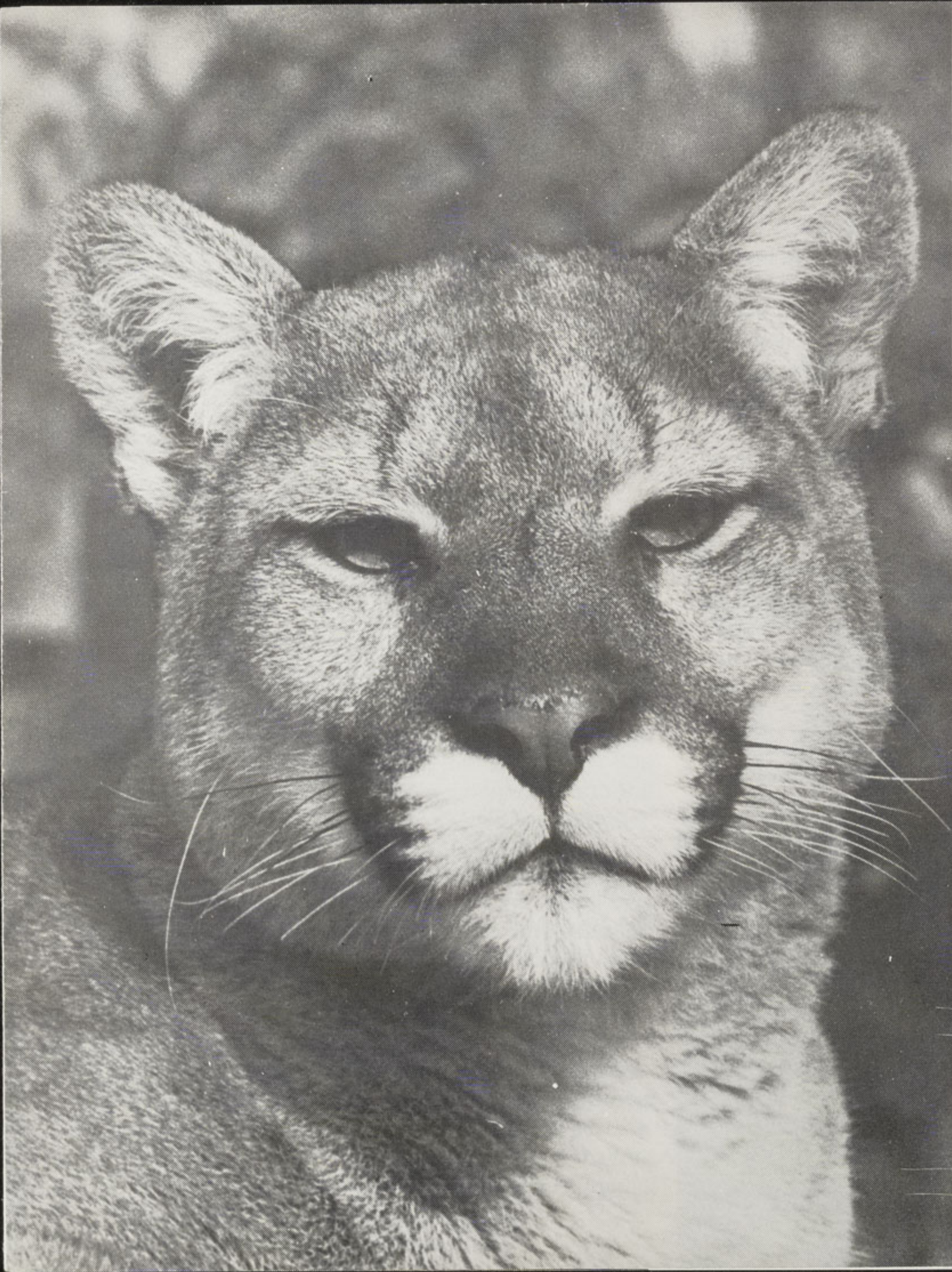
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CHESTER ZOO NEWS



Zoological Gardens
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1981 No. 8

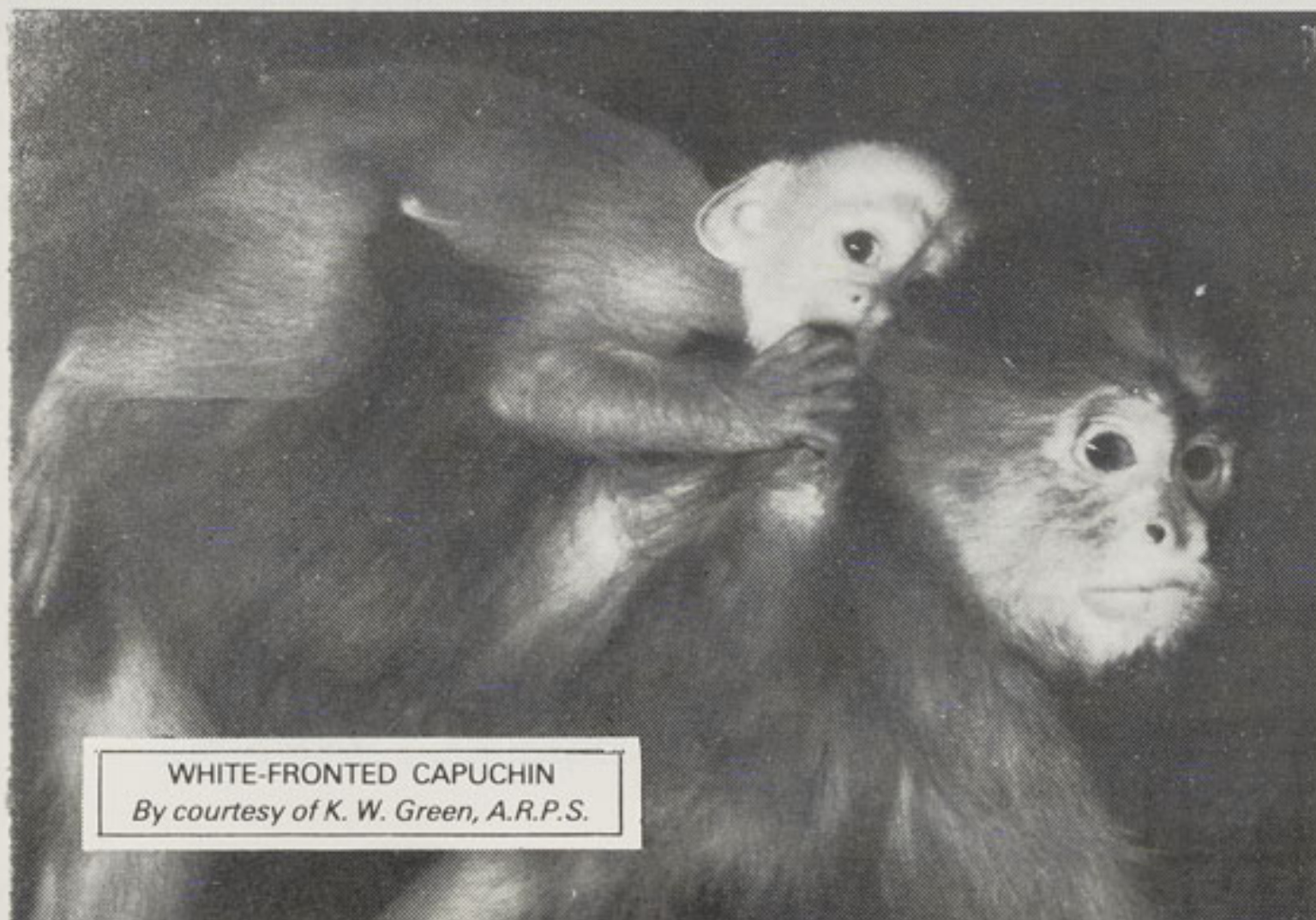


The Mammals of South America at Chester Zoo

Chester Zoo exhibits 20 species of mammal from South America, divided into five orders. Primates are represented by the Capuchin, Squirrel and Spider Monkeys, rodents by the Coypu, Capybara, Agouti and Viscacha, carnivores by the Coati, Kinkajou and six members of the cat family, namely Jaguar, Puma, Pampas Cat, Margay and Jaguarundi and Geoffroy's Cat. The perissodactyla is represented by the Brazilian Tapir and the artiodactyla by the Peccary, Llama, Guanaco and Alpaca.

The Squirrel Monkeys, *Saimiri sciureus*, are exhibited in the small mammal house, No. 84 on the plan. This species is probably the most common American primate living in large groups. When at rest, their tails are usually wrapped around the body. Fruit makes up the bulk of their diet, although insects and small birds are readily eaten. A number of young have been bred in the Zoo.

There are four species of Capuchin Monkey, our representative being the White-fronted, *Cebus albifrons*, which are shown in the Monkey House, Enclosure No. 116. The



WHITE-FRONTED CAPUCHIN
By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

Capuchins are excitable monkeys, again living in large groups and eating almost anything that is edible, including flowers, leaves, fruit, insects and small birds. They have a prehensile tail which can be used as a fifth limb. This adaptation is also used by the Spider Monkeys, *Ateles paniscus*. Again there are four species of Spider Monkey, and we exhibit the Black, *Ateles paniscus*, and the Geoffroy's, *Ateles geoffroyi*. The Spider Monkeys live in family groups, feeding on fruits, leaves and seeds and have a mainly arboreal life, usually swinging under branches rather than climbing on them. The tail is capable of carrying the weight of the monkey, and has a fleshy pad on the underside, which gives a positive grip.

The Capybara, *Hydrochoerus hydrochoerus*, is the world's largest rodent, sometimes weighing over 100 lbs. Our pair, in Enclosure No. 53, have recently produced a youngster. The Capybara live in groups and are seldom far from water, living on grass and aquatic vegetation. It readily dives into water and swims strongly at any sign of danger. The Coypu, *Myocastor coypus*, is another aquatic rodent, making its burrows in the river banks. It is vegetarian in its habits, often feeding on vegetation in the water. Our Coypu, in Enclosure No. 31, regularly produce young that are capable of swimming and eating soon after birth.

Agouti, *Dasyprocta aguti*, resemble large guinea-pigs and live in the tropical forests of Amazonia. Their diet consists of fruit, vegetable matter and roots. Food is often held in the front feet whilst eating. You can see ours in Enclosure No. 4.

Plain's Viscacha, *Lagostomus maximus*, as you would expect from the name, live in small groups on the open pampas of the Argentine. Their diet consists of the grasses and seeds in the vicinity of the burrows.

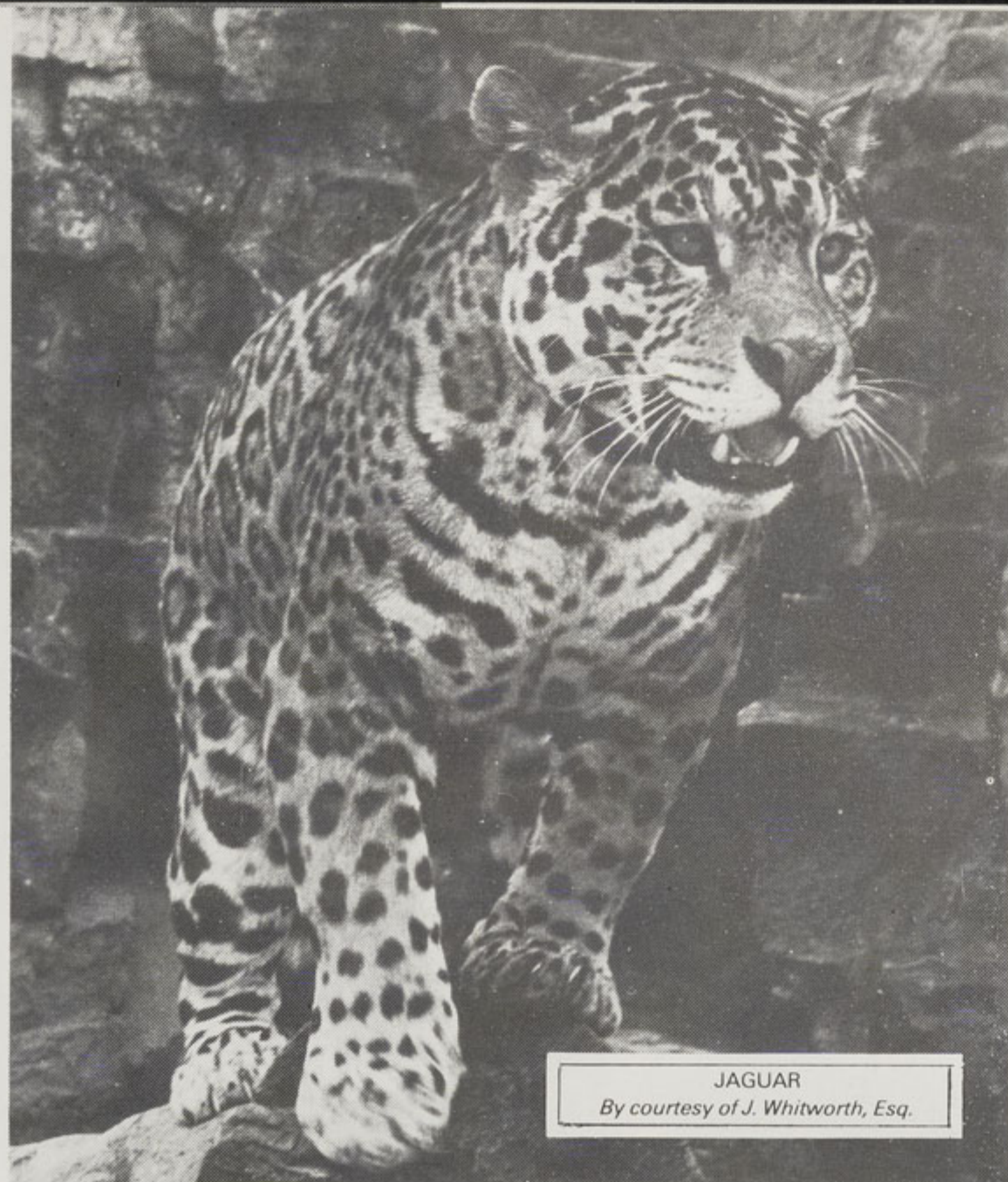
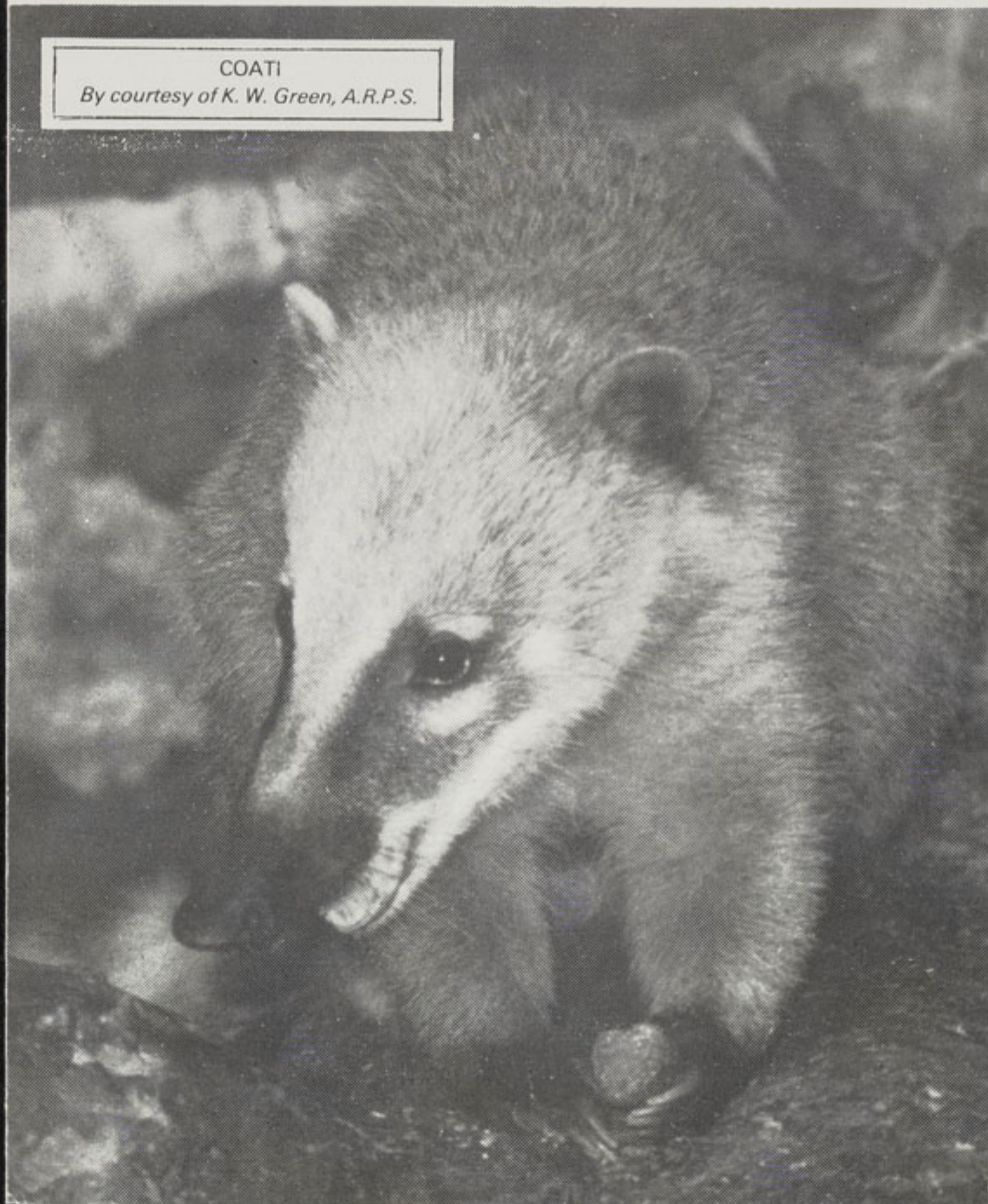
Front Cover:
PUMA
By courtesy of J. Whitworth, Esq.

The Coati, *Nasua nasua*, can be seen in the Camel House, Enclosure No. 34. They are inquisitive animals, preferring to hunt in groups through the forests. They are somewhat opportunist feeders, eating anything that happens along, including young birds, small mammals, insects, reptiles, crustaceans, fruits, nuts and seeds. When moving, they carry their tails erect, rather like the Lemurs of Madagascar.

Our Kinkajous, *Potus flavus*, are exhibited in the Mammal House, Enclosure No. 84, but, due to being primarily a nocturnal animal, they are rarely seen during

COATI

By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.



JAGUAR

By courtesy of J. Whitworth, Esq.

the day. They show a preference for ripe fruits in their diet, but also take young birds and small animals when the opportunity presents. Honey is another favourite food and, for this reason, Kinkajous are often called "Honey Bears".

Jaguar, *Panthera onca*, are the most powerful of the American cats, preferring forest regions, but occasionally found hunting on the Argentinian pampas. Their favourite prey are Peccaries, but they are capable of killing any of the South American fauna. Captive Jaguar breed readily, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find homes for their progeny in zoos.

Pumas, *Felis concolor*, have an extensive range, found throughout South America except the southernmost tip, besides the western side of North America. They are found in every type of habitat and will eat anything they can catch, from insects to fully-grown deer. Their cubs, two to four in a litter, are born with black spots or stripes, which gradually fade as the cubs grow.

The Jaguarundi, *Felis yaguarundi*, is a small cat, in shape rather resembling an Otter, being low at the shoulder and rising to the hindquarters. It frequents edges of woodland and grassy areas and is one of the few cats that will eat fruit in addition to the more usual meat.

We are pleased to be able to show the Pampas Cat *Felis colocolo*, a cat whose habitat appears to be decreasing rapidly. The Pampas Cat is said to be nocturnal, and its short claws would suggest a mainly ground existence, living in thick bushy areas and preying on birds and small mammals.

The Geoffroy's Cat, *Felis geoffroyi*, comes from the Argentine and is found in mountainous country. It is a proficient climber, hunting most of its prey in the trees.

Margay, *Felis wiedi*, are rather like small Ocelot, another South American cat. They have large eyes compared with body size, which would suggest a nocturnal life, and food seems to consist of rodents and birds. Our pair have recently reared a kitten and, with the other cats mentioned, can be seen in the Cat House, No. 90.

We now have seven South American Tapir, *Tapirus terrestris*, two attractive young having been born this year. In America, the Tapir is found in Amazonia, and usually keeps to well-worn tracks in the forests and marshy lowlands. It is an excellent swimmer, and feeds entirely on aquatic plants and leaves. They can be seen in the Zoo in the Elephant and Rhino Houses.



PETER WAIT WITH SOUTH AMERICAN TAPIRS
By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

Peccaries, *Tayassu tajacu*, can be seen in Enclosure No. 25, and are the "New World's" answer to the "Old World's" pigs, though sufficiently different as to be placed in a different family. They range throughout South America north of the Argentine, and live on a variety of fruit, roots, carrion and insects.

The Camel family is represented in South America by the Llama, Guanaco, Alpaca and Vicuna. At Chester, we

ALPACAS

By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.



exhibit the first three—the Llama, *Lama glama*, is probably the best-known, having been used for centuries as a pack-animal. The Guanaco, *Lama guanicoe*, is still to be found in small herds along the western coast of South America in the mountains and semi-desert. The Alpaca, *Lama pacos*, is a smaller animal than the previous two, and now exists only in a domesticated form, its wool being highly valued.

P. A. Wait,
Curator of Mammals.

Off to Australia

After 27 years at Chester Zoo, Reptile Curator Roger Ainsley has decided to make a new life for himself, his wife and two children in Australia. Although a change of country, Roger will still be fulfilling his life-long interest in reptiles by taking up an appointment at Healesville, Victoria.

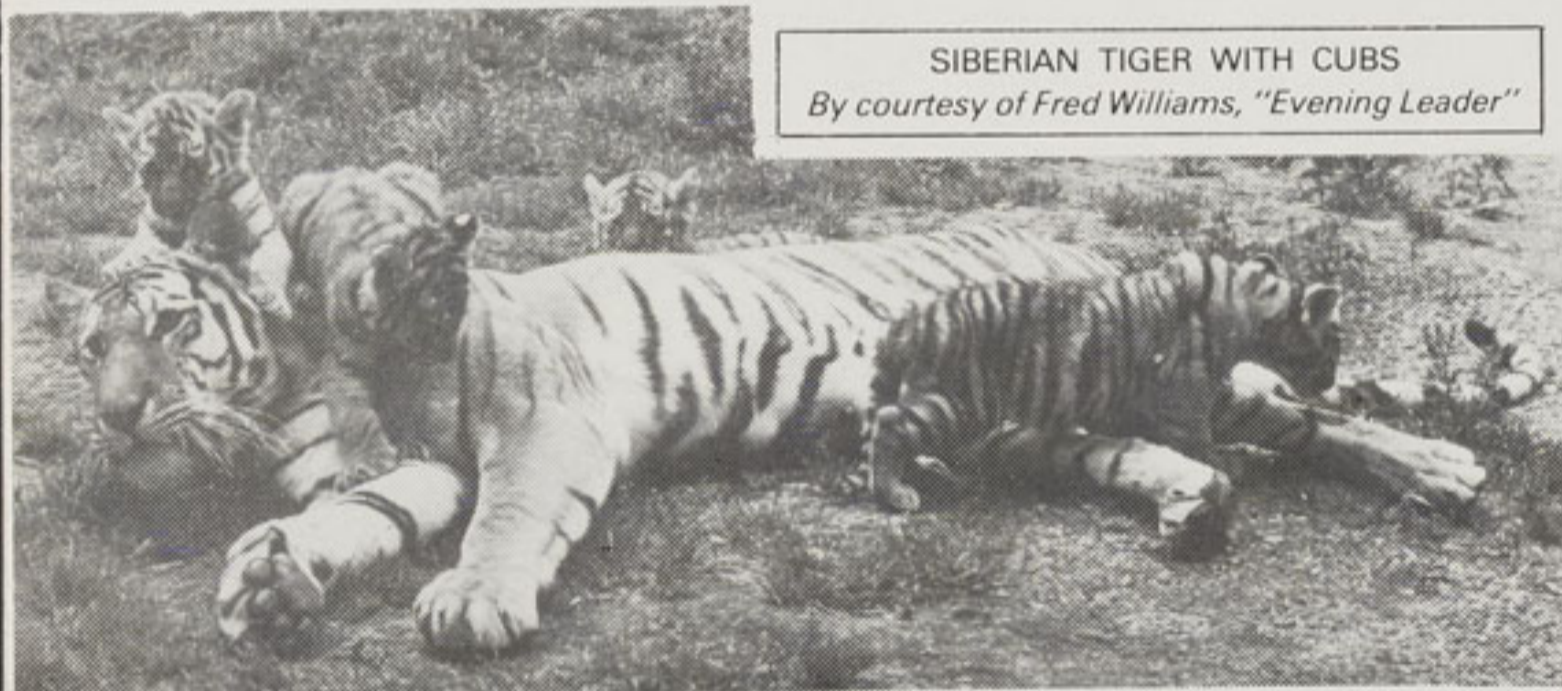
Roger Ainsley has been largely responsible for the setting-up and stocking of our Reptile House, which was transferred to the Tropical House when this building opened in 1964. One of his specialities has been the creation of the correct environment for the various species and his sandstone backgrounds could be described as works of art. We would like to wish Roger and his family a happy and successful future.



ROGER AINSLEY
WITH ONE OF HIS CHARGES—A SPURRED TORTOISE
By courtesy of J. Whitworth, Esq.

International Zoo Co-operation

Peter Wait, Curator of Mammals, had to miss the Royal Wedding, as he was on his way to Antwerp Zoo with a Siberian Tiger. This male Tiger, which was born at Chester Zoo during June 1978, was surplus to our requirements and we had been looking for a good home for him, and had found out that Naples Zoo needed a Siberian Tiger for breeding purposes. Antwerp Zoo seemed a good halfway house for our Tiger, and he will be staying there until staff from Naples come to collect him. Siberian and all other varieties of Tiger are in grave danger of extinction in their natural habitat. Fortunately, most are readily bred in zoos, and this sort of co-operation amongst zoos will ensure the future survival of these wonderful animals.



SIBERIAN TIGER WITH CUBS
By courtesy of Fred Williams, "Evening Leader"

Useful Statistics

If you work in a zoo, members of the public often ask if you go to exotic countries collecting animals, and we always reply that the days of collecting trips abroad are well and truly over, as most animals are bred in captivity. To substantiate this statement, we decided to investigate our animal records, with a most satisfying result.

Of the 739 mammals in stock, 633 were captive-bred—509 of these at Chester Zoo. Only 34 mammals were wild-caught; of the remaining 72 we could not definitely ascertain their origin—many were from dealers and could have been captive-bred.

BBC2 at the Zoo

A large red-coloured Ostrich with a man riding on its back disappeared into the Bird House, a singing group called "Instant Sunshine" sang to the Giraffes and an animal impersonator caused great amusement to our Chimps. This was the lighter side when filming for a new BBC2 series called "6.55 Special", which will feature our Zoo for half an hour on 17th August 1981, at 6.55 p.m. The programme will touch on the more serious side of zoos and our conservation policy, as well as interviewing several of our staff concerning animal diets and future building projects. We are always amazed at the size and complexity concerning the production of a television programme, and BBC2 was no exception, with 50 technicians, several huge vehicles and miles of cables.

Latest Arrivals and Births

2 Soft-shelled Turtles <i>Trionyx cartilagineus</i>	Arrival
1 Eland <i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Birth
1 Arabian Gazelle <i>Gazella arabica</i>	Birth
1 Chimpanzee <i>Pan troglodytes</i>	Arrival
5 Common Rhea <i>Rhea americana</i>	Hatched
1 Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	Presented

Subscriptions

CHESTER ZOO NEWS is at present being produced every month and readers who would like to receive the magazine regularly can obtain subscription forms at the Souvenir Shops or the Office. The current charge for 12 issues, including postage, is £3.00 per year.

Completed forms can be handed in to the Souvenir Shops or posted to Chester Zoo News, Chester Zoo, Chester CH2 1LH.