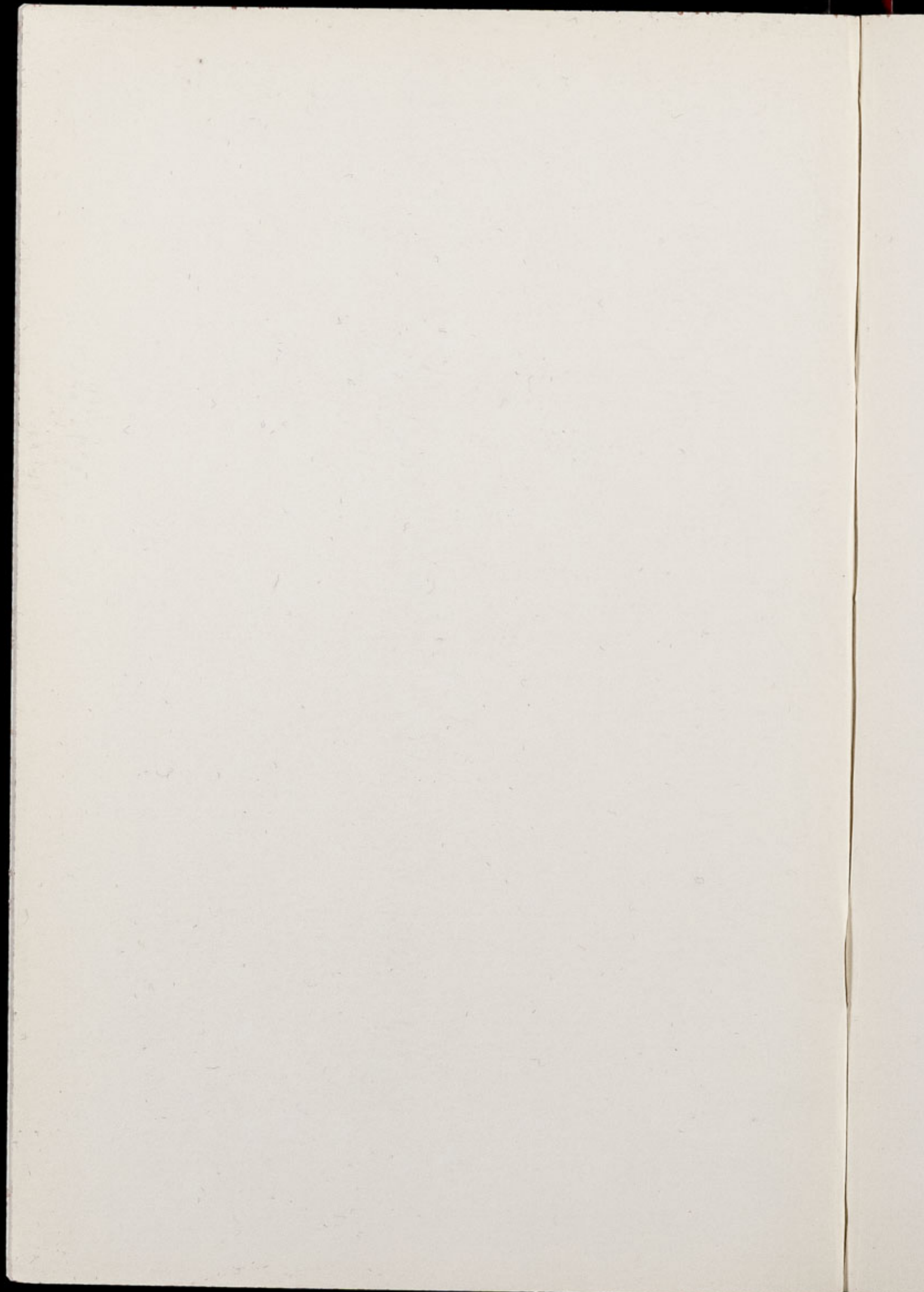


CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

November 1967

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: This month's cover photograph shows one of our Black Panthers. For further details see page 15.

By Courtesy of E. Kirkland, Esq., F.R.P.S.

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

During October a baby was born to "Julie" the Chimpanzee, two years after her arrival at the Zoo. She was mentioned in the November 1965 edition of "*Chester Zoo News*" as being the most widely travelled animal at the Zoo, having appeared on stage in places as far away as Tokyo and Moscow. The previous owners told us that she had given birth to two youngsters but both had died. We are keeping a watchful eye on this baby but so far it is progressing quite normally.

A female Kinkajou was presented to the Zoo during the past month. This animal has been housed in the Hospital as a temporary measure but will be accommodated with our other Kinkajous in the Nocturnal House. Kinkajous often become very tame in captivity and this new arrival is no exception, probably due to being a household pet for some time. These animals can make fairly good pets but tend to be rather destructive; they require a diet of fresh fruits, a little meat and a milk drink.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the Kinkajou is the prehensile tail. It is quite normal to pick up a Kinkajou by its tail; this is not cruel in any way as the tail acts as a fifth limb when the animal is feeding in the trees.

As can be seen in the photograph, the Kinkajou is rather an appealing animal; the short soft fur is a golden-brown colour and this appearance gives rise to them being called Bushbabies by a number of people. This is incorrect as they are in no way related to the Bushbabies, which come from Africa. The Kinkajou originates from the thick forests of Central and South Africa. During the day they sleep in a hollow log or other sheltered position and emerge at night to feed on fruits and berries but also eat a few nestling birds and small mammals.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

KINKAJOUS

In the September issue of "*Chester Zoo News*" we mentioned the arrival of three Blesbok from the Frankfurt Zoo. These animals have to undergo twelve month's quarantine before being brought to the Zoo. We are pleased to announce that a calf was born at our Birkenhead Quarantine Station and is thriving. Another calf was born to a third female whilst in Germany and mother and baby are being retained at Frankfurt Zoo until the youngster is old enough to travel.

In the Cat House, two Leopard cubs have been born and are thriving. The mother is one of the three females which arrived at the Zoo during December 1965. Recently one of these Leopardesses was sent to the Paignton Zoo to enlarge their breeding stock. These latest cubs are now venturing into the outside enclosure where they can be seen by members of the public. Other young animals which can be seen in the Cat House (No. 89 on the Plan) are Puma Cubs and a Black Panther cub.

NEW INDOOR QUARTERS FOR GRANT'S ZEBRAS

A new indoor house is under construction for our herd of Grant's Zebras. Previously these animals were moved to inside quarters at the rear of the Giraffe House each autumn and transferred back to their paddock the following spring. Although shelter was provided, this was not large enough for the winter months.

The new quarters will accommodate the present eight Grant's Zebras and a few extras; two large yards will also be incorporated; these will enable the Zebras to have exercise during the winter months. The extensive grass-covered paddock which the Zebras use during the spring, summer and autumn would deteriorate quickly into a "mud bath" if used during the winter and the grazing would be ruined for the following year.



LEOPARD CUB

E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

At Chester Zoo we have a good record of Zebra births and this year two Grant's Zebra foals were born. These Zebras share their paddock with eight Fallow Deer and this year two fawns were born which are thriving.

WORK WITH THE KEEPER

Many regular readers are perhaps not aware of the full duties of the 50 Keepers who look after the animals at Chester Zoo. To comply with numerous requests from Educational Authorities, a number of articles have been prepared for schools and as this topic was one of those included we thought that it warranted inclusion in the "Zoo News".

The Keeper's day starts at 8 a.m. and the first task is to check around the section to make sure the animals are all in good health. If there is any illness he reports this to the Curator who contacts the Veterinary Surgeon.

After checking for health, the cleaning and hosing of animal dens and houses starts. This task takes a considerable amount of time as animals have to be kept spotlessly clean otherwise they can easily catch diseases. Many of the larger animals have their enclosures hosed down but the sleeping quarters have to be dried thoroughly by the Keeper. Smaller animals have the floor of their enclosures covered with sand or sawdust. The sawdust is changed each day and the sand is riddled daily and changed when required.

The next task is preparation of food. All foodstuffs are delivered to the various animal sections by the Stores Department. The Keeper then prepares the food for the individual animal. In the Monkey House and many other sections the diets are rather complicated; many birds require correctly balanced diets of various diced fruits. Wherever possible, individual animals have their own food dish or container, which cuts down the likelihood of the spread of infection.

Feeding comes next in the daily routine. With a number of animals, i.e., Lions, Tigers, Sealions, this is undertaken at specific times so that members of the public can be there at the exact time. Other animals are fed about the same time each day as they are far happier with a set routine.

After the feeding the Keeper has a little time for odd jobs. These include checking equipment and specialized foodstuffs, giving extra attention to young animals, i.e., playing with the Orang-Utans and Gorillas. This is also the time when Keepers are most in evidence to answer questions put to them by interested members of the public.

The final work of the day is to bed-down the animals for the night. Animals such as the Elephants, Rhinos and Deer are given fresh beds of straw and the Elephants in particular require a bed of considerable size.

When the bedding-down is finished it is time to go home, but several Keepers are always on duty until the Zoo closes at dusk each night.

THE ADDER OR VIPER

(*Vipera berus*)

A large number of queries are received at the Zoo about the Reptiles indigenous to Great Britain. A short article on each species will be included in this and forthcoming issues of "*Chester Zoo News*".

The only species of venomous snake to be found in this country is the Adder or Viper. Although closely related to the extremely dangerous tropical Vipers, the bite of this species is not normally fatal to human beings although in exceptional circumstances, bites can prove fatal to young children or people in poor health. The bite of *Vipera*

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

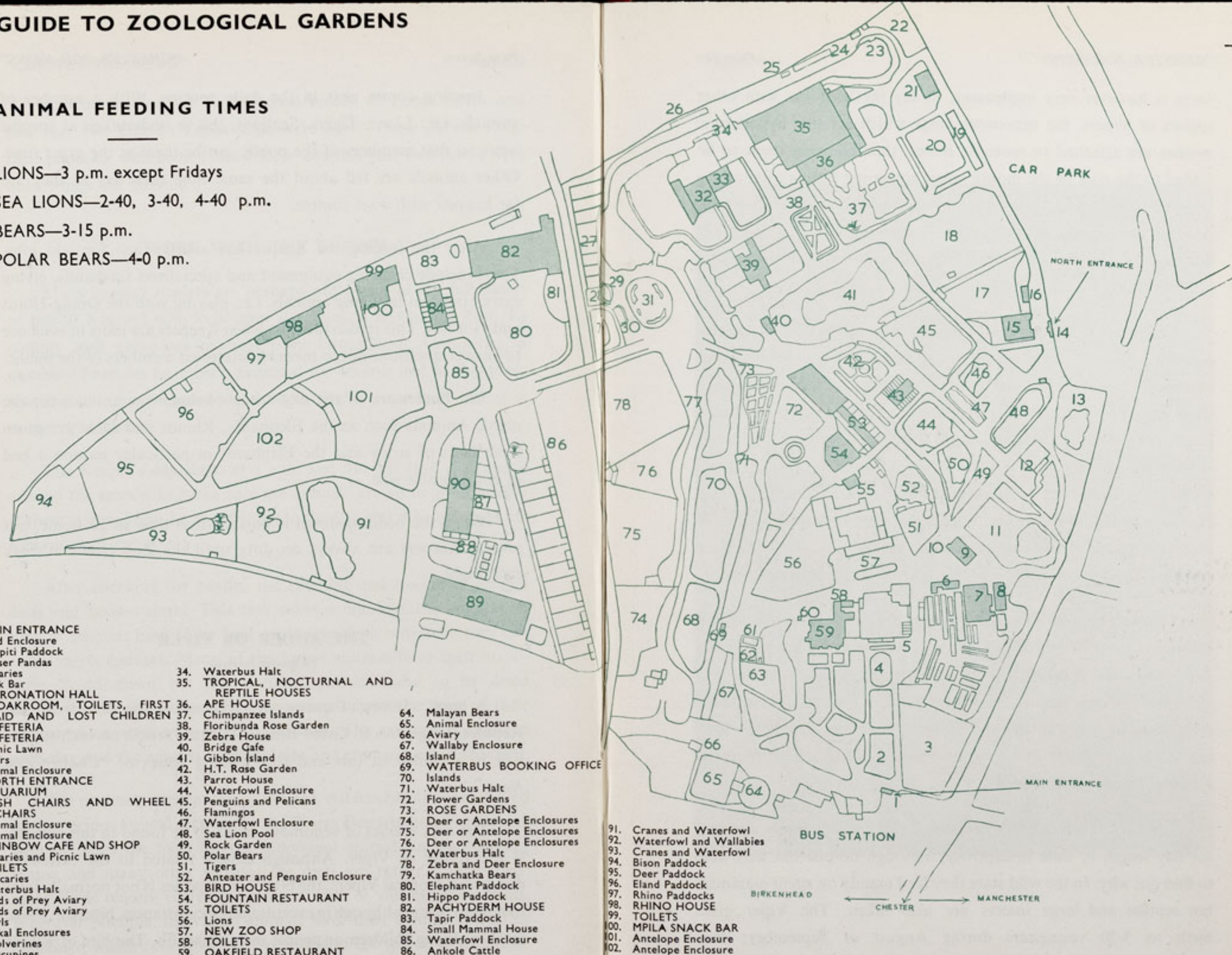
LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE | 34. Waterbus Halt | 64. Malayan Bears |
| 2. Bird Enclosure | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 65. Animal Enclosure |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock | 36. APE HOUSE | 66. Aviary |
| 4. Lesser Pandas | 37. Chimpanzee Islands | 67. Wallaby Enclosure |
| 5. Aviaries | 38. Floribunda Rose Garden | 68. Island |
| 6. Milk Bar | 39. Zebra House | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE |
| 7. CORONATION HALL | 40. Bridge Cafe | 70. Islands |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN | 41. Gibbon Island | 71. Waterbus Halt |
| 9. CAFETERIA | 42. H.T. Rose Garden | 72. Flower Gardens |
| 10. CAFETERIA | 43. Parrot House | 73. ROSE GARDENS |
| 11. Picnic Lawn | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure | 74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 12. Bears | 45. Penguins and Pelicans | 75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 13. Animal Enclosure | 46. Flamingos | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure | 77. Waterbus Halt |
| 15. AQUARIUM | 48. Sea Lion Pool | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS | 49. Rock Garden | 79. Kamchatka Bears |
| 17. Animal Enclosure | 50. Polar Bears | 80. Elephant Paddock |
| 18. Animal Enclosure | 51. Tigers | 81. Hippo Paddock |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 52. Anteater and Penguin Enclosure | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 53. BIRD HOUSE | 83. Tapir Paddock |
| 21. TOILETS | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT | 84. Small Mammal House |
| 22. Peccaries | 55. TOILETS | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 23. Waterbus Halt | 56. Lions | 86. Ankole Cattle |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP | 87. Stork Enclosures |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary | 58. TOILETS | 88. Monkey Enclosures |
| 26. Owls | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT | 89. Cat House |
| 27. Jackal Enclosures | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk | 90. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 28. Wolverines | 61. Animal Enclosure | |
| 29. Porcupines | 62. Animal Enclosures | |
| 30. Coypus | 63. Cheetahs | |
| 31. Beavers | | |
| 32. Giraffe House | | |
| 33. Camel House | | |



Animals may be moved from time to time.

berus is however very unpleasant, to say the least. As with other species of Vipers, the venomous fangs which act like hypodermic needles are attached to movable bones, thus allowing them to be folded to the roof of the mouth when not in use but as soon as the jaws are opened they are brought forward into the striking position. A Viper's bite produces swelling, profuse perspiration and vomiting; draining of the poison should be attempted to alleviate these symptoms and hospital treatment sought.

Vipers are fairly common in suitable localities in this country and are sufficiently outstanding not to be confused with any other species. The first impression is of a short thick-set snake with a short tail. The Viper is normally about two feet in length, but a large female can be several inches longer. As with many other snakes, the colouration of this species is variable, ranging from greys to olive-browns to almost black. There is usually a dark zig-zag marking down the entire length of the snake and an X or V shaped marking in the head; however, in the case of a very dark specimen these markings will be partially or completely obscured.

Vipers are found throughout England, Wales and Scotland, but are absent from Ireland. Their favourite habitat is dry heaths, moors and woods, also bramble clumps, nettle beds, disused quarries and stone walls. Vipers are also found over much of Europe and Northern Asia; they have the distinction of being found further north than any other poisonous snake, within the Arctic Circle in Norway, Finland, Sweden and Russia.

Very few Zoos ever exhibit the Viper, which rarely survives for any length of time in captivity, although no-one has been able to find out why. In the wild state they feed mainly on small mammals but reptiles and large insects are also taken. The Viper gives birth to 5-20 youngsters during August or September; they



PUFF ADDERS — VERY DANGEROUS TROPICAL VIPERS

J. Whitworth

are about six inches long and are at once independent. Young Vipers are not born in the true sense of the word; eggs develop inside the mother instead of being laid, and the young are delivered, coiled in a transparent membrane which is usually broken during the process of birth. During the autumn, the Viper goes into hibernation beneath rocks or tree roots and re-appears during the following spring.

CARE OF TERRAPINS

A large number of Terrapins are brought to this country and sold in pet shops. The most commonly imported species is the Red-eared Terrapin but the Spanish and the European Pond Terrapin are also often kept as pets.

Most Terrapins sold are about the size of a half crown and although sometimes advertised as miniatures, are in fact young, and in the case of the Red-eared will grow to a length of about eight inches.

When keeping Terrapins, one must remember that they are cold blooded animals and are therefore active only when they are kept warm.

Various Terrapin containers can be purchased at pet shops but they can be kept in a square aquarium; another favourite receptacle is a plastic washing-up bowl. The container for a four inch long Terrapin should measure approximately 1 sq. ft. but of course the larger the better and the Terrapin should have access to a dry area with a gentle slope down to the water.

A temperature of 75-80°F. is required to keep them active and if the temperature falls too low they will become sluggish and will



TERRAPIN SURFACING

E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

not feed. Terrapins also require a great deal of light and love to bask on the dry parts of their enclosure. Beware of putting them onto a draughty window ledge or in the direct sun for too long; a good idea, especially on dull days is to suspend an electric light bulb over the container which will provide both heat and light.

Feeding is not too difficult as Terrapins tend to be scavengers in the wild state. Liver, lean meat, worms, fish, tinned cat food, which contains fish oil and bone meal can be given and many authorities consider the addition of a little green food such as lettuce to be beneficial. Due to their feeding habits Terrapins should not be kept in the same container as fish as even a small Terrapin will eat a fish when hungry. Normally small Terrapins should be fed once per day but they can go for several weeks without food and suffer no harm. Larger specimens can be fed two or three times per week if desired.

Due to their largely carnivorous diet the Terrapin soon makes the water dirty and it is necessary to clean out the tank each day. The only exception to this is if the Terrapin is removed to another tank during feeding time and in this case, three times per week should suffice. The replacement water should be at the same temperature as the original; this is most important as a sudden change is detrimental to health.

Larger Terrapins (over four inches) are often kept in outside pools during the summer months. If allowed to remain out of doors during the winter they will want to hibernate. If the pool has a mud bottom, with at least 12 inches of mud, they will burrow into this and hibernate quite naturally. If not, they will hibernate in a straw or leaf filled box in a cool, frost free position in the same way as the Tortoise. If possible they should be brought indoors and kept warm during the winter.

The Red-eared Terrapin matures when 5 or 6 years old when it has a shell length of 6-9 inches. A simple way to sex Terrapins is to look at the nails on their feet; males have longer nails on their fore-feet, whereas in the female the fore and hind feet nails are similar lengths. Eggs are sometimes laid by captive Terrapins either in the water or on land. If laid in the water, the embryo would be drowned but if on land there is a chance that the eggs could be fertile as Terrapins are said to be able to produce fertile eggs for up to three years after mating. Any eggs should be placed in damp sand or sawdust, kept at a temperature of 80-90°F and should hatch within 8-12 weeks. The young Terrapins dig their way to the surface and upon hatching are similar in size to those sold in pet shops which normally are only a few months old.

BLACK PANTHERS

This month's cover photograph is a portrait of one of our Black Panthers. A pair of these animals arrived at the Zoo during April 1965 and have been accommodated in the Cat House ever since. During December 1965 two Panther cubs were born. This year during May, a single male cub was born and is doing very well.

The adult Black Panthers are called "Satan" and "Jezabel" and are extremely savage animals. The youngster who is known as "Rastus" is far more friendly and for a Black Panther is quite tractable.

At one time the Black Panther was thought of as a separate species, but in actual fact is only a black form of the common Spotted Leopard. If our Panthers are viewed in bright sunshine spots can be seen as these are more intensely black than the surrounding fur. Black Panthers have the reputation of being extremely vicious animals and this seems to be the case but nobody can explain

why they are more ferocious than the common variety. We suggest that most Black Panthers which arrive at Zoos are wild caught, as not very many are bred in captivity, whereas Spotted Leopards are nearly all Zoo bred. Another factor may be that Black Panthers are treated in accordance with their reputation and not given a chance to become tame but this has not been the case with our specimens.

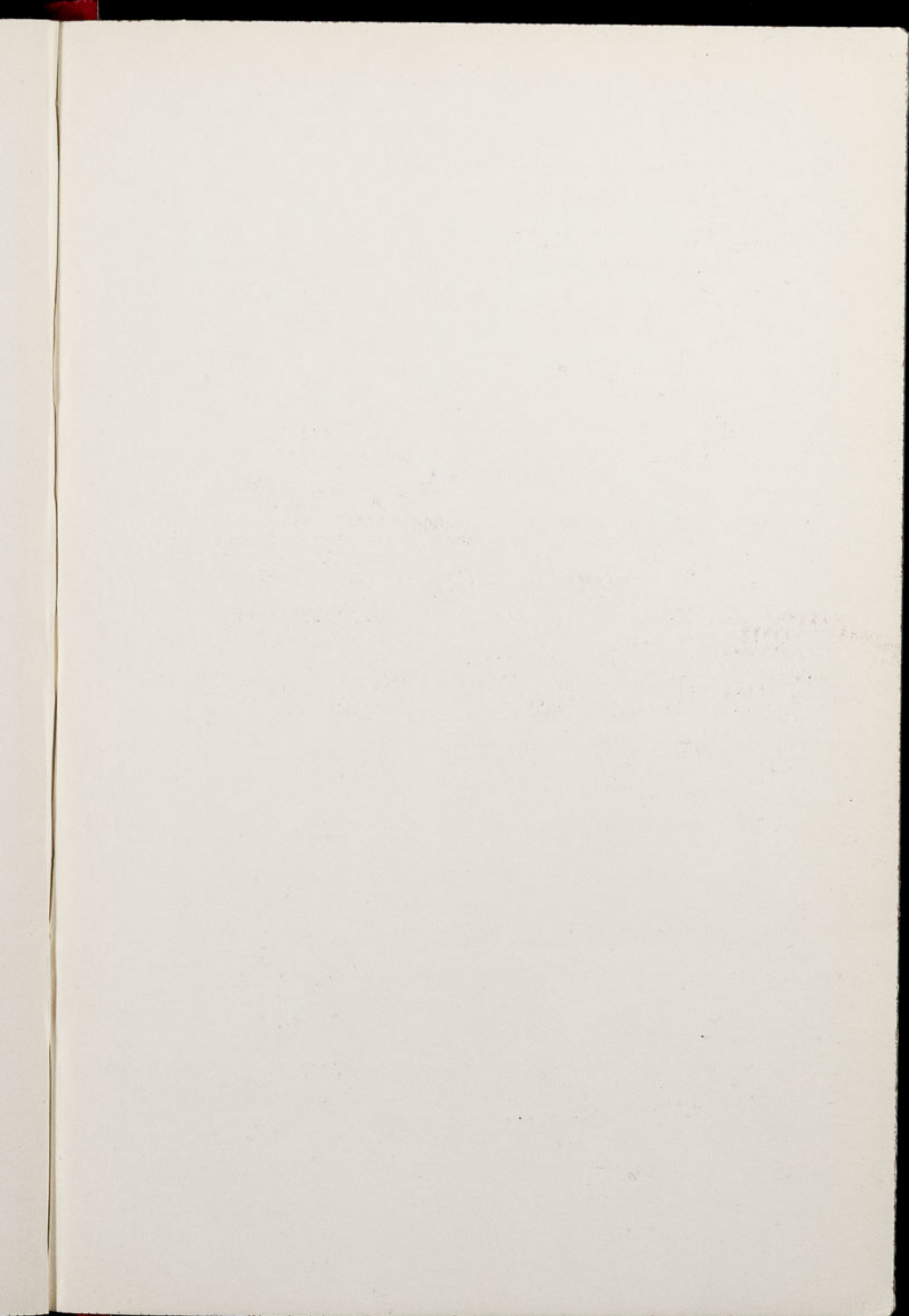
The Leopard has a very extensive range throughout Africa, to India and as far north as the Russia-Chinese border in the Amur River area. Melanistic or Black Leopards are most commonly found in India and Malaya and do not seem at any disadvantage to their Spotted counterparts found in the same areas.

Black Panthers have similar hunting habits to the Spotted Leopards, in that they stalk or ambush their prey which consists of animals of any size from a Monkey or Dog to a Deer. At the Zoo our adult Panthers are fed about 4lbs. of lean horse meat each per day, except Friday. In addition they are also fed quantities of fowl and rabbits which add the essential roughage to their diet.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

As many of our readers will know, there is a serious outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in this country at the present time, particularly in Cheshire, and since the 26th November the Zoo has been closed to the public as a precaution against the disease.

This is the first time in its history that the Zoo has been closed and we hope we will be successful in avoiding this terrible epidemic.



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