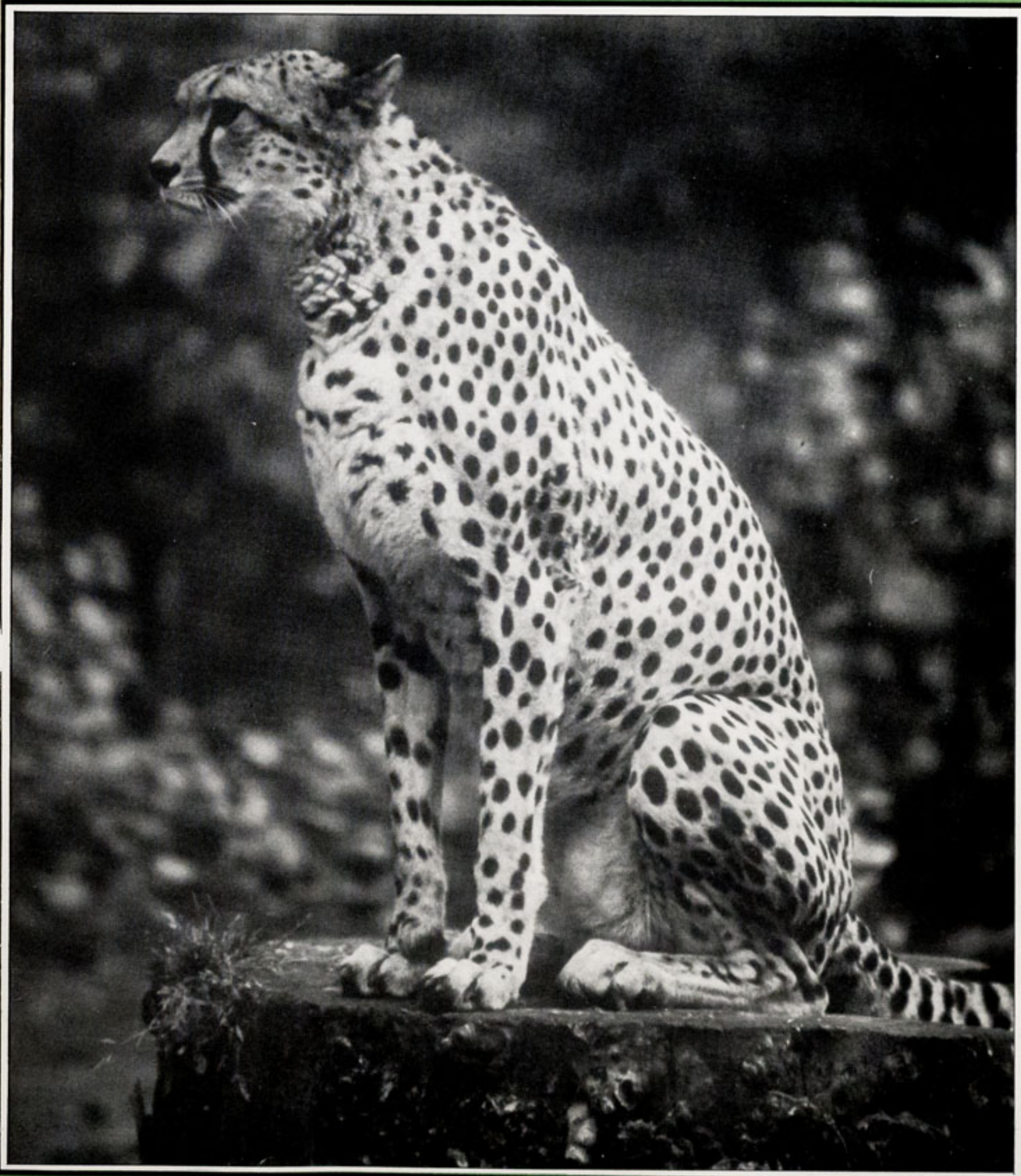


# CHEZ NOUS



CHESTER ZOO NEWS

SPRING 1983



# Welcome to 'Chez Nous'

Chez Nous, our house magazine, has grown out of the Chester Zoo News. Two years ago, faced with rising costs, we took the stiff cover off the Zoo News, and in doing so, reverted to the practice of earlier days. Although many people welcomed the new format, many of our readers complained. They did not like the size, they found it difficult to bind, some found it too light-hearted, some too high-brow. We were left feeling we did not know who our readers were nor what they wanted.

The first difficulty we were facing was that we were selling the Zoo News in the Zoo to people who had not seen it before and might not see it again, so each number had to be self-contained. We were also selling a considerable proportion to subscribers who would be bored by too much repetition. In the old days our subscribers paid for and got twelve maps of the Zoo forming the centre spreads and did not complain! Many of our readers were Members of the North of England Zoological Society and could have expected Membership news, but then many were not Members and to make things worse, many Members did not subscribe to the Zoo News magazine. Thus we had a journal which was trying to be all things to all people but satisfied no one group in its entirety.

If we made the Zoo News the house magazine which went to all Members, if we encouraged subscribers to take an even greater interest in the Zoo by becoming Associates, we would not only create an identifiable readership, but we would also have the one thing the Society lacked, a regular medium for communicating with our Members and for them to communicate with each other.

There are so many people who want to be involved in the Zoo but who do not feel that they should be Members, or cannot be Members, that we decided to take the provision in the Society's rules for having Associates. For example, people who live a long way away and can only visit once a year at the most, or young people not old enough to be full Members, but who want to be involved.

Associates can buy tickets at discount, and will receive 'Chez Nous' the Chester Zoo News. They will get other privileges as well. We felt it important to keep the price of Associate Membership down and because of this we did not feel it wise to add into the subscription the cost of free entry. The Associate Members are being asked to pay £5.00 a year if they are over eighteen years old and £2.50 if they are under eighteen.

We would like to build up the Associate Membership until it is numbered in thousands, all ambassadors for Chester Zoo and amongst whom we hope will emerge people prepared and able to organise the Membership's activities so that the Society can blossom as famously as the flowers in our wonderful gardens.

The monthly format is too small to do all that we would like to do with it in each issue so we have made it a quarterly, and can assure you that the saving on postage has enabled us to plan the new magazine as a much more interesting journal than before. 'Chez Nous' has all the news about Chester Zoo where you can feel at home and rightly think of it as 'chez nous'.

*Serval—Courtesy of Liverpool Daily Post and Echo*

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### Editorial Team

Penny Rudd	<i>Editor</i>
Dr M R Brambell	<i>Zoo Director</i>
Bella Neate	<i>Education Officer</i>
M F Coupe	<i>Public Relations Officer</i>

### Cover Photograph:

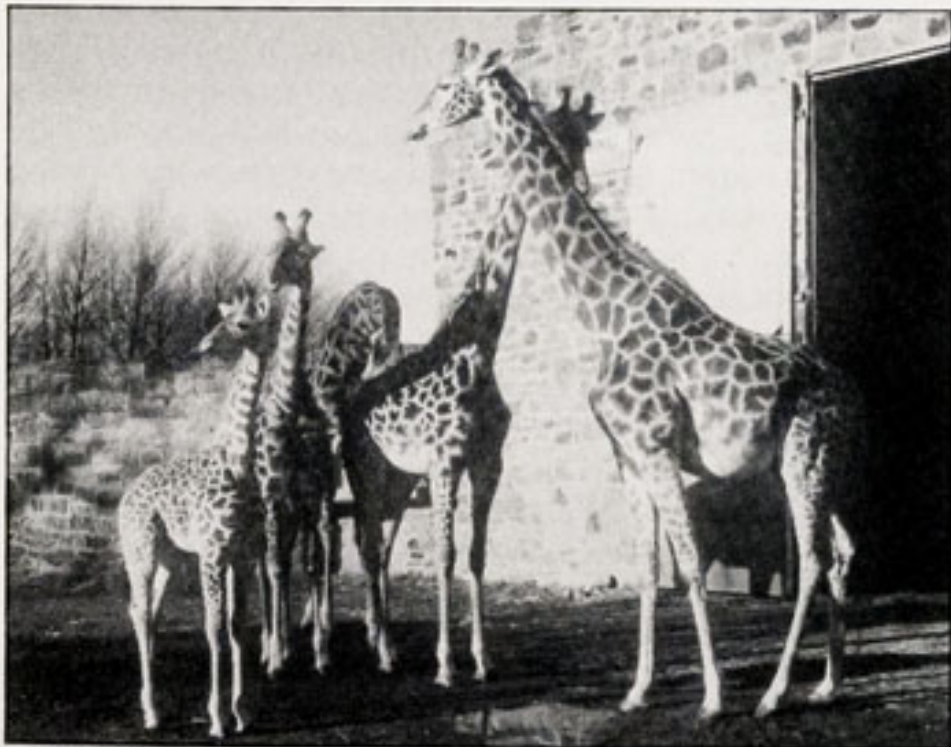
Cheetah—*Courtesy of J Whitworth Esq.*

## Future Direction of Zoos

When the modern kind of scientific zoo started, for the most part in the early part of the last century, it was to show as many kinds of living animal as possible. Carcasses and skins were coming back to Europe from all over the world and it was obvious that some very weird and wonderful animals lived in faraway places. The problem was that it was very, very difficult to imagine what sort of animals they were when all that was at hand was a dried piece of skin or a body pickled in spirits. Even today, the zoology undergraduate whose first experience of a dogfish is a stiff leathery lump, stinking of formalin, lying on the dissecting board, can be forgiven being baffled as to how such a thing could swim and feed and breed more of its own kind.

Far better than preserving the dead tissues would be to send the animals back alive so that the anatomists could dissect fresh material, and so more and more zoological explorers began to dispatch their catches back home while still alive. However, as soon as they arrived there was a conflict of interest, between the anatomists who dominated nineteenth-century zoology and who wanted to get their hands on the wealth of material these living animals contained, and the more romantic who wanted to keep them alive.

The compromise was the nineteenth-century zoo, where the animals could be looked at while still alive and available for immediate dissection once they died. As the century progressed, the anatomists had fewer and fewer needs as they filled in the gaps in their knowledge. The living branches of zoology had not yet fully taken root so there was not yet the demand to study the living animals, so the zoo became more of a place of public entertainment.



The Giraffe was first bred in Peking in the 18th Century and began to breed at London Zoo in 1839.

*Courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

In those days, with many species, it was a great feat to get these animals to survive more than a few weeks or months, but gradually things improved and animals such as giraffes and lions were surviving and breeding in reasonable numbers in zoos. On the other hand, animals like gorillas quickly died after arriving at the zoos. More and more attention was placed on feeding, although it has only been in the last twenty-five years that the nutritional requirements of wild animals have begun to be properly understood.



The Onager—a desert animal.  
*Courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

At the same time it became clear that the social and behavioural life of the animals was important to their well-being. Gradually these improvements came together and breeding successes began to become commonplace in many species. With nothing so popular as an animal with young, zoos felt it important to keep breeding pairs and to keep them in enclosures where they could behave reasonably normally.

Of course there were mistakes and failures; the most common being to sell the offspring of a successful pair and keep the parents until the day they were too old to go on breeding and there was no replacement to hand except from the wild. Nevertheless it has only been since 1964 in this country that there has been a serious hindrance to finding replacements from the wild. Since 1964 when the Animals (Restriction of Importation) Act came into force, there have been enormous changes in the legislative environment zoos are in.

The supply of animals from the wild has largely dried up. Films and television were providing the public with a new experience with animals. It began to look as if the zoo as an idea was on the way out. Indeed, many people who have not fully appreciated the position still feel that zoos are things of the past.

It seemed ironic that just as we were beginning to really understand how to keep animals in zoos so that they thrived and could produce generation after generation of offspring, the need for such knowledge would disappear. It was as if the last steam engines to be built for the railways had solved all the great problems of steam traction, only to be rendered obsolete by the diesel engine.



The Ring-tailed Lemur. Chester already has several breeding groups of this attractive animal.  
*Photographs courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

It is true that the zoo where animals are kept so that only as many varieties as possible can be shown, is a thing of the past. Zoos built on such lines are having to rejig themselves so that they can fulfil the role that the very factors which were killing them have made it imperative they survive.

For an enormous range of animals, their habitats are being lost to competition from man, whose population is expanding so fast that all suitable land is being taken into agriculture. The plains of India, China and Africa are supporting people now, when only a hundred years ago they were still able to support herds of wildlife. The rain forests of Africa, South America and South-East Asia are coming down in as many years as it took centuries for them to become established. In Europe and North America the larger species of wildlife have been driven off the fertile land and are now either extinct or only surviving in captivity. The deserts are not safe. The oryxes, the gazelles, the addax, the wild asses and onagers, the wild camels and the birds of the desert are all under enormous pressure.

The Dodo, the Quagga, the Solitaire, the Great Auk, the Passenger Pigeon, the Carolina Parakeet, the Tasmanian Wolf, and Stellers Sea Cow have all disappeared. By the end of this century it is likely that there will be no Rhinoceroses left in the wild except possibly the Southern White Rhinoceros, the Great Ape may last another twenty years more in the wild. Thousands of island species and thousands of rain forest species will probably have lost their homes. Migrant birds may lose stop-over places and be unable to complete their life-cycles. The trickle of extinction will become a torrent as wildlife reserves are overwhelmed by the demands of land-hungry people in politically unstable countries. Even in 1982 there was bloodshed over the last little bit of protected wetland for

miles around in the great Indian plain when wardens failed to turn back cattle grazers from the tiny reserve at Bharatpur. The African reserves are being encroached upon, elsewhere reserves appear to be little more than places marked on maps.

The zoologist knows that the tide against wildlife survival is still flowing. He hopes the tide will turn before everything is swamped, but he knows that much will be lost in the meantime. He also has the knowledge to keep a nucleus of many of the species which would otherwise be lost, and he has the means to do so, in the zoological and botanical gardens of the world.

Our job is to get our zoos to alter course to meet this demand. We know we can do it, but we need to persuade our public and our government as well as persuade ourselves. After all, in less than twenty years the last few Arabian Oryx were taken from the wild in Arabia, brought together at Phoenix Zoo, Arizona and nurtured back to a viable World Herd, which is now sending animals back to the Arabian peninsula. In less than ten years the Golden Lion Tamarin of Brazil has been husbanded in several zoos, under the guidance of the Washington Zoo, so that it is no longer about to die out but has now multiplied sufficiently for a restocking programme to be undertaken in Brazil. The Cheetah which had never bred in captivity before the middle of the nineteen fifties, is now being put back into the wild in hundreds in South Africa.

Unfortunately, these are the easy cases, where there are areas of the wild left which can support reintroductions. For many species it is more likely to be one or two hundred years before the wild is ready to take them, for it will take our own species that long to get its own population under control.

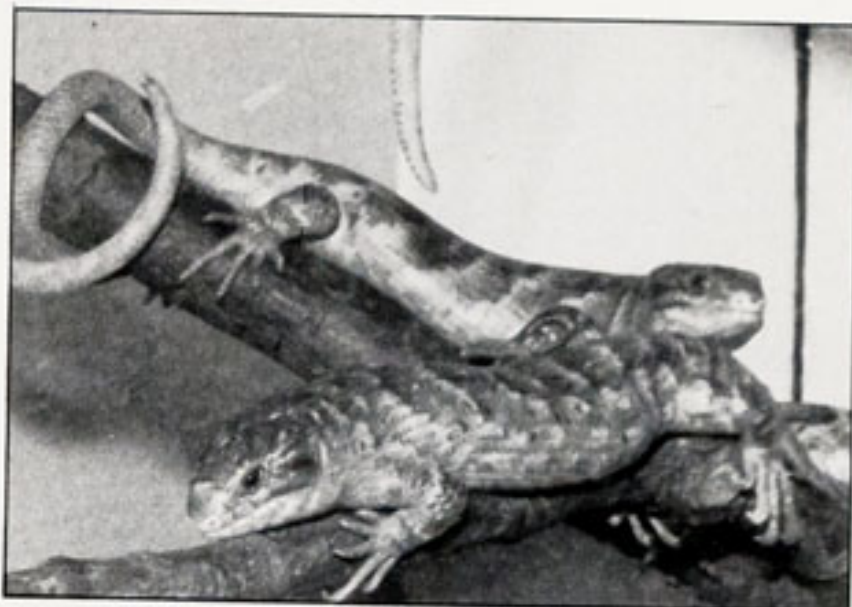
The role of zoos in the next few decades is not only to continue to awaken the interest of their visitors in animals but also to provide the refuges for the dwindling populations of wildlife, so that breeding from generation to generation can be guaranteed. The enclosures may look the same, but the emphasis will change. Instead of one cage containing Blue-eyed Cockatoos, there will be four and the public will have to have the reason explained



The Blue-eyed Cockatoo from New Britain. An island species.  
Courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

to them. The numbers of monkey in the Monkey House will be roughly the same as it has always been but there will be fewer kinds kept, so there will be several groups of Ring-tailed Lemur, of Lion-tailed Macaque, of Talapoin and of Black-faced Spider Monkey, as well as perhaps another four or five species. Many of the groups will be managed in conjunction with other zoos.

The change-over will be slow. It takes a long time to build up new species, and many of the species needing help are not at present at Chester Zoo. New stock has to be assembled out of the surpluses of other zoos, the problems of settling into a new environment have to be identified and solved.

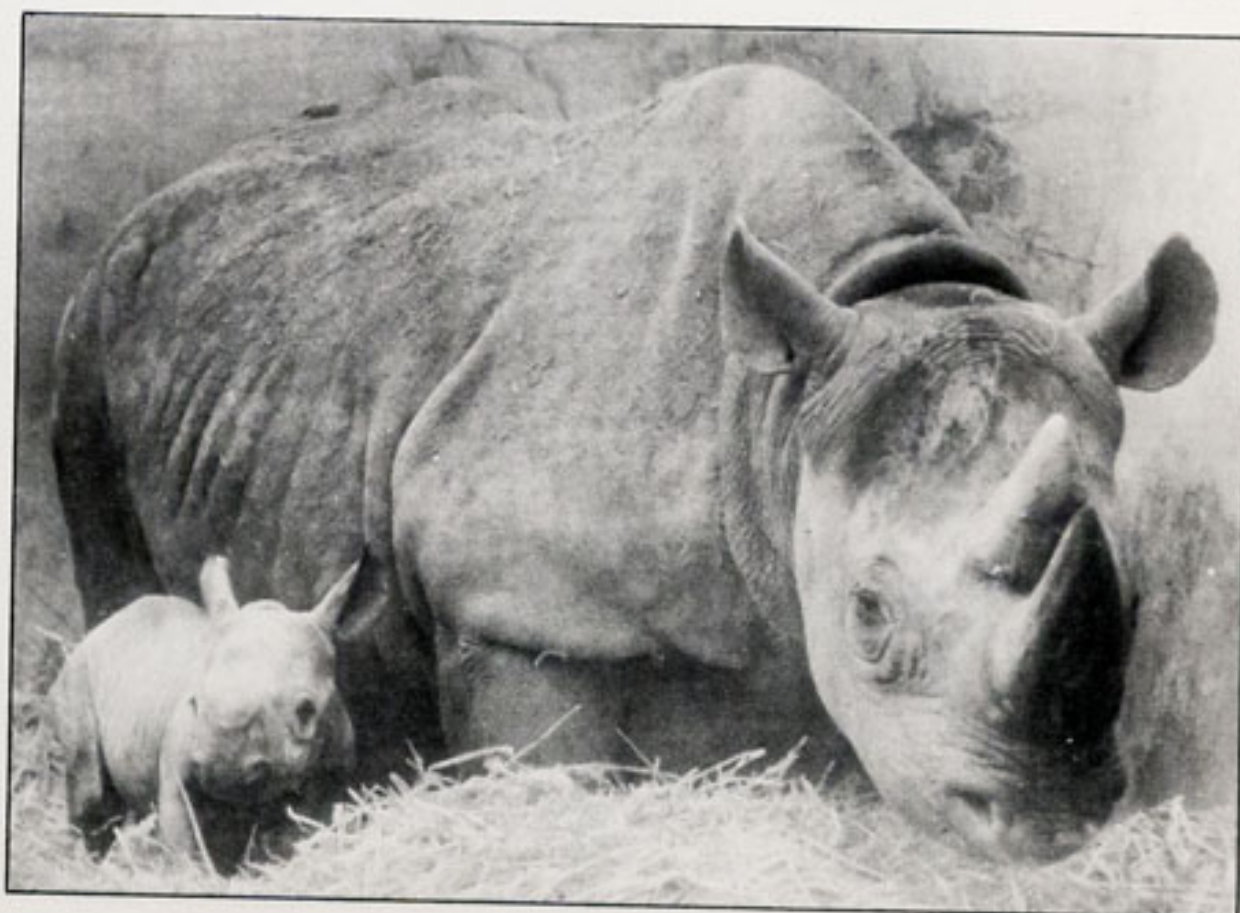


The Solomon Island Skink is an example of an island species threatened by extinction. Chester were the pioneers of captive breeding in this species.  
Courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

At Chester we are looking at the problems faced with each species we keep or could keep and we expect to build on our past successes until every single species at the zoo is included in a successful management programme, even if in some cases it is only to keep the reserve males from a breeding group living in another zoo.

Of course it will help us to receive financial help from Members and friends, but what zoos really need in this country is a change of attitude in the population at large, so that we do not have to squeeze our conservation role on top of everything else we do in order to survive ourselves. Instead, the conservation role should become the accepted norm of what the zoo of the future is about. For a start, conservation of things as delicate as endangered species ought to be getting the same sort of attention as to the living arts, they are both parts of our very precious heritage.

Dr M R Brambell  
Zoo Director



Black Rhinoceros—This animal was wiped out in Uganda during the Amin regime.  
Courtesy of Liverpool Daily Post and Echo



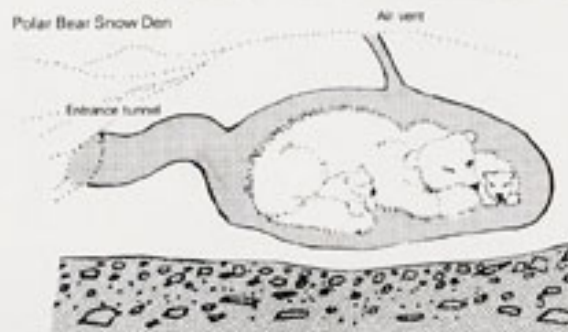
Um ... not a bad day I suppose

The Daily Mirror



Keith Freeburn

I wonder what is in here?



# CHEERS!



Bother! It's empty

Keith Freeburn

This is my seal impression (maybe the barrel wasn't empty after all!)

Let's go and see if there is anything going on...



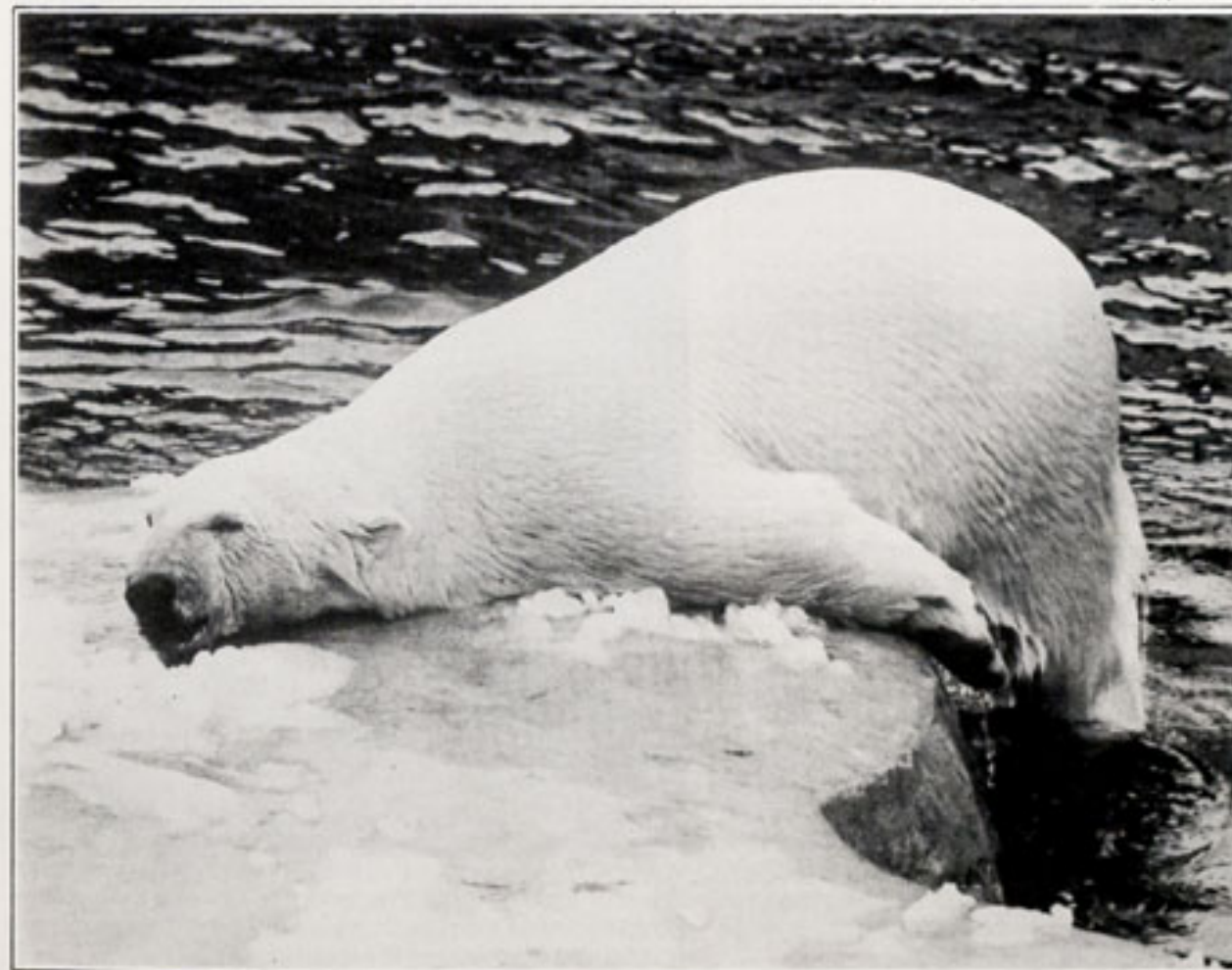
The Daily Mirror

In the wild, at the onset of Arctic winter in about October, a pregnant Polar Bear will make a den under the snow. Here she remains with her cubs, which are born in early December, for 4 months.

Polar Bear Paw



Polar Bears' paws have hairy soles to insulate them against the cold of the ice and to give them grip.



Keith Freeburn

# Cheetah and Serval

On some of the original seven acres of Chester Zoo, purchased with the Oakfield House in 1931, are two recently redesigned paddocks made to accommodate Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and Serval (*Felis serval*).

Cheetah have been kept at Chester since 1955, and in this area of the Zoo for a number of years, but have never bred. Servals have been kept since 1973 and have bred at the Cat House on two occasions but the idea of keeping them outside in an open area is comparatively new.

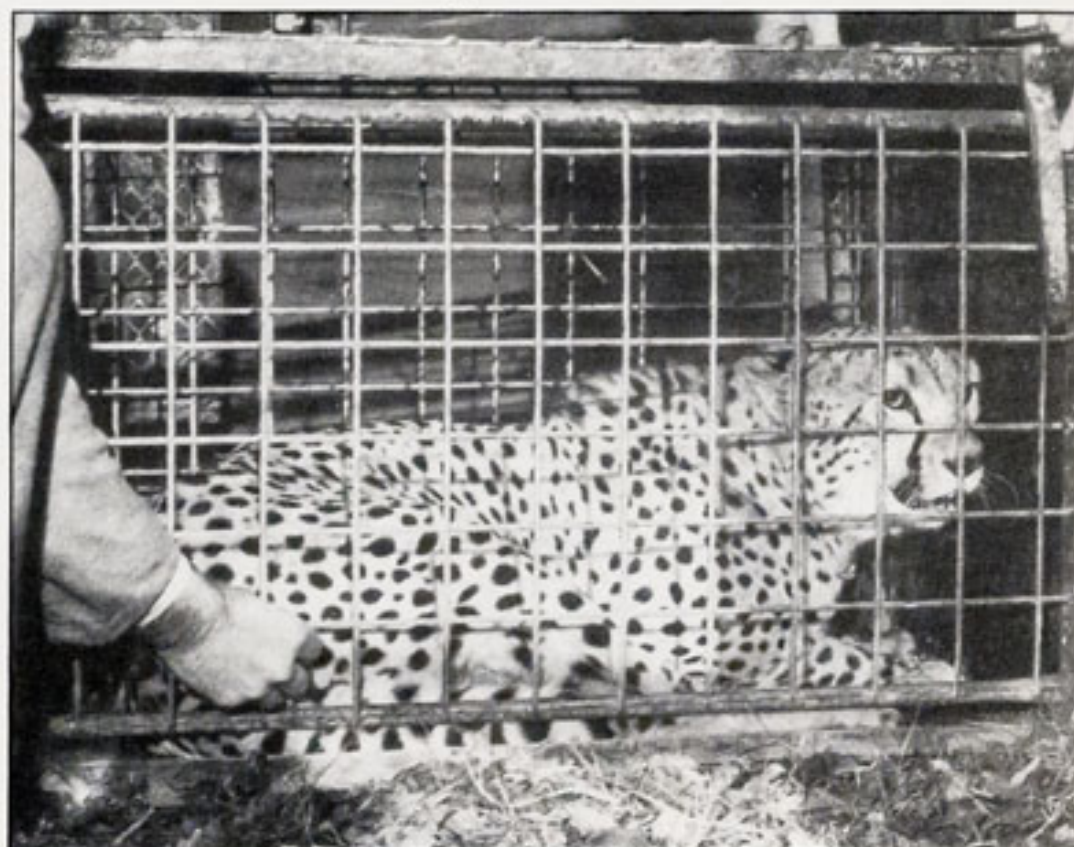
Cheetahs, now an endangered species, were once distributed across all of Africa and south-west Asia but now exist in only small pockets in Asia and in eastern and south-western Africa. The Cheetah, sometimes called the hunting leopard, catches its prey by speed, having first located it from a raised vantage point. It is a superb runner capable of speeds up to 70 miles per hour (110 kilometres per hour) but seldom sprints more than 440 yards (400 metres) in pursuance of its prey. Cheetahs primarily hunt in daylight although they tend to favour the cooler parts of the day for this purpose and will frequently hunt in pairs or family groups. Rapid energy loss through the effort needed in a chase soon leads to exhaustion which means the Cheetah must quickly kill its prey or wait for another opportunity. Prey usually consists of the smaller antelope such as gazelle, impala and waterbuck but they will occasionally kill zebra and gnu and also take smaller rodents and birds. To overcome its prey, the Cheetah knocks the animal off balance with its front paws and immediately bites the throat and not relaxing the grip, severs the jugular vein or windpipe. They differ from all other cats in having non-retractable claws.



All cats except the Cheetah can retract their claws into their paws. This keeps them protected and sharp. They become a formidable weapon when extended.

After mating, the male Cheetah stays with the female for a considerable time, often until the young are born and will help to raise the family. The cubs are born blind, after a gestation period of 90 to 95 days, their eyes opening when they are a little over a week old and they are able to walk when about a fortnight old. The young are born a darker colour than the adults and have light grey mane extending from the neck along the back. Many of the cubs fail to survive, becoming prey to predators such as leopard, hyena and hunting dogs when following the parents on hunts.

Our pair were both born at Whipsnade Zoo but up until the present time have shown no inclination to breed here. Whipsnade are one of the few zoos to have been successful in breeding these cats and in a recent example of zoo co-operation, Whipsnade exchanged males with us in an attempt to persuade our female to breed but all that has happened so far is that the male



Every year our cats need to be inoculated against feline enteritis and 'cat' flu. In order to accomplish this successfully, the cat has to be confined.

Here the Cheetah is caught up in a 'crush-crate'. Inside the crate is a sliding door which is used to hold the Cheetah steady.



we sent to Whipsnade has bred with one of their females! We still live in hope. We feed our Cheetahs on a four-pound joint of meat each daily with added vitamins and frequently young fowl for roughage.

The Serval is a medium-sized cat growing to about three feet in length (90 centimetres) with a tail of a little over twelve inches (30 centimetres) long. The range of the Serval covers most of Africa apart from the Sahara. Its slender build and large ears give it a highly alert appearance and its long legs suggest that it sprints rather like the Cheetah. However, unlike the Cheetah,

the Serval prefers bush country, long grass and reeds, especially near water, as a hunting ground. It hunts a wide variety of prey such as rodents, hyraxes, small antelope, guinea fowl and francolin. It will catch birds on the wing using the front paws. The Serval is an adept climber although seldom uses this ability unless as a means of escape or occasionally to capture a roosting bird.

After a gestation period of 72-75 days, two to four young are born in a short burrow or grass mound. The Serval frequently uses an old porcupine or armadillo den for this purpose. The young are born blind, the eyes opening at about ten days old and they will venture from the den at around four weeks old.

The pair of Servals exhibited at Chester were both bred here from imported stock being quarantined at the Zoo. As they are related we are intending exchanging females with Jersey Zoo in the near future. Their food in the Zoo consists of meat with vitamins, with chicken and rats as an extra.

Peter A Wait  
Curator of Mammals

## 'Snippets'

Recently our switchboard at the Zoo received a rather frantic telephone call from a lady living in a village not far from the Zoo. With some difficulty our switchboard operator managed to establish that the cause of concern was the fact that the lady could see 'a large black chimpanzee swinging from the tree at the bottom of her garden!' The call was duly transferred to Peter Wait, the Curator of Mammals who heard the lady's husband confirm that he had been into the garden and seen the chimp, which had moved in the day before from a tree next door.

Although none of our chimps were missing the couple pleaded that we came out to deal with the 'chimp' so Peter Wait took a Keeper with him to investigate. He found the occupants were too frightened to leave their bedroom window and venture into the garden. Carefully approaching the area of the garden where the 'chimp' could be seen he found that there was indeed a large black object swinging in the tree, but no, it was not a chimpanzee. It was a large plastic dustbin liner which had been blown into the tree in the recent high winds!

The unfortunate occupants of the house were more than a little embarrassed to say the least and were so apologetic for having brought the zoo staff out to recapture a plastic bag. It just shows what a vivid imagination can do when you have in the back of your mind that there is a world famous zoo in the district.

\* \* \* \* \*

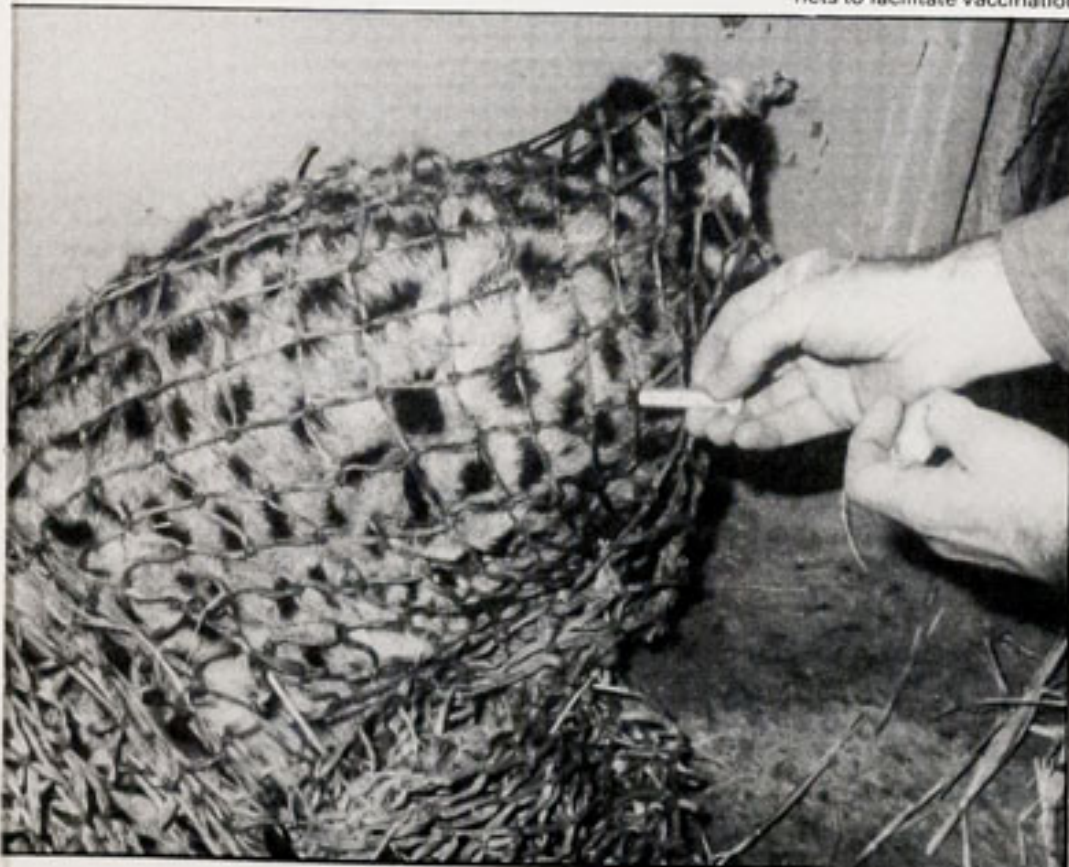
When passing by the Beaver (a noted vegetarian) Pool recently, one of our staff overheard a young child who was with a school party exclaim to his teacher, 'Look Miss, see those large goldfish, what are they doing in there?' 'What do you think?', she replied, 'they are the beaver's supper'!! An educational visit!??.

\* \* \* \* \*



Once secure, the Vet, Mr. Derek Lyon, injects the Cheetah with the 'felifu' vaccine. The whole process takes only a few minutes.

An alternative method for smaller cats such as Servals, is to catch them up in strong nets to facilitate vaccination.



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

## Membership News

Happy New Year! All Members are reminded that subscriptions were due on the 1st January 1983.

There have been no Members' Meetings in January and the following is a list of Meetings to be held in the Russell Allen Lecture Hall:—

**Saturday 19th February at 2.30 p.m.**

'ANTARCTICA'—by Mr Julian Taylor Chief Executive with the Manchester Ship Canal Company.

**Saturday 12th March at 2.30 p.m.**

'MAPPING THE DISTRIBUTION OF INSECTS IN CHESHIRE'—by Mr Ian Rutherford.

**Wednesday 30th March at 7.45 p.m.**

'BIRDS OF PREY'—by Michael Coupe, *Public Relations Officer at Chester Zoo.*

**Saturday 9th April at 12.30 p.m.**

Buffet Lunch—Oakfield Restaurant.

**2.30 p.m.**

'CHESTER ZOO—A REVIEW'—by Dr M R Brambell, *Chester Zoo Director.*

**Please note: This is a change of date.**

**Saturday 21st May at 3.30 p.m.**

Provisional date set for the 'ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING'.

## Junior Members' Meetings

**Saturday 5th February at 2.00 p.m.**

BIRD BOX SCHEME—Meet at the Oakfield Restaurant to place nesting boxes in the Zoo grounds, lead by Mr M Coupe.

**Saturday 5th March at 9.00 a.m.**

COLWYN BAY ZOO TRIP—lead by Mr Peter Wait. Zoo Minibus will be leaving the Staff Entrance and returning at about 5.00 p.m.

**Saturday 16th April at 10.30 a.m.**

EASTHAM COUNTRY PARK—Mr Carl Marshall, the Park Warden will give a conducted tour of the park. Returning to the Zoo Staff Car Park at around 4.30 p.m.

**Saturday 7th May at 11.00 a.m.**

WILDLIFE CENSUS—Meet at the Oakfield Restaurant to begin a tour listing all the various bird species which inhabit the Zoo and farm and note butterflies and such like, lead by Mr Coupe.

**Saturday 25th June at 10.30 a.m.**

SANDSTONE TRAIL—this will be a walk along two sections of the Sandstone Trail in Cheshire with the minibus dropping us off at one point and collecting us at another at the end of the day. Penny Rudd will lead the trip returning to the Zoo around 5.30 p.m.

Please address queries about

Senior Member Meetings to Mrs M McNally and Junior Member Meetings to Mrs Penny Rudd.  
Chester Zoo, North of England Zoological Society, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH. Tel: Chester (0244) 380280

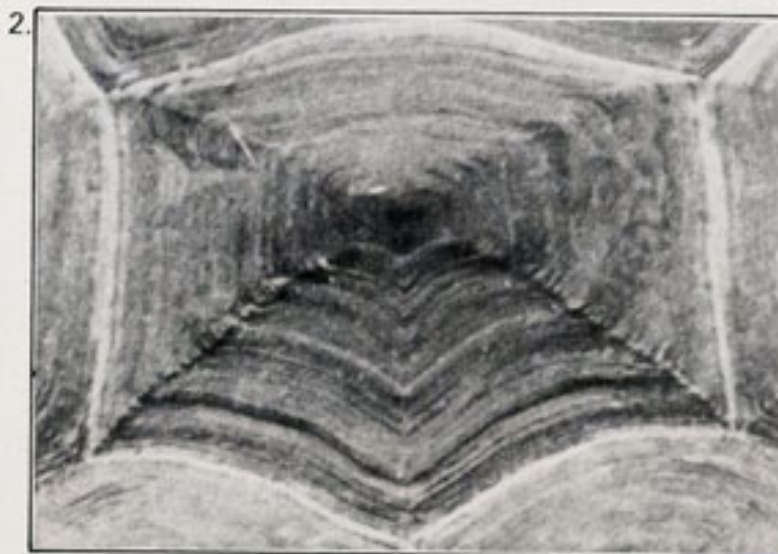


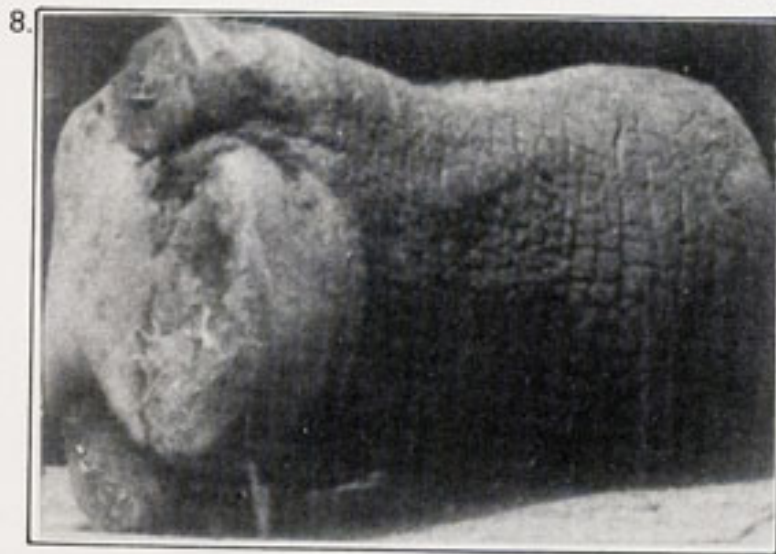
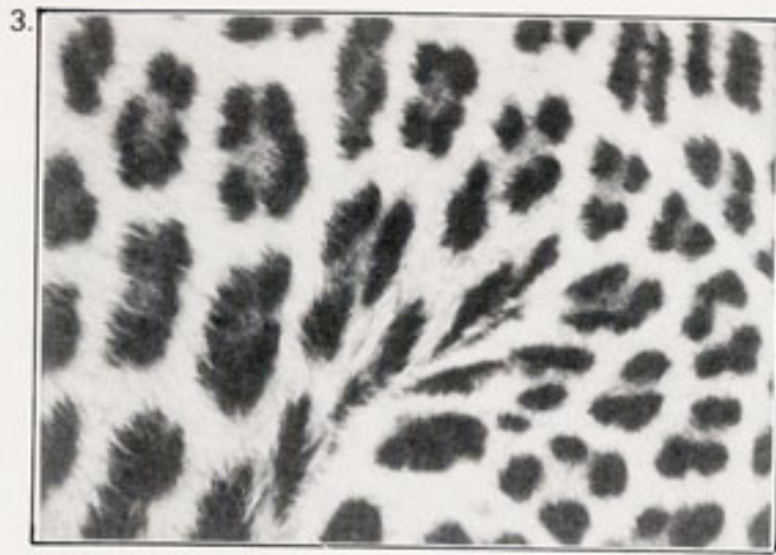
JuNews is also a new venture and is designed with our Junior Members in mind. We would like to know what you would like to see on your page, and therefore would welcome any contributions, so drop us a line.

To start the section off, we thought we would have an animal photo quiz of 12 animals which are found or will be found in the Zoo this year. Using the clues provided see if you can name the animals in the photos, some are not easy. The answers are hidden in the magazine, but do not peek until you have finished. Have fun!

### Clues

1. It is *tapered* at one end.
2. A slow coach.
3. A big pussy.
4. A wise guy from the Arctic.
5. These never forget.
6. A coming attraction.
7. The unwrapped biscuit variety.
8. This one is very horny.
9. A tall boy. No it is not E.T.!
10. A Snake, or is it?
11. Tarzan's pal.
12. A prickly pair.





# The Departure of Mr Peter Stevens

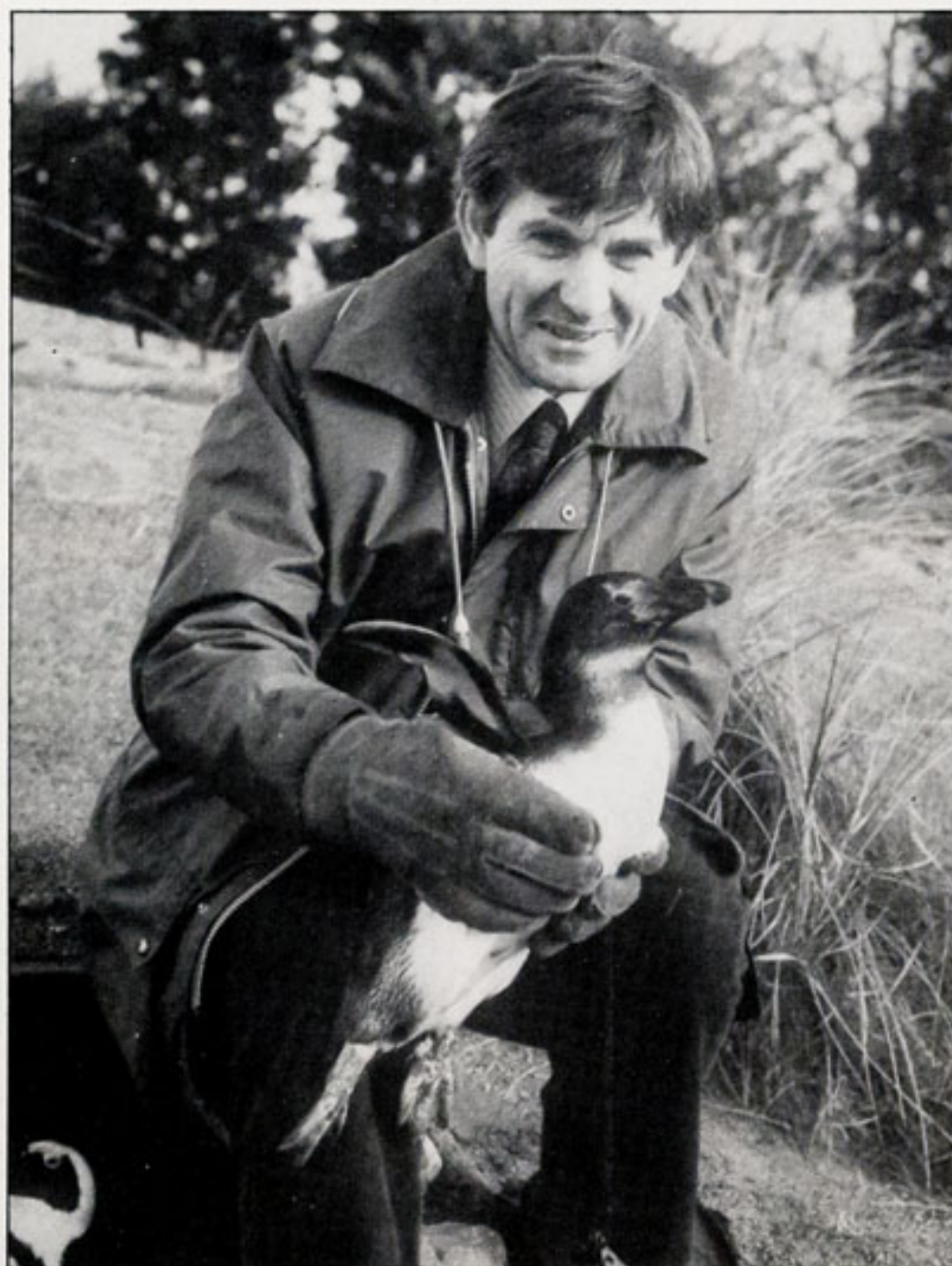
## Curator of Birds & Reptiles

Peter Stevens is leaving Chester Zoo at the end of January to become the new Director of Paignton Zoo in Devon. Paignton Zoo is owned and run by the Herbert Whitley Trust, a charitable organisation dedicated particularly to zoo education and conservation and it owns a wildlife reserve at Slapton Ley.

With his experience at Chester Zoo coupled with his experience as Director of the Norfolk Naturalist Trust, Peter is ideally qualified for his new job. We wish him every success and look forward to a closer co-operation between Paignton and Chester.

Although he has only been here for three years, Peter Stevens has already made a substantial mark on the zoo world. Many of the improvements in the bird collection will not be showing fruit until after he has gone, but through his drive we now have the best penguin exhibit in the country, already with three young penguins showing themselves off as evidence that the pool and its enclosure were correctly designed. The flamingoes have yet to breed but their pool is vastly better than what went before.

Peter will very much be missed at Chester but I am sure that he and Vicky will always be remembered with gratitude and affection for the part they played in the Zoo and with the Cheshire Conservation Trust.



Peter Stevens with some of the young Penguins hatched at Chester this year.  
Courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

Dr M R Brambell  
Zoo Director

## Arrivals and Births

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 Chimpanzee ( <i>Pan troglodytes</i> )                | Birth                       |
| 5 Cuban Boas ( <i>Epicrates angulifer</i> )            | Birth                       |
| 1 Pair Lion-tailed Macaque ( <i>Macaca silenus</i> )   | On deposit from Bristol Zoo |
| 3 Crested Curassow ( <i>Crax fasciolata sclateri</i> ) | On deposit from Bristol Zoo |
| 1 Puff Adder ( <i>Ditis arietans</i> )                 | Presented                   |

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1 Lance-headed Snake ( <i>Bothrops species</i> )        | Presented |
| 1 Black-tailed Rattlesnake ( <i>Crotalus molossus</i> ) | Presented |

### Answers to Photo quiz on Page 11

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Tapir, South American.        | 7. Penguin, black-footed.       |
| 2. Tortoise, giant Aldabra.      | 8. Rhinoceros, black.           |
| 3. Leopard.                      | 9. Giraffe.                     |
| 4. Owl, snowy.                   | 10. Lizard, monitor.            |
| 5. Elephants, African and Asian. | 11. Chimpanzee.                 |
| 6. Bats, Rodrigues fruit.        | 12. Porcupine, African crested. |