

Kabul Zoo Activity & New updates Report 2012-2013

Aziz Gul Saqib*

Kabul Zoo has undergone another transformation in recent months, thanks to our Mayor and Dy Mayor, other municipal officers and workers, donations from other countries and of course input and hard work by our zoo staff.

Starting with the smallest creatures, the completion of bird cages block with 16 rooms. The block and room have been constructed to replace the old cages which were in very poor condition.

The design of this block was developed after observing the bird enclosures at Mysore Zoo, India.

The new rooms take into account varying weather condition of Kabul City. Each room has green areas, shelter, and a safe wooden place.

The new bird areas were constructed by Maintenance Dept of Kabul Municipality.



Above :
Old and somewhat dreary enclosures prevented visitors from fully appreciating the lovely birds.



Right and bottom :
new cages with increased visibility for visitors, more comfortable environmental conditions for the birds



Cape Hare
(*Lepus capensis*)



*Director, Kabul Zoo,
Afghanistan. Email:
azizsaqib1@yahoo.com

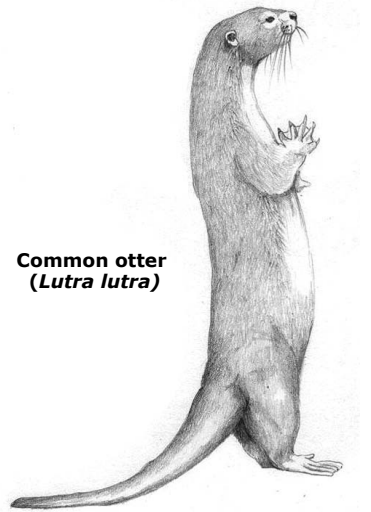


The green area (above) is designed in a way which looks like a natural environment for the birds which allow them to stay with complete ease and comfort. The area is covered by a net with 3.5 meters.

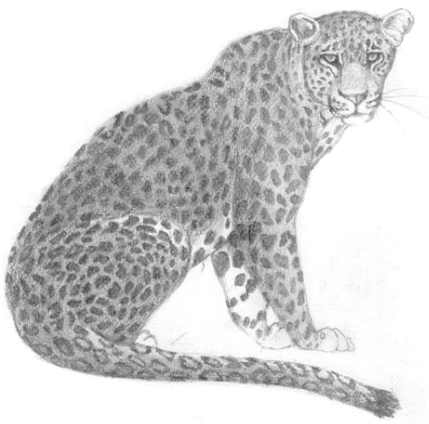
The flamingos (left) are enjoying their naturalistic home in the zoo.

Animal's room inside enclosures: Six winter rooms for animals and the new building of food store also has been completed.

A large theme room (not pictured) has been built for the big snakes inside the Kabul Zoo aquarium building. The room has features which are remindive of their natural habitat

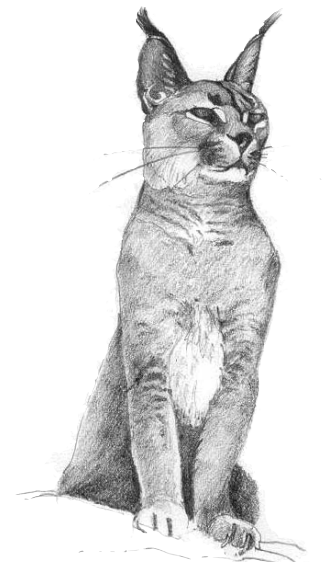


Common otter
(Lutra lutra)



Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)





Himalayan Lynx
(*Lynx lynx isabellina*)

A very large number of children from the kindergartens, students from schools and universities in Kabul have participated in study tours of the Kabul Zoo.

The public awareness section of the Kabul Zoo provided the kindergartens children, schools and universities students with training awareness about the importance of wildlife, prohibition of hunting, maintenance of parks.

During the last year 2012, as many as 30000 people visited the Zoo and they were provided with the guiding brochures.



Czech Republic's Embassy has given much assistance to Kabul Zoo, Embassy of Czech Republic donating 5000 USD to the Zoo for purchasing and installing security cameras.

This agreement was approved by Deputy Mayor for Service Delivery. A commission from Kabul Municipality is responsible for installing these cameras and allocated additional funds for the purpose.

Public Education is greatly enhanced by Kabul Zoo which has a fully stocked education building and an education officer who teaches students who come to Kabul Zoo as well as making visits to pass on this valuable information to students in schools throughout Kabul.

In Afghanistan 132 wild animal species were identified as being in danger of extinction.

Annually NEPA, the Ministry of Agriculture and Wildlife Institute of Afghanistan announce the exact numbers of species of wild animals in order to prevent the hunting. This information was publicly announced from the conference room of Kabul zoo and the director of the Zoo attended the press conference.

World Environment Day 5th of June 2012 was celebrated in Government Media Center by attendance of the Vice President, MPs and Senators, who at the end of the event stated that recent progress in revitalizing the Zoo was greatly appreciated.



Ms. Eshpitinka, Deputy Ambassador of Czech Republic and Director of Kabul Zoo.



Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*)

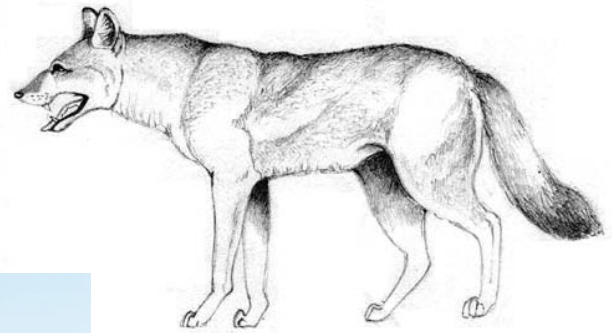


Award of Appreciation Letter by Prince Mustafa Zahir Head of NEPA to zoo director

Visitor's specification in year 2012

Children and aquarium visitors	199128
Adults	453699
Foreigners	386
School groups*	30000

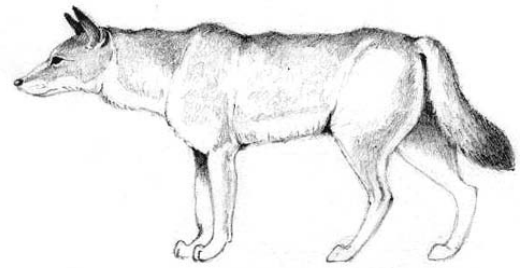
* The school groups were given free entry



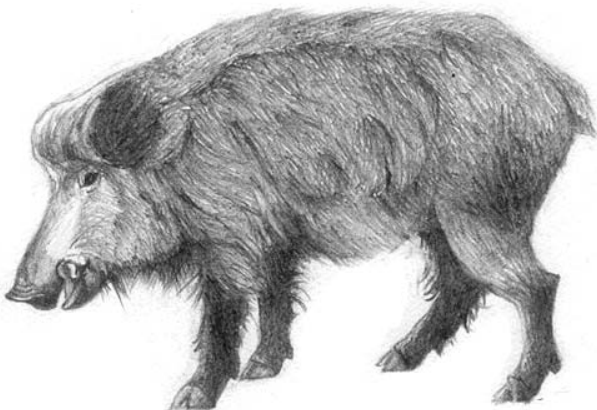
Afghan wolf - *Canis lupus*



The main building of zoo have a restaurant made by ECO project and now started service of food for visitors by name of (Marco Polo Restaurant) which the zoo had a restaurant by this name 46 years ago.



Afghan jackal - *Canis aureus*



Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*



Dr Jamshid Noori DVM treating the only one Pig of Kabul Zoo. He will be visiting India soon for training at the Arignar Anna Zoo sponsored by Chester Zoo.