

Zurich Zoo (Zooh!) opens new grande Asiatic Lion Enclosure from the Zurich Zoo English press release

As of March 29, 2007 lions of Zurich Zoo have been able to discover their new outdoor enclosure.

The new lion enclosure is an attractive habitat for the lions as well as being an interesting possibility for visitors to observe the animals and learn about its significance in Asian and African and world culture. The Indian lion lives in wooded areas as opposed to its jungle African cousin. Zurich Zoo has created different substrates such as earth, sand, pebbles, rocks, and foliage as well as the forest-like trees and shrubs to be discovered and used by the animals.

Lions like to lie around a lot and certainly much lying spaces at different heights and for different weather conditions are integrated into the new enclosure. Separation of the animals, as and when required can be done in the back of the enclosure which is not directly visible to visitors. All sections of the new enclosure are connected so that all animal husbandry functions can be done effectively and efficiently.

There is even a complex feeding system to challenge the lions in their hunt for prey. This involves irregular feeding hours, feed placed in boxes that can only be accessed at certain times, feed strung from trees, hidden feed portions as well as alternating large and small rations are all part of this system. Moreover, new stimuli will be placed in the enclosure continuously, i.e. in form of the scents of other animals (e.g. excrements, branches from other enclosures), herbs, spices, and essences (e.g. perfumes, pines treated with essential oils) or the traces of large chunks of feed that were dragged into the enclosure. All of these simple devices will keep the lions alert and flexible as zoo animals often become dull for lack of stimulation.

Information Center

A beautifully designed, researched and illustrated information centre on the history of the species is adjacent to the new lion enclosure at Zurich Zoo. Visitors will appreciate this 120 m² large information center. An exhibition of "Man and Lion - Relationship of Fear and Admiration" illustrates the interaction and emotional bond between lions and human beings — man's veneration of the lion, contempt for it and the

ZOO ZÜRICH

1 Züriberg Nr. 14 5. April 2007

Zoo eröffnet die neue Aussenanlage für die Löwen

Der alte Indische Löwe Bhagirath und seine junge Lebenspartnerin Joy haben die neue Aussenanlage des Löwengeheges bezogen. Auch die Menschen feiern.

Andreas J. Minor

Nun hoffen die Zooverantwortlichen auf ein Jungtier. «Dem unser Ziel ist es, eine ganze Löwenfamilie zu halten», verkündete Zoodirektor Alex Rübel an der Eröffnungsfeier vor Medienvertretern aus ganz Europa.

Den Indischen Löwen stehen in der für 7,5 Millionen Franken erstellten Anlage nun wesentlich mehr Platz zur Verfügung. Der Lebensraum wurde dem Vorbild des indischen Naturreservats Gir Forest nachempfunden und möglichst naturnah gestaltet. Lava, Sand, Kies und Fels sowie diverse Sträucher dazu verschiedene Liegeplätze sollen den Löwen einen angenehmen Aufenthalt im Zoo Zürich beschaffen. Auch bei der Fütterung geht der Zoo neue Wege. Ein komplexes System soll zusätzliche Futter für die Löwen entfallen. Doch Joy, die neue Löwin des Zoos, schallte am Festtag in einer Ecke. Ihr war alles noch etwas zu neu.

Der Zoo und die VRZ bieten exklusive Führungen und Transferfahrten mit indischen Mercedes ML und SL jeweils 17:30 Uhr und so 16:30 und 17:30 Uhr. Mehr Infos unter www.zoo-zuerich.ch.



Bhagirath, das betagte Indische Löwenmännchen, geniesst die neue 1700 Quadratmeter grosse Aussenanlage in vollen Zügen. Seine Lebenspartnerin Joy liess sich nicht blicken. «Sie ist verunsichert und braucht noch Zeit, um sich einzugewöhnen», meinte Kurator Robert Zingg. www.zoo-zuerich.ch



«Jetzt können wir Löwenfamilien halten»: Zoodirektor Alex Rübel.



Zoo-Verwaltungspräsident Martin Naville in Festtaune: «Es ist ein schöner Tag für den Zoo Zürich an diesem sonnigen Tag.»



Die engagierte Löwenschützerin Sally Walker vor dem Bild des verstorbenen, legendären Indischen Tierschützers Raval.



Da lässt sich gut dösen: Bhagirath beim Mittagsschlafchen in der Aussenanlage, die dem Naturreservat Gir Forest in Indien nachempfunden und vom Zürcher Landschaftsarchitekten Walter Vetsch konzipiert wurde.



Medienschaffende und Zoofachleute aus ganz Europa fanden sich letzten Donnerstag in Zürich zur Eröffnungsfeier ein.



Zoodirektor Alex Rübel übergibt Pradeep Khanna, Chef der Naturreservate in Gujarat, eine Ehrenurkunde für Verdienste im Löwenschutz.

threat of its extinction. The exhibition is largely focused on replica of 30,000-year old objects created by the cave dwellers of Hohlenstein-Stadel in what is now Europe, the original gold ring of an Ashanti King from Ghana in Africa, and a model landscape of the Gir Forest in India.

A gala opening was conducted on 28 March 2007 with a noon event for the press and an evening official opening for Zurich Zoo supporters and friends as well as interested citizenry. Earlier in the day the Zurich Zoo had organised a small but fascinating seminar for its staff

and significant persons from the past, present, future for Asiatic lion.

A highlight of these events was that Sri P. P. Raval, former Superintendent of Sakkarbaugh Zoo and DFO, Gir through several postings was publically honoured by a tribute describing his work and nature during the seminar and also during the gala opening for the public. The work of Raval was highlighted in the press as well. Also Director of Zurich Zoo presented a plaque of appreciation to the people and government of Gujarat. **More on the seminar and on Raval in subsequent issues.**