

REARING OF JARAK CUB ON BOTTLE FEEDING AT INDORE ZOO

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In 1995 at Indore Zoo a pair of hyenas aged approximately three years gave birth to a litter of cubs which subsequently was consumed by the mother. This year when a litter was born on 28 October 1996, zoo staff was prepared. Calculating the gestation period as ninety days, the male was separated two weeks prior to delivery. The cage of the female was covered with bamboo sheeting and a table used to simulate the entrance to a small cave.

After delivery, milk and goat's mutton was provided and in the evening the cubs could be observed suckling.

Close observation without disturbing the female revealed that the female continued to take care of the cubs until 4 November. On that date the female was observed attempting to take the cub and mutton together outside to the open lawn.

In order to prevent cold, dry grass was kept in one corner of the room. The female refused to use the dry grass but continued to move the two cubs and to catch up the third cub and the meat together in her mouth. It was clear that she wanted to shift the cubs but neither site, e.g. the open place near the cage or the "cave" -- prepared by zoo staff was acceptable to her.

Finally it was decided to separate the cubs from the mother. On 7th November the cubs were separated and their weight recorded as Cub A(male) - 700 gms., Cub B(male) 700 gms and Cub C (female) 600 gms.

The now orphan cubs were given to Girish Daigude for handrearing and the first milk was fed by dropper. Slowly, the cubs accepted bottle feeding. Three times a day 250 - 300 ml. milk was fed to the three cubs with ABDEC/LIV.52 syp and Osteocal Syp. On 10th and 14th November Cubs A and B expired.

The single cub left alive was lonely and crying so we brought two ordinary puppies and a kitten to keep with the hyena cub. The difference in age between the hyena and puppies was about one week. Now the quantity of milk was increased, along with 3 spoons Farex in 24 hours. A small area of 10 X 10 feet was prepared and covered by Murga Juli and all the baby animals played there together.

By 28 November about 300 ml milk mixture was being consumed. The weight of the hyena cub was 1 kg. On 3 December dentation started in the hyena cub. On 14 December 50 ml of beef soup was given to the hyena cub. On 17th December, eruption of 4 teeth on lower jaw and of canine teeth was observed.

At this time 250-300 ml milk was being given twice a day with 120 - 150 ml of beef soup in the evening. After the age of one month, it was noted that the hyena cub was walking in a peculiar manner.

The hyena cub was named Diane. She responded to the name at the age of two months and followed the voice of the keeper, Girish. Irruption of teeth was completed by 26 December and eruption of pre-molar was observed. Then a small piece of beef was given to the hyena cub which could tear the fiber by this time.

The hyena cub was allowed to play with the puppies, July and Jimmy, during the day in the open space and separated at night.

The photo was taken on 21 December.

I am thankful to all staff of the zoo for taking proper care in rearing of the hyena cub and keeping detailed records. Special thanks goes to Girish, Pratima Dubey, Sahayam and the whole team.



Girish Daigude, Keeper, Indore Zoo, with hand-reared hyena cubs and her pals, the puppies and kittens.

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