



# ZOO NEWS



NEWSLETTER | ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN | ALIPORE | OCTOBER 2023 TO DECEMBER 2023

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## From the Director's desk

Here is our latest edition of zoo news from October to December 2023. We are very happy to announce the success stories of captive breeding, animal adoption and various type of educational programmes and training programmes carried out for awareness generation and infrastructure development during the intervening period.

With Best Wishes to all.

Subhankar Sen Gupta, IFS  
CCF & Director  
Zoological Garden, Alipore

## New Born

The Zoological Garden, Alipore welcomed a number of new born members to the zoo during this period :

- One Blackbuck & one Brow-antlered deer fawn birth was observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2023 one Brow-antlered deer fawn birth was observed.
- In November, 2023 two number of fawns were born in the Brow-antlered deer family and one in Nilgai family.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023 birth of one number porcupette was observed.



## Zoo Educational & Training activities:

### \* 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2023 : "Swachhta Hi Seva"

Zoological Garden, Alipore organized "Swachhata hi seva" at Alipore Zoo campus on 1st October, 2023 at 10 a.m. Seventy-five (75) numbers of staffs from different section of zoo participated in various programmes like cleanliness drive, pledge taking, displaying banners on the theme - " Garbage Free India", T-shirt distribution among the daily sanitation workers and sweepers, sensitization of staffs and visitors.

### \* 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 : International Zookeeper Day

"International Zookeeper Day" was celebrated on 4th October, 2023 at Zoological Garden, Alipore along with Keepers and staffs .

### \* 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 : Wildlife Week

Wildlife Week was celebrated at Zoological Garden, Alipore through a seminar on the Current Year's theme of 'Conservation of Dolphin and Associated Aquatic Species-Controlling illegal trade in aquatic species' in presence of eminent speakers and guests from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, NGO-NEWS, students and zookeepers of this zoo, on 5th October, 2023. 75 numbers of Students Participated.

### \* 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 : Training Programme

A training programme was organised on 'Captive Management' for Zoo Keepers and Animal Attendants of ZGA and Harinalaya Mini Zoo, New Town.

### \* 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 : Free living animal survey

One day free living animal survey was carried out by 'Prakriti Samsad' and "Team Alipore Zoo"(Morning time Survey).

### \* 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2023 : Training Programme

A training programme was organised on 'Captive Management' for Zoo Keepers and Animal Attendants of Garchumuk Mini Zoo.

### \* 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 : Free living animal survey

One day free living animal survey was conducted by

'Prakriti Samsad' and "Team Alipore Zoo"(Night time Survey).

### \* 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 : Training Programme

The Range officer Trainees from Chandrapur Forest Academy of Administration Development and Management Chandapur, Maharashtra visited the Zoo and one day training programme on 'Zoo Management' and guided Zoo Visit was organised for them.

### \* 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 : Educational Programme for College

An educational Programme was organised for the students of Presidency University regarding management of animals and birds of Zoological Garden, Alipore.

### \* 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 : Educational Programme for School

Guided Zoo visit was organised by for 65 number of students of Dhalhara Primary School, Keshpur, Paschim Medinipur. The Zoo Educator, Zoo Biologist, Zoo Dietician explained the ongoing activities of the zoo on field.

### \* 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 : Educational Programme for School

Guided Zoo visit was organised for the students of Louis Braille Memorial School For the Sightless, Serampore, Hoogly under the supervision of Zoo Educator & Zoo Dietician.70 number of students took part in this programme.

### \* 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 : Workshop on Zoo Tourism

A workshop followed by guided Zoo visit was organised in collaboration with History Department of Kalyani University regarding 'Zoo tourism as a means of ex-situ conservation for animals and its historical importance'. Total 75 number of Students and Teachers from PG departments of Kalyani University, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal State University participated in this programme.

## Other Programmes

### \* 19th & 20th October, 2023 : Health Checkup Camp for zoo employees

Two days medical health check up camp was organised for the staffs of Zoological Garden, Alipore in collaboration with Kothari Medical Centre, Kolkata.

### \* 10th December 2023 : Inauguration of Infrastructure facilities in zoo

A Programme attended by HMIC UD & MA and Mayor KMC Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble MP Kolkata (South) Mrs. Mala Roy, Hon'ble MoS Forest, Smt. Birbaha Hansda, PCCF & HoFF, Sri Niraj Singhal and other dignitaries was held.

The following infrastructure facilities for the Zoological Garden, Alipore were inaugurated :

1. Distribution of 2 animal ambulances, 10 battery operated carts under the MPLAD Scheme of Smt. Mala Roy, Hon'ble MP, Kolkata (South).
2. Inauguration of new animal enclosures & other facilities
3. Inauguration of modified white tiger enclosure under SBI CSR Scheme.
4. Souvenir shop selling different items with branding of ZGA .

## Veterinary Activities

Besides regular veterinary care and management for our zoo, following diagnostic and therapeutic measures were executed during this period (October, 2023 - December, 2023) :

- Theileriosis management in Nilgai
- Morphometric analysis of 2 nos Aldabra Giant Tortoise
- Pneumonia management in a Russell's viper snake with post recovery survey radiography.
- Sub-fertility diagnosis of Lion through hormone estimation and vaginal cytology followed by therapeutic management.
- Diagnosis of Proventricular Dilatation Disease in a Great Green Macaw.
- Orthopaedic disease diagnosis in birds through skigram.
- Microbiological laboratory work for disease diagnosis and qualitative assessment of meat samples offered to carnivorous animals.
- Internship training of BVSC&AH final year students of WBUAFS.



Fig1, 2 & 3: X-ray of birds for diagnostic purpose



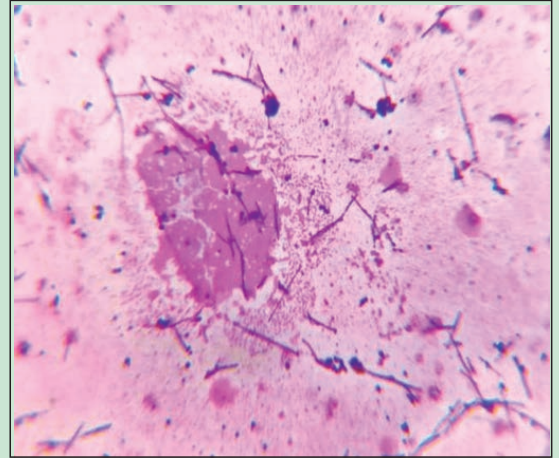


Fig 4,5 & 6: Sub-fertility management in lion and vaginal cytology of lioness

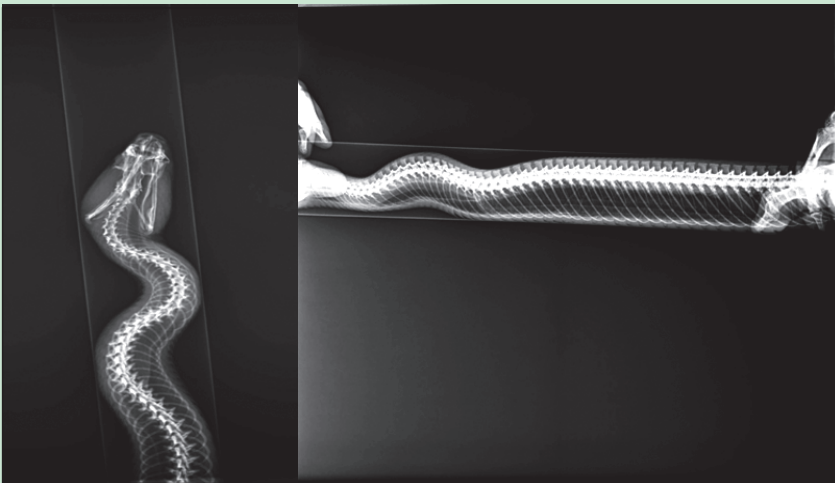


Fig 7 & 8: Skiagram of a Russell's viper



Fig 9: Microbiological laboratory work at Veterinary Hospital



Fig10: Internship programme of 5th yr BVSC&AH students of WBUAFS



Fig 11: Radiographical screening of carpal joint of a female elephant



## Footfall

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN ALIPORE					
VISITOR FROM OCTOBER, 23 TO DECEMBER, 23 (2023-2024)					
MONTH	ADULT	MINOR	STUDENT	OTHERS	TOTAL VISITOR
October	202211	16267	2612	293	221383
November	164173	15408	3357	131	183069
December	730615	80488	5652	2965	819720
<b>Total Visitor</b>	<b>1096999</b>	<b>112163</b>	<b>11621</b>	<b>3389</b>	<b>1224172</b>

## Special action for convenience of visitors

- Online ticket booking system through our website (Link: <https://wbza.org/eticket/ZGAK>) started from November, 2023  
Online ticket can be booked 3 months in advance
- Ticket booking through 'Yatri sathi' app of Govt. of West Bengal started on experimental basis.
- System of payment through UPI initiated from November, 2023



Smt. Birbaha Hansda, HMOS, Forest delivering lecture



Janab Firhad Hakim, HMIC UD & MA and Mayor KMC, Smt. Mala Roy, Hon'ble MP Kolkata (South), Smt. Birbaha Hansda, HMOS, Forest, Sri Niraj Singhal IFS, PCCF, HOFF, during inauguration of Animal Enclosure.



Battery Carts

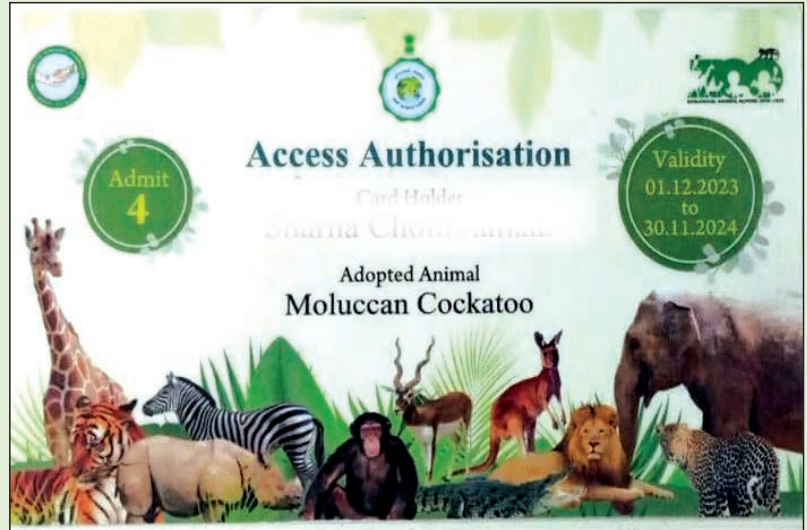
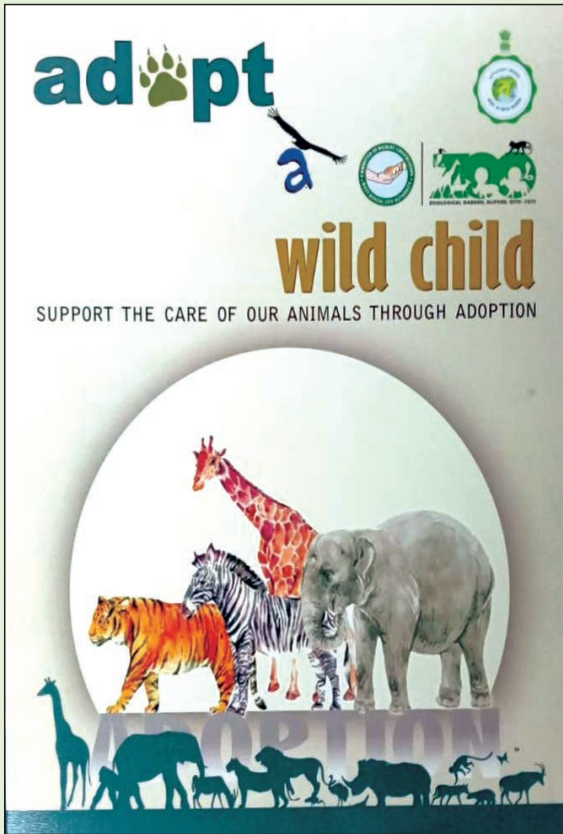


Dignitaries during the inauguration of Souvenir shop

## Adoption of zoo animals during the period

Sl No	Name	Animal	Type	Duration	Amount
1.	DPS, Howrah	Spotted Deer	Annual	04.10.23-03.10.24	Rs. 10000/-
2.	Mackintosh Burn Limited	2 No. tiger 2 No.Lion 1 no.hippo	Annual	07.10.23-06.10.24	Rs. 900000/-
3.	Smt. Sharmila Dutta	Budgeriger	Annual	08.10.23-07.10.24	Rs. 1000/-
4.	Sri Bratin Kr.Ghosh	One Amazon Parrot	Monthly	08.10.23-07.11.23	Rs. 500/-
5.	Sri Dyutiman Bhattacharya	Striped Hyena	Annual	15.11.23-14.11.24	Rs. 15000/-
6.	Smt.Swagata Das(WBFS)	Scarlet Macaw	Annual	18.11.23-17.11.24	Rs. 10000/-
7.	Sri Satyajit Roy (WBFS)	Himalayan Black Bear	Annual	18.11.23-17.11.24	Rs. 30000/-
8.	Centre for sustainability & Management	One Indian peafowl (Male)	Annual	30.11.23-29.12.24	Rs. 5000/-
9.	Sri Mivaan Choithramani	Moluccan Cockatoo	Annual	1.12.23-30.11.24	Rs. 8000/-
10.	Sri Vinit Kumar	Two large Indian parakeets	Annual	30.12.23-29.12.24	Rs. 10000/-
11.	Nature club of Scottish church college	One Chimpanzee	Annual	14.12.23 13.12.24	Rs. 30000/-
12.	Schneider Electric India PVT.LTD	Rose-ringed parakeet	Annual	14.12.23-13.12.24	Rs. 3000/-
13.	Sri Saibal Paul	Cockatiel	Annual	15.12.23-14.12.24	Rs. 2000/-
14.	Sri Saptaaghya Paul	Java Sparrow	Annual	15.12.23-14.12.24	Rs. 2000/-
15.	Smt. Shreya Mitra	Great Indian Hornbill	Monthly	16.12.23-15.01.24	Rs. 700/-
16.	DPS, New Town	One saltwater Crocodile	Annual	07.12.23-06.12.24	Rs. 10000/-
17.	DPS, New Town	Kangaroo	Annual	07.12.23 -06.12.24	Rs. 25000/-
18.	DPS, New Town	Python	Annual	07.12.23-06.12.24	Rs. 15000/-
19.	DPS, New Town	Vulture	Annual	07.12.23-06.12.24	Rs. 5000/-
20.	Sri Swarnab Deb	Greater sulpher crested cockatoo	Annual	25.12.23-24.12.24	Rs. 8000/-
21.	Sri Subhas Chatterjee	Indian star tortoise	Annual	29.12.23-28.12.24	Rs. 5000/-
22.	Sri Raghunath Dhara	Peafowl (White)	Annual	30.12.23-29.12.24	Rs. 5000/-







## Retirement/Addition to our Family

- 1) Sri Tapas Das, IFS, CCF & Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore was transferred and handed over charge on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2023
- 2) Sri Subhankar Sen Gupta, IFS joined and took over the charge of CCF & Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2023 (Forenoon)
- 3) Ms. Sayani Maji who was working as Research Assistant resigned and joined as Zoo Educator with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

## Transfer of animals

- 1) The Zoological Garden, Alipore received one female Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), one male Indian Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) and one pair of Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*) from Jungalmahal Zoological Park, Jhargram on 19th December, 2023
- 2) The Zoological Garden, Alipore received two males and one female Lady Amherst Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*), two pairs of Temminck's Tragopan (*Tragopan temminckii*), four pairs of Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*) and two pairs of Silver Pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*) from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park on 14th December, 2023
- 3) The Zoological Garden, Alipore transferred two pairs of Blue and Gold Macaw (*Ara ararauna*) and one pair of Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) to North Bengal Wild Animals Park on 13th December, 2023 and two pairs of Blue and Gold Macaw (*Ara ararauna*) and one pair of Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) to Jungalmahal Zoological Park, Jhargram on 19th December, 2023 respectively.



# 100 years back

**Footfall:**

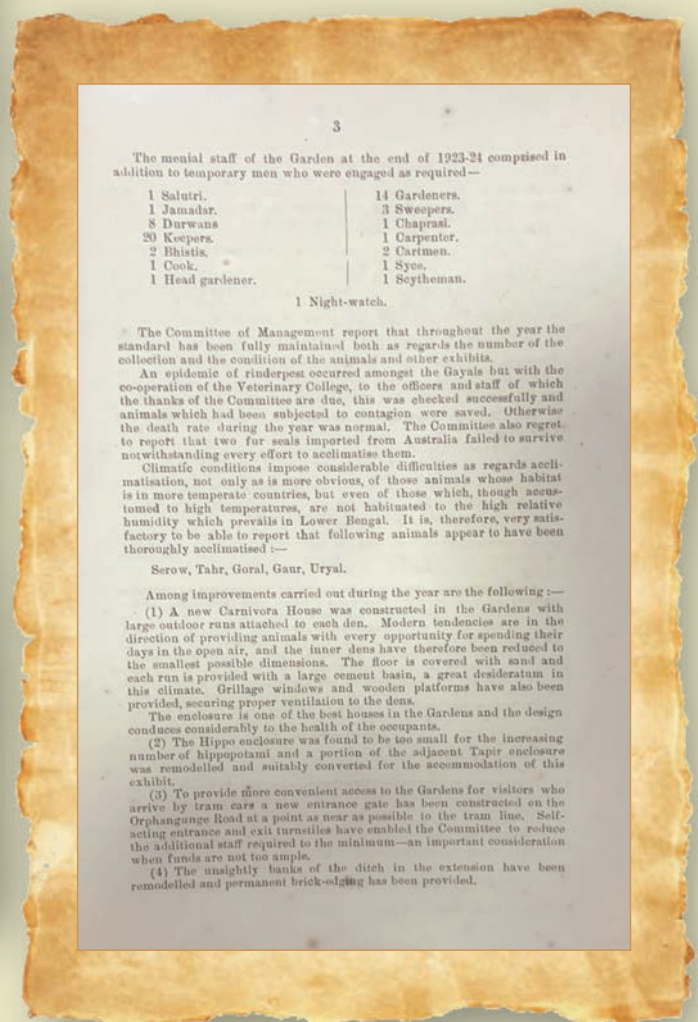
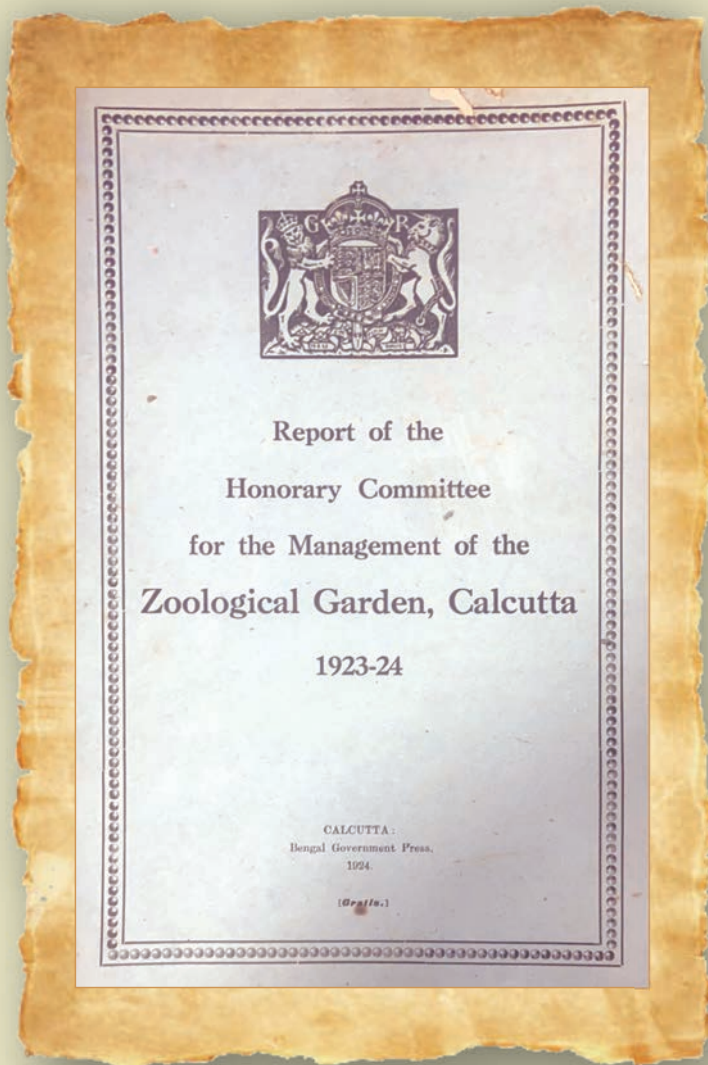
Summary of visitors and gate receipts during Oct. 1923 - Dec.1923:

	(No. of Visitors)	(Receipts) in Rs.
October 1923	116140	8075
November 1923	63508	4664
December 1923	87307	6331

A large number of children under 4 years of age and school children attended by their teachers were admitted free on the occasion of the fancy fair about 10260 people visited the Garden.

In addition 41784 persons visited the garden on free days.

Abstract from Minutes of meeting of The Managing Committee 1923-24 .







(5) A Rain-gauge shed has been constructed on the southern side of the extension affording shelter from sun and rain.

(6) The old wire-netting fencing of the kangaroo paddock required renewal; the whole enclosure was dismantled, and a new linked wire-fencing was substituted and the boundary realigned.

General annual repairs to the buildings in the Garden were carried out as usual and alterations to iron work and wood work and painting to most of the houses were effected.

The floral display was well maintained. New paths have been laid and gravelled as required and others widened and altered. The main drive in front of the entrance lodge has been macadamised and portions were re-metalled and paths thoroughly repaired and covered with sponky siftings.

The Committee report that the financial condition of the Garden is on the whole satisfactory, though the resources of the Gardens are only adequate, provided care and economy are exercised. There was an increase in the number of visitors, the turnstile records showing a total of 877,478 visitors, an increase of 23,475 over the figures of 1922-23.

The following is a comparative statement of visitors and receipts for recent years:—

	Number of visitors.	Receipts.
		Rs. A.
1921-22	840,055	65,854 6
1922-23	854,003	63,393 15
1923-24	877,478	64,420 7

A large number of children under 4 years of age and school children attended by their teachers were admitted free. On the occasion of the Fancy Fair about 10,260 people visited the Garden.

In addition 41,784 persons visited the garden on free days. Detailed statements of the numbers of visitors and receipts appear in Appendix B.

The thanks of the Committee are due to those ladies and gentlemen who have added to the zoological collection by donations, a list of which is given in Appendix C. Thanks are also due to those who kindly offered to present animals to the garden, but whose offers could not be accepted either because the particular species of animals was already sufficiently well represented, or owing to want of accommodations.

The Committee desire to express their thanks to the Corporation of Calcutta for their continued generosity in remitting the consolidated rates in respect of the gardens and to the railway and steamer companies for the conveyance, free of charge, of animals belonging to the garden.

Thanks are also due to the Officer Commanding and Officers of the 90th Punjabi Regiment for allowing their band to play at the garden on Tuesday afternoons free of charge.

The Committee are much indebted to those members of the public who send their old and broken down horses to be destroyed at the Zoological Gardens.

Honorary Secretary.

President.

Superintendent's Report.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the existing condition and the progress of the management of the garden. The following comparative table shows how the various collections of animals in the garden stood during the last four years:—

Year.	Mammals.	Birds.	Reptiles.
1920-21	328	2,033	171
1921-22	317	2,041	190
1922-23	281	851	142
1923-24	323	1,025	178

The most important addition to the collection during the year was a Chimpanzee sent by the Zoological Society of Scotland. This species has never before been exhibited and is a great attraction to visitors.

Among other additions the following deserve mention:—

- 2 Pigmy hogs ... Presented by C. S. Chaston, Esq. (New to the collection.)
- 2 Uryials ... Purchased.
- 1 One wattled Casowary ... Purchased.
- 1 Two ... Purchased.
- 1 Purple faced monkey ... Presented by S. C. Laha, Esq.
- 1 Goral ... Purchased.
- 2 Tibetan Yaks ... Purchased.
- 1 Serow ... Presented by S. Nandan, Esq.
- 1 Gharial ...

The following consignment of animals was received from the Zoological Society of London on exchange during the year:—

- 4 Weeper Capuchins.
- 3 Grivet monkeys.
- 2 Green monkeys.
- 1 Tantalus monkey.
- 2 Gold pheasants.
- 1 Amherst pheasant.

The following animals were received in exchange from the Taronga Zoological Park Trust, Sydney:—

- 2 Fur seals.
- 2 Rufous kangaroos.
- 2 Black-striped wallabies.
- 4 Black swans.
- 2 Black-tailed wallabies.
- 1 Crab-eating opossum.
- 2 Phalanger opossum.

The following were received from Melbourne Zoo:—

- 2 Great kangaroos.
- 2 Black-tailed wallabies.
- 1 Tasmanian devil.

The Zoological Society of Scotland sent one chimpanzee and 10 mute swans during the year.

The collection of common Indian aquatic birds was maintained at a high state of efficiency by constant supplies received through the good offices of Mr. W. K. Dods.

A list of donors and their donations during the year is given in Appendix D.

The following animals were born in the Garden during the year:—

- 1 Black swan.
- 2 Canadian geese.
- 3 Bengal porcupines.
- 2 Nicobar pigeons.
- 2 Tigers.
- 5 Spotted deer.
- 2 Fallow deer.
- 1 Kashmir deer.
- 2 Common peafowls.
- 2 Four-horned antelopes.
- 5 Hannumans.
- 1 Rhessus monkey.
- 1 Gayal.
- 2 Leopards.
- 1 Lion.
- 1 Great kangaroo.
- 1 Sams crane.
- 1 Hippopotamus.
- 2 Black-striped wallabies.
- 1 Phalanger opossum.
- 4 Brown-antlered deer.
- 4 Indian pigs.
- 5 Hog deer.
- 1 Nilgai.
- 1 Barasingha.
- Pythons.
- Russell's viper.

The following birds bred freely in a wild state on the island in the big lake:—

- Little cormorant.
- Night heron.
- Indian snake birds.

The following birds laid eggs but were unable to hatch:—

- Ostrich.
- Emu.
- Javan Jungle fowl.
- Chakar partridge.
- Common peafowl.
- Sagaing fireback.
- Curassow.
- Pied Imperial pigeon.
- Bare-eyed cockatoo.
- Stanley crane.

Rinderpest broke out amongst the fine herd of Gayals which has bred freely during the past years and was a great attraction to the public. Every precaution was taken and the epidemic was successfully checked. The two fur-seals which arrived last year died in spite of all efforts to acclimatise them.

The following animals were sent to the Zoological Society of Scotland on exchange account:—

- 1 Gayal bull.
- 1 Tibetan Yak.

The following specimens were destroyed during the year as unfit for exhibition:—

- 1 Tiger.
- 1 Show (Sikkim stag).
- 1 Pigmy hog.
- 1 Lion.

The work in the Pathological Department was carried on as usual and thanks are due to the Principal, Bengal Veterinary College, and Major R. Knowles, I.M.S., of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. The following extracts from the latter's report are of interest:—

**Crested fireback**—Showed intense congestion of the lungs and acute fatty degeneration of the liver. The visceral films all showed a heavy infection with a large spore bearing bacillus; and death was apparently due to septicæmia from this. The intestinal contents showed trichomonads and a heavy trichomonas infection—both active flagellate forms and cysts.

**Assam langur**—Died from an acute plasmodium infection. These plasmodium infections, sp. malaria, are apt to be very fatal, and the infection is transmitted by mosquitoes.

**Mandarin duck**—All the viscera are apparently healthy, excepting there is fluid in the pericardial sack. Smears from organs show numerous bacteria—Post-mortem infection? Guts' contents are full of spirochaeta blastocystis.

**Viollet's fireback**—Died from Pasteurellosis. The lungs were deeply congested and the kidney films showed the most heavy infection.

**Sulphur-breasted toucan**—Died from Pneumonia. The left lung was deeply congested and other viscera normal, gut contents normal. The films from the heart blood, lungs and kidney were full of microdialia.

**Sagaing fireback**—The films from the viscera were full of a large proteous light bacillus probably, however, a post-mortem invasion. There were no intestinal parasites discoverable. There was a heavy filarial infection specially in the films from the lungs. This may possibly have had something to do with the death.

**Tragopan pheasant**—There was a regular degeneration of the entire intestinal tract. Stomach moreover was entirely blocked by the very large quantity of pebbles and I think all this would account for the death of the bird.





Handing over of keys for Animal Ambulance and Battery Operated Carts

## Glimpses of various programme in Alipore Zoo







## Zoological Garden, Alipore

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