



ZOO NEWS



NEWSLETTER | ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN | ALIPORE | OCTOBER 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024

From the Director's desk

As 2024 comes to an end and a new year begins, I'm delighted to think back on the incredible trip of Alipore Zoo has taken over the past quarter. Between October and December, we have grown, learned, and reached new milestones that strengthen our commitment to sustainable practices, education, and conservation.

With Best Wishes to all.

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New Born

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

Success Story of Captive breeding

- On 30th October, 2024 four nos. baby Southern Screamer were observed.
- On 15th October one Black buck fawn was observed.
- On 21st October one Brow-antler Deer fawn was observed.
- On 23rd October one blackbuck fawn was observed.
- On 5th November, 2024 one no. baby Grey Parrot was observed.
- One Giraffe (Female) calf was observed on 28th November,2024.
- On 4th December, 2024 one blackbuck fawn was observed.
- On 14th December,2024 one Brow-antler Deer fawn was observed.
- On 20th December,2024 one Brow-antler Deer fawn was observed.

Success Story of Conservation breeding

- On 6th November one painted Stork Chick was observed.
- On 16th November one Painted Stork chick was observed.
- On 25th November two Painted Stork Chick were observed.
- On 28th November two Painted Stork Chick were observed.

Zoo Educational & Training Activities

◆ 4th October,2024: International Zookeeper Day

"International Zookeeper Day" was celebrated on 4th October, 2024 at Zoological Garden, Alipore along with Keepers and staffs .

A workshop was organised on Management of Fishing Cat by WBFBCCCR in collaboration with WBZA and ZGA for Ex-Officio Directors,Range Officers,Staffs from West Bengal Zoo Authority and Zoological Garden, Alipore. Total 55 nos. of Participants were present in this programme.

◆ 16th November,2024:Awareness programme for School children

A Powerpoint presentation and an interactive session by displaying animal video was organized by Zoological Garden , Alipore for the students of Delhi World Public School, Hooghly on 16th November,2024. Total 83 students and 7 teacher were present in the programme.

◆ 26th November,2024: Programme for Students of Presidency University

As a part of 150th year celebration of Zoological Garden, Alipore, one day seminar Programme was organized for the students of Presidency University. Presentation on zoo Management and guided tour at Zoological Garden, Alipore was organized for the students by Zoo staff.

◆ 13th December:2024: IFS Probationaries Visit

Zoological Garden , Alipore organised a Powerpoint presentation and an interactive session by displaying animal video for IFS Probationaries. Guided tour was conducted by Zoo Biologists of the Zoo.

◆ 14th December,2024: Training Programme

A seminar cum workshop on - 'Recent Developments in wildlife Management and Treatment' with West Bengal Zoo Authority and West Bengal Veterinary Council on the eve of the celebration of 150th year of Zoological Garden, Alipore. Total 64no. Veterinary Officers and zoo staff present their.

Other Programmes

• 16th November,2024: Visit of Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority

Official visit to Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Shukla, IFS, Member Secretary, CZA and interaction session with other officials and staffs on 11/06/2024 at ZGA.

• 25th November,2024: Inauguration of New Enclosure and on-spot Ticket booking System

On 25th November, 2024 a program held at Zoological Garden Alipore, Hon'ble MoS Forests, Smt Birbaha Hansda inaugurated one walk in Aviary where different birds of 14 species have been released like Brahmins Duck, Bar headed goose, knob billed duck, peacock, golden pheasant, red jungle fowl, parakeets, doves, barbets etc.

Visitors will be allowed to move inside the enclosure through a walk way. There no special ticket will be required for this.

Hon'ble Minister also inaugurated on-spot online ticket booking facility for zoo through zoo website and also inaugurated the Zoo Annual Report for 2023-24, Zoo newsletter for July-September and a brochure and guide map for sale to the visitors.

The program was attended by Sri Niraj Singhal, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, Dr Kana Talukdar, IFS, PCCF, RMD and Sri Saurabh Chowdhury, IFS.

The facilities have been made available for visitors from 25/11/2024.

• **27th November,2024: Zooming Conversation of Director, ZGA**

The Central Zoo Authority recently hosted a Zooming Conversation, bringing together zoo directors, conservationists, and animal welfare experts from across India. On 27th November, a virtual meeting was organized to discuss facing issues, share best practices and explore innovative solutions for enhancing Giraffe welfare and conservation in Indian Zoos. Shri Subhankar Sengupta, Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore was the key speaker in this program.

4th October: Training programme & International Zoo Keeper's Day



16th November: Visit of Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority



25th November: Walk-in-Aviary inauguration Programme





13th December : IFS Probationaries Visit



14th December: Collaborative Organization of a seminar cum workshop on 'Recent Developments in Wildlife Management and Treatment' with West Bengal Zoo Authority

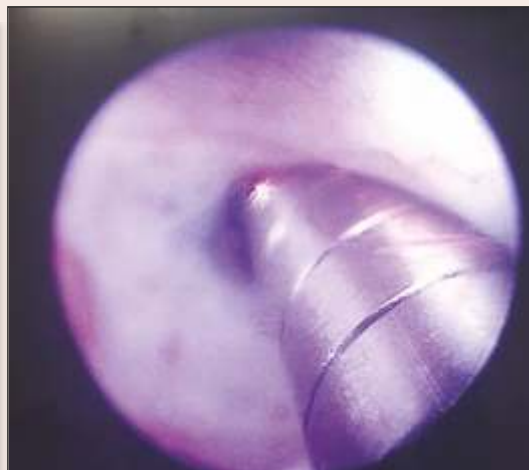


Veterinary Activities (Oct 2024 - Dec 2024)

Veterinary care October- December 24

Beside regular veterinary care and management following diagnostic and therapeutic measures were executed during this period.

- Rigid endoscopic examination of different coelomic organs in birds, tortoise and cloacoscopy in an African ball python.



Cloacoscopy of an African ball python

Endoscopy under gaseous anesthesia

- Introduction of LTT laser therapy for pain and arthritis management of geriatric big cats.



Laser therapy in zoo animals

Dr Arnab Kumar Majie, VO attended 47th annual congress of Indian Society of Veterinary Surgery at COVAS, AAU, Guwahati for oral presentation on dental problems of captive hippopotamus during 18.12.24-20.12.24



Oral presentation at national congress of ISVS

- On the eve of the Celebration of 150th year of Zoological Garden, Alipore A collaborative Workshop on 'Recent Developments in Wildlife Management and Treatment' with West Bengal Veterinary Council & West Bengal Zoo Authority was organised for 25 nos field veterinary officers (WBAH&VS) of ARD Dept, WB on 14.12.24.

Footfall

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, ALIPORE VISITOR FROM OCT, 2024 TO DEC, 2024

MONTH	ADULT	MINOR	STUDENT	OTHERS(PASS)	TOTAL VISITOR
OCT,24	175998	14909	1061	264	192232
NOV,24	160315	16174	5185	438	182112
DEC,24	876682	146145	5431	5541	1033799
Total Visitor	1212995	177228	11677	6243	1408143

Special action for convenience of visitors

- Online ticket booking system through QR Code from December, 2024
- Ticket booking through 'Yatri sathi' app of Govt. of West Bengal .

Adoption of zoo animals during the period

SI No	Name	Animal	Type	Duration	Amount	Remarks
1.	Abantika Nandy & Kushal Banerjee	One Marsh Crocodile	Annual	05.10.2024-04.10.2025	20000	Fund received during this quarter
2.	Abantika Nandy & Kushal Banerjee	One Brow-antlered Deer	Annual	05.10.2024-04.10.2025	20000	
3.	Saubhik Chaudhuri & Zaita Dutta	One Lutino Parakeet	Annual	15.11.2024-14.11.2025	8000	
4.	Dyutiman Bhattacharya	One Striped Hyena	Annual	15.11.2024-14.11.2025	30000	
5.	Surajit Roy Sharma	One Ring-tailed Lemur	Annual	12.11.2024-11.11.2025	20000	
6.	Vinit Kumar	Two Large Indian Parakeet	Annual	30.12.2024-29.12.2025	16000	
7.	Smt. Swagata Das	Red-breasted Toucan	Annual	18.11.2024-17.11.2025	15000	
8.	Sri Satyajit Roy	Himalayan Black Bear	Annual	18.11.2024-17.11.2025	50000	
9.	Nature Club of Scottish Church College	Bengal Fox	Annual	01.12.2024-30.11.2025	30000	
10.	Sangeeta Maity	Cockatiel	Annual	15.12.2024-14.12.2025	8000	



Our Happy Adopters

Retirement/Addition to our Family

- 1) Sri Subhankar Sen Gupta, IFS, CCF & Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore was retired on 30th November, 2024.
- 2) Sri Arun Kr. Mukhopadhyay joined and took over the charge of CCF & Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore from 1st December, 2024.
- 3) Sri Bhola Ram, Animal Supervisor was retired on 30th November, 2024.
- 4) 25 Nos. of Animal Attendant joined on 1st December, 2024
- 5) 1 No. Animal Attendant joined on 20th December, 2024

Transfer of animals

The Zoological Garden, Alipore received an Alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*) on 5th October 2024. It was a male subadult, brown-colored animal that was seized in Bethuadahari WLS, Nadia-Murshidabad Division, Forest Department, West Bengal. Two days later, on 7th October, a juvenile macaque of unknown species came here in this Garden. Its body was covered with full-white fur, and was unable to feed on any solid food material, therefore, our veterinary team hand-reared the monkey and encouraged bottle feeding to simulate breast feeding. It was seized at the Basirhat Range, STR, 24 Pgs. (N), Forest Division. Later five Capped Langur (3 adult females, and 2 juveniles) were seized at Ranaghat, Nadia-Murshidabad Division, Forest Department, and came to Alipore Zoo on 23rd of November 2024. After the Alpaca and monkeys, it was the time for carnivores. On 24th December 2024, a Royal Bengal tigress was rescued at Jharkhali and brought back to Alipore for better upkeep.

Meanwhile, Zeenat, the 3-year-old tigress from Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve (Mayurbhanj district) ventured into Bengal. On 29th December, Sunday, it was tranquilized in the Bankura forest and shifted to Alipore Zoo Veterinary Hospital for medical supervision. She left the Alipore Zoo on Tuesday night (31st December 2024) for Similipal in Odisha, the same forest she had escaped on December 5.

The Zoological Garden, Alipore completed its journey for the year 2024 with an African wild cat, formally called as Serval cat (*Leptailurus serval*). It was seized at Bethuadahari WLS, Nadia-Murshidabad Division, Forest Department on 27th December 2024. The cat is in the quarantine unit of our Veterinary Hospital under 24×7 hrs. monitoring.

100 years back

Recalling a few memorable moments of our 150-year-old Garden

Elephants- The Gentle Giants: As the name said, these herbivores demanded an enormous maintenance cost which often became troublesome for any animal park to afford. Therefore, its cost made these Giants less lucrative to the Zoo Authorities. However, they played important roles in transportation, thus adults were kept in this Garden, while the young ones were seldom destined to go elsewhere (mostly abroad), where elephants were not so common. One such young elephant was shipped to Melbourne, in 1883. It thrived a terrific storm during its voyage by holding an iron bar tightly by its trunk. In the year 1920, Jamuna, a female elephant was sent to the Auckland Zoo, who remained in New Zealand's spotlight for a prolonged period of time. In the 19th and early 20th Century, elephant rides were popular to the zoo-visitors. In the afternoon of 19th August 1963, post-ride, the elephant named “Phoolmala” was unloaded of her howdah, and was taken back to her den by the mahout. Simultaneously, another young elephant was also garaged in its night shelter by another mahout, Farman Meah. As soon as Farman shouted to guide the young one, Phoolmala suddenly rushed to him, chased, and smashed Farman to the ground in the blink of an eye. Our Garden authority tried their best to take control of her by using sedative medication, but Phoolmala continued to behave madly. After gauging the risk, the Garden Authority decided to shoot her down.



White King of Calcutta Garden



In 1951, the Maharaja of Rewa captured a nine-month-old male white tiger from the forest of Madhya Pradesh. Besides his grey-brown stripes contrasting its white coat, the icy bluish-green eyes made him more alluring. Initially, the captured felid was brought to Maharaja's palace at Govindgarh where he received the name 'Mohan' from the Raja. Here, in the palace, Mohan got his first partner, a normal-colored tigress, 'Begum', and fathered normal yellow tiger cubs, including a female one, named 'Radha'. Later, Mohan and Radha united together which created a history for us. 30th October 1958, for the first time, we, the Indians witnessed the birth of white tigers in captivity. Four cubs were born in the palace, of which 'Mohini', a female cub was sold to the National Zoological Park, Washington D.C., USA.

In her next litter, Radha gave birth to two more white male cubs (Himadri, and Neeladri), along with a normal-colored female cub, 'Malini'.

12th August 1963, Maharaja sent these two males, 'Himadri', and 'Neeladri', to our Alipore Garden. Their arrival attracted ample visitors to our Zoo. For efficient crowd management, the Garden Authority decided to make a separate entry for the white tiger enclosures. In the FY 1969-1970, almost 20% of the total zoo visitors paid an extra amount of 25 paise (normal zoo entry fee was 50 paise), just to experience those white beauties of our Garden.



Subsequently, we acquired Malini too, who was kept together with her white siblings. This trio soon became the progenitor of white tigers at the Zoological Garden, Alipore.

Zoological Garden, Alipore

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Kolkata Zoo Alipore