

Animal

ROUNDAABOUT



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Produced for people with an interest in the exhibition of animals in zoos, circuses, mobile farms, fauna and wildlife parks in NSW.



NSW Agriculture

Friendly meetings

An enjoyable meeting at Auburn Botanical Gardens.

(L to R) Michelle Gallo, Supervisor, Operations of Auburn Council Botanic Gardens, Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee members, Giovanna Pawson (Chairperson), Will Meikle, Barry Wilton, Ross Burton, Matthew Crane.



The Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee likes to hold its meetings at animal exhibit locations. This helps to make sure it maintains its familiarity with the industry. At the same time, these meetings give exhibitors the opportunity to interact with the committee.

The Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee meets several times each year to consider the major issues affecting the

industry. During the year 2000 the committee visited six animal exhibits in conjunction with its meetings.

Exhibitors are encouraged to show the committee the latest improvements, recent developments and advances in exhibit techniques they have adopted.

In return, the committee can offer information and advice and discuss the progress of the industry, current issues and

any exhibit or husbandry matters. The committee is made up of people with diverse expertise with animals, both within and outside the exhibited animals industry. This allows exhibitors to access unbiased information and assistance.

If you would like the Exhibitors Animals Advisory Committee to visit your animal exhibit phone Tricia Field on (02) 6391 3725.

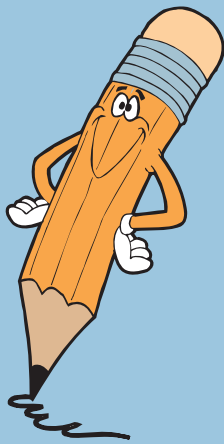
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CALMING EFFECTS OF LAVENDER

An idea to help calm animals has been used successfully at Mogo Zoo. A keeper at the zoo suggested that the use of lavender might have the effect of calming Rosco the Tiger who arrived from a private zoo in Sydney. The tiger was extremely stressed and continually paced around his enclosure. Staff lined Rosco's pacing path with lavender, which is grown at Mogo Zoo. This had the effect of distracting Rosco momentarily, while he investigated the scent. It also seemed to have a pacifying effect on him. Mogo Zoo staff continue to place lavender in his enclosure to help keep him calm and they say it certainly works as a distraction.

WRITE TO US



Let us know your views, news, thoughts and opinions. We would like to hear your comments about *Animal Roundabout* and what you would like to see in future issues. Let us know if you have won any awards or if you have, or will be featured in the media. We are interested in anything you wish to say.

GETTING A GRIP ON MARSUPIALS

Conservation, Welfare and Handling of Australian Marsupials is a practical course held each year at the Macquarie University Fauna Park. This course would appeal to a wide range of 'animal' people, including exhibitors, researchers and animal carers. Very knowledgeable presenters, using overheads and slides in their presentations, deliver the subjects. As well as classroom presentations, students participate in hands-on classes with kangaroos and wallabies, taking blood samples and checking for pouch young. Demonstrations include capturing Australian marsupials using remote drug delivery equipment. The course offers the opportunity for people to network with fellow students, park staff and presenters. At the end of the course students are presented with a Certificate of Completion. For details about this course phone (02) 9850 8214.

THE TROUBLE WITH RATS

Rats and mice carry a wide variety of infectious diseases that are a threat to humans and other animals. Usually, these



diseases are transmitted through faecal or urinary contamination of food. Examples include leptospirosis, salmonellosis and Encephalomyocarditis (EMC). For example, deaths of animals from EMC have been reported by a number of wildlife parks, so follow the suggestions below to help keep your animals healthy and free of these diseases.

- Keep animal feed in sealed containers.
- Keep storage areas as rodent-proof as possible.
- Don't buy too much food at once.
- Check regularly for rodents. Look for droppings, chewed bags etc.
- Don't give food to your animals that is obviously contaminated.
- Feed animals during daylight where possible.
- Devise and implement an effective rodent control program.

@ YOUR SERVICE

Zoo Biology e-mail group (relates to anything regarding zoo management but is restricted to zoo professionals). The more people subscribe to this, the more effective it becomes as a management tool. People can contribute by passing their ideas on to others. There is a lot to learn from this address and the useful archive section increases each day. For those unfamiliar with e-mail groups they work like this: After subscribing, you can post questions, answer questions, make observations, inform or just read the e-mails which will arrive with some regularity. There is a "members' only" chat site attached to Zoo Biology that has more than 850 members. Be prepared to receive quite a lot of messages. If there are more messages than you can manage...don't forget your delete button. It takes less than a second.

To subscribe send a blank e-mail to:

zoo-biology-subscribe@egroups.com

Leave the subject and message area blank.

<http://www.nccnsw.org.au/member/tsn/>

Threatened Species Network (provides an important link for people interested in, or involved in, the conservation of threatened species. Learn how you can participate in research, monitoring and management of threatened species. Most importantly, you can learn how to save them. Fact sheets are also available on this site.

Preventing Fire Tragedies



Fires at the Australian Reptile Park and at Taronga Zoo last year are a reminder for all exhibitors to review their fire prevention strategies.

Over 500 vertebrates and around 400 invertebrates died in a blaze that destroyed the main building of the Australian Reptile Park and devastated owners and staff last July. Many of the animals that died were specimens of rare or endangered species. Some were the only examples of their kind exhibited in Australia.

It appears the fire was caused by an electrical fault in a heating device used in one of the reptile enclosures. The building was fitted with heat/movement detectors that triggered alarms at a security company but unfortunately the blaze was well out of control before the fire brigade arrived.

The fire at Taronga Zoo started in an electrical circuit board in a keeper kitchen area adjacent to the gorilla night dens. The fire started early in the morning, and was restricted to the keeper kitchen area where smoke detectors triggered alarms at a security service.

When the keepers arrived they were unable to release the gorillas from their night dens as there was no manual override for the electrically operated doors that were without power because of the fire. The gorillas were trapped and had to sit in their smoke filled night yards while the fire was put out and electricians restored power to the door mechanisms.

We have featured these occurrences in the hope that you will take a fresh, objective look at your own facilities and make sure you have appropriate installations and procedures to deal with fires - including those that might start outside normal operating hours.

Suggestions for fire prevention strategies

- Prepare standard operating procedures .
- Incorporate fire management planning when designing buildings, park layout .
- Plan 'safe areas' for animals during a fire emergency.
- Make sure fire fighting equipment is accessible at all times.
- Maintain fire fighting equipment regularly.
- When building enclosures use fire retardant materials .
- Install smoke alarms, sprinkler systems and fire breaks.
- Conduct regular fire drills.
- Make sure staff know how to use fire equipment.



The aftermath of fire at the Australian Reptile Park. Photo courtesy of Australian Reptile Park.

Introductions

What do you do when a stranger lands on your doorstep?

Injured native animals are often given to wildlife parks but what is your responsibility as an operator to introduce a wild animal to an exhibit?

An injured native animal is probably best placed with a wildlife rehabilitation group until it has recovered. (NSW Wildlife Information Rescue Service (02) 8977 3333).

If you want to place it on exhibit, NSW Agriculture will only give you the authority to do so with the agreement of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). This goes for any donated native pets as well.

Don't forget the usual precautions. A period in quarantine is advised and a veterinary examination is also a good idea.

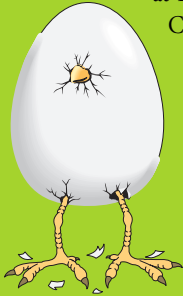


Hatched and Despatched

Proud parents

To Shmoo, proud Little Penguin mum and Jarvis, her equally delighted mate, two penguin chicks were recently born at The Australian Wildlife Park.

Congratulations to the parents on this successful attempt at rearing their chicks to sub adult level.



Quick egg sit

Twelve baby freshwater crocodiles exploded from their eggs on November 10 under the watchful eyes of reptile keepers at the Australian Wildlife Park. Their proud-as-punch owners are excited by the prospect of the cros leaving their incubator and report that all newborns are a picture of health. These new additions to the Australian Wildlife Park's collection have been on display since Christmas.

Well bred

In our winter issue we forecasted the expected hatching of *Sepia apama* (giant cuttlefish) eggs at Sydney Aquarium. We are now pleased to report that 30 out of 40 eggs

successfully hatched and all but two of the hatchlings survived. Bred as part of a study by Macquarie University on the behavioural development of juveniles, the hatchlings were housed in special environmental conditions and fed on live mysid shrimp or tiny yabbies, depending on the size of the cuttlefish. Sydney Aquarium is happy to report that all hatchlings are currently doing well.

Best wishes

Congratulations to the Australian Reptile Park for successfully hatching 10 of Australia's rarest and most elusive snakes, the rough-scaled python (*Morelia carinata*), through its controlled breeding program. Even more exciting is the news that the parents of these baby rough-scaled pythons survived the tragic fire at the park last July. The park will keep a close eye on these youngsters before they are put on display to the public. Some will go to new homes in ARAZPA (*Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria*) zoos around Australia.

More than just a Pretty Voice



Introducing Tricia Field to the many people who know her only by her voice.

Tricia is acting Assistant Registrar and is currently assessing exhibited animals approval, licence and permit applications and is the acting Executive Officer of the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee.

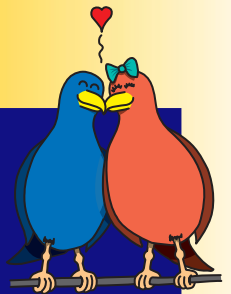
TRICIA'S TIMELY TIPS

For speedy issue of exhibited animals licences and permits

- Compile a check list.
- Read all questions carefully.
- Answer all questions.
- Attach all correspondence and other necessary documents.
- Check again before sending.

**NEXT
ISSUE**

**Happy
husbandry**



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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2001). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up-to-date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Agriculture or the user's independent adviser.



NSW Agriculture