

Report of the Committee for the
Management of the Zoological Gardens
Alipore, Calcutta


For the year 1972-73



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**Report of the Committee of Management of the Zoological Garden, Alipore,
Calcutta, for the year 1972-73.**

The Committee of Management of the Zoological Garden, Alipore, Calcutta, have much pleasure in presenting their Report for the year ending on the 31st March, 1973.

The Committee of Management, as constituted under Notification No. 7878-Z, dated 17-9-70, with some subsequent amendments, held charge of the Garden during the year with the office bearers and members noted below:—

- (1) Shri N. Roy Chowdhury, ICS (Retd.)—*President*.
- (2) Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Mukherjee, High Court, Calcutta—*Vice-President* (resigned on 22nd October, 1972).
- (3) The Mayor of Calcutta (ex officio).
- (4) Shri A. K. Banerjee, IAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Finance Department— *Honorary Secretary*.
- (5) The Commissioner, Presidency Division (ex officio).
- (6) The Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Presidency Circle (ex officio).
- (7) The Secretary of the Government of West Bengal, Education Department (ex officio).
- (8) The Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal (ex officio).
- (9) The Principal, Bengal Veterinary College, Calcutta (ex officio).
- (10) Prof. J. L. Bhaduri (nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University) (ex officio).
- (11) Dr. A. P. Kapur, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, (ex officio).
- (12) Dr. S. M. Sircar (nominated by the Council of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta) (ex officio).
- (13) Shri B. C. Ganguli, IAS, Commissioner, Town and Country Planning.
- (14) Prof. Shibatosh Mukherjee, Presidency College, Calcutta (resigned on 22-9-72).
- (15) Dr. Kanailal Sarkar, M.L.A. (from 9-10-72).
- (16) Shri Somendra Chandra Bose, Advocate.
- (17) Shri Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chartered Accountant.
- (18) Shri Purnendro Mullick.
- (19) Dr. D.P. Basu, F.R.C.P., Ph.D.(Edin.).

- (20) Shri Sadhan Chandra Dutta, Kuljian Corporation Private Ltd., Calcutta.
- (21) Dr. Bangajyoti Banerjee, All lovers of Animal Society.
- (22) Shri S. S. Mandal, I. F. S., Director (ex officio)—Joint Secretary.

Meetings

The Managing Committee held eleven monthly meetings and one special meeting during the year. The Works Sub-Committee, Annual Food Tender Sub-Committee, Appointment Sub-Committee, Budget Sub-Committee and Animal Purchase Sub-Committee held meetings and their recommendations were placed before the Managing Committee for approval.

Life Member

No new life member was enrolled during the year.

Staff

The staff strength in the Zoo on the 31st March, 1973, was three Gazetted Officers, 54 Class III and 158 Class IV employees of different categories.

Wild Life Week

The Wild Life Week was celebrated in the first week of October, 1972. On this occasion students of educational institutions who applied through their respective heads were allowed free entry into the Garden. Film shows on wild life were organised at the Audio-Visual Centre of the Garden. Some of the films befitting the occasion were obtained through the good offices of the Australian Deputy High Commissioner at Calcutta and the Film Division, Government of India. The Public were also allowed entry into the Garden free of charge on 5th October, 1972.

Accident

There was an unhappy incident of drowning in the ornamental lake in the Garden on 21-2-73. A boy aged 4 years came to visit the Garden accompanied by his parents. After round in the Garden while the parents were having mid-day napping, on the bank of the lake the boy escaped notice and fell into the water of the lake. The parents reported the missing of their son to the Garden authorities at about 3 p.m. Search was immediately carried on in the Garden as well as in the water of the lake. Police was informed. The dead body of the boy was recovered from the lake on the next day by a Garden employee and handed over to the parents.

Introduction of Insurance for Cash-in-transit and Cash-in-safe

Following the loss of cash and valuables worth Rs. 60,000 through a daring dacoity in the Garden on 2-1-72, the Garden authorities adopted some precautionary measures, raised the insurance cover for Cash-in-safe from Rs. 5,000 to 50,000 and also effected insurance for the first time for Cash-in-transit for Rs. 35,000. M/s. Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company issued a revised Insurance Policy with effect from May, 1972.

Development works in the Garden

During the year the Garden received from the Government a grant of Rs. 1.00 lakh from the State Plan Budget for the following schemes:—

	Rs.
(1) Construction of Seal Pool	50,000
(2) Purchase of animals	50,000

The work of construction of a Seal Pool on modern lines for accommodation of a pair of Sea Lions was taken up. Several valuable animals and birds were procured.

The total expenditure of the Garden on development Schemes during the year were as follows:—

	Rs.
1. Construction of Aquarium	23,720
2. Construction of New Reptile House	4,866
3. Development of lake area & drainage system	5,745
4. Construction of Open-air Enclosure	4,405
5. Purchase of animals	30,874
6. Improvement of Gates and Counters	6,731
7. Extension of Audio-Visual Centre	12,870
8. Remodelling of Aviaries & Enclosures	13,060

Animals in the Zoo

New addition to the collection of mammals, birds and reptiles during the year were as follows:—

	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles
By presentation	14	4	16
By exchange	5	6	8
By purchase	24	42	29
By birth	55	78	..
By capture	..	44	..

The most noteworthy additions were—*by Birth* : 1 Tigon, 4 White Tigers, 1 Fallow Deer, 2 Hog Deer, 3 Swamp Deer, 3 African Lions, 3 Thamin Deer, 1 Bare-eyed Cockatoo, 10 Black Swans; *by purchase* : 2 Clouded Leopard, 4 Gayals, 2 Siamese Fireback Pheasants, 4 Hedge Hog, 3 Satyr Tragopans, 1 Marsh Crocodile; *by exchange* : 2 Burmese Tigers, 1 Burmese Pea Fowl; *by presentation* : 1 Marsh Crocodile.

Birth of a Tigon :

Hybridisation is an interesting aspect of breeding in the Zoo. Experiment in production of Tigon in the Calcutta Zoo has been attempted since 1964 when a male Bengal Tiger called "Munna" aged 14 months was kept in the company of a female African Lion "Munni" of about one year old. "Munna", the tiger and "Munni", the lioness kept friendly company with each other rarely fighting for any supremacy which is usually apprehended from such an unusual companionship. Since attainment of sexual maturity, they have been frequently mating with each other and six litters resulted therefrom till this year. The first two litters were of no consequence as they were pre-maturely born and the next two litters were cubs of malformed physique which died immediately after delivery or a few hours thereafter. The mother Munni took no notice of such births. On February 11, 1972 Munni produced the fifth litter of two cubs, one of which was still born and the other a creature of deformed hind legs. This deformed tigon cub was alive for 33 days only despite utmost personal care and best medical attention.

Munni conceived again and produced a single cub on 13th October of the same year. This was the sixth litter and was a female specimen of rare beauty. The cub was exceptionally healthy since her birth. This tigon looked more like a tiger cub.

The general colour was deep fawn similar to that of a lion with faint broken stripes which were brown rather than black, as in a tiger. The underparts were almost white, as in the tiger while the ears bore the marking of the tiger and the colour of the lion. This was the first successful breeding of a tigon in the Zoo. It has been a most outstanding achievement of the Calcutta Zoo.

To commemorate this notable vent the tigon was christened 'Rudrani' by the Chief Minister of West Bengal in a ceremonial function held in March, 1973.

The table given below would show the figures of depletion of the stock during the year.

	Mammals.	Birds.	Reptiles.
By exchange	3
By sale	1	20	..
By death	81	159	47

The regrettable losses by death were :—2 Barbary wild sheep, 1 Nilgiri Langur, 2 Arabian Baboon, 1 Agouti, 1 Wolly Monkey, 1 Indian Pangolin, 4 Bennet's Wallaby, 1 White Tiger Cub, 1 Squirrel Monkey, 1 Gibbon, 1 Red Panda, 1 Ratel, 1 Clouded Leopard, 3 Black Swan, 1 Senegal Parrot, 1 Mandarin Duck, 2 Mute Swan, 1 Cockatiel, 1 Victoria Crown Pigeon, 1 King Cobra.

The overall stock position of animals, birds and reptiles in the Zoo at the close of the year along with those of preceding two years is furnished below :—

	Mammals.	Birds.	Reptiles.
1970-71	349	1,782	120
1971-72	372	1,836	132
1972-73	387	1,830	138

A number of animals, birds and reptiles were donated to the Garden by the public during the year. A list of donors along with exhibits donated is furnished in Appendix D.

Animal Health :

During the year 240 mammals, birds and reptiles were hospitalised in the Zoo Hospital, out of which 208 were cured and 32 died. Some important cases of animals and birds treated and cured in the hospital are listed below:—

- (1) *Rosy Pelican* (Dislocation of the shin bone) :—
Plastered the affected leg and kept for one month—cured and released.
- (2) *One wattled Cassowary* (Wound infected with maggot) :—
Regular cleaning and dressings were done externally and antibiotic given internally the bird cured within 2 months.
- (3) *Tiger (Munna)* (Anorexia) :—
Treated for one month with liver stimulant, vitamins and cured.
- (4) *Black Panther* (Wound caused by over grown nail) :—
The nail of the animal was pared and the wound of the foot pad was dressed with antiseptic medicines for one month and cured.
- (5) *Tiger (Moti)* (Enteritis) :—
The animal treated for one month and cured.
- (6) *Tiger (Jimmy)* (Blood protozoa) :—
Timely examination of blood of the animal revealed the presence of blood protozoa—Treated with specific medicine and cured the animals.

(7) *African lion cub* (Blindness) :—

Specific treatment done for one month and cured.

(8) *Paca* (Septic wound) :—

Regular cleaning and dressing for one month the animal was cured.

Besides regular daily cleaning all the animal cages and enclosures were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Anthelmintic drugs were given to all animals, birds and reptiles quarterly throughout the year besides specific treatment.

Vitamins and minerals were given to all animals and birds regularly throughout the year.

Autopsy was done in all cases of death of animals, birds and reptiles and the cause of death was ascertained by Laboratory examination.

In addition to treatment of animals, birds and reptiles in hospital, medical aid and attention were given to more than 210 cases of ailing animals, birds and reptiles in their respective cages and enclosures inside the Garden. Some cases of treatment of important animals, birds in their respective cages and enclosures during the year 1972-73 are reported below :—

(1) *Lesser Panda* (Anorexia) :

Perentral administration of liver stimulant and vitamins the animals was brought to normal health within 15 days.

(2) *Eland Antelope* (Broken Horn)

Oral administration of antibiotics simultaneous regular cleaning and dressing of the affected horn took 4 months to cure the animal.

(3) *Red Kangaroo* (Eye injury due to fighting)

Eye was put back to normal condition after careful treatment for one month.

(4) *Common Hippo* (Anorexia) :

After treatment for one month the animal was cured.

(5) *White Tiger Cub (Bikash)* (Enteritis) :

The young cub was treated for 15 days and cured.

(6) *Indian one horn Rhino* (Abdominal colic) :

The animal was treated for the colic more than one month and cured.

(7) *Kodiak Bear* (Dermatitis) :

It took about 3 months to cure the animal with regular treatment.

(8) *Thamin Deer* (Injury due to in-fighting) :

Regular cleaning and dressing along with oral administration of drugs took one month to cure the animal.

The diseases from which the animals and birds mostly suffered were (1) Helminthiasis, (2) Injuries on the body, (3) Enteritis, (4) Bronchial infection.

Visitors :

The Garden maintained its popularity as a foremost Zoo and a fine beauty spot with excellent landscape gardening. The number of paying visitors, free-day visitors and free-pass visitors to the Garden, Children Zoo and White Tiger enclosures during 1971-72 and preceding two years were given below :—

Year	Paying visitors	Free-day visitors	Free-pass visitors	Children's Zoo-visitors	White-Tiger visitors
1970-71	14,43,535	80,280	16,245	2,60,012	3,43,981
1971-72	18,04,789	82,955	21,674	2,89,166	3,86,570
1972-73	19,08,517	1,09,184	22,219	2,89,018	4,71,473

The number of paying visitors to the Zoo increased by more than one lakh of visitors compared to 1971-72.

Distinguished Visitors :

Distinguished visitors from different parts of the country and abroad paid visit to the Garden and recorded their immense pleasure of seeing the Garden so well kept up. They included amongst others. (1) Hon. Mr. Ivor Muntagu, Member, Governing Body, London Zoo, (2) Mrs. Ruth Kraft of G. D.R., (3) A Bhutanese Delegation, (4) A party of 60 M.P.'S. The observation of Mr. Ivor Muntagu, Member, Governing Body, London Zoo, who visited on 21-9-72, is reproduced below :—

“What splendid success in landscaping the outdoor enclosures. I do not know any Zoo which so manages to blend trees, animals, vegetation and water. No doubt climatic conditions make this possible but the way in which this advantage has been used is a lesson to all Zoos. The White Tiger family is an extra treat.”

Finance :

- (a) The financial position of the Garden showed great improvement during the year. The receipts in 1972-73 were Rs. 11,19,952.69 and expenditure was Rs. 9,63,704.00. The surplus balance of the Garden which stood at Rs. 1,77,139.52 at the beginning of the year, increased to Rs. 3,33,387.21 at the close of the year.

An abstract financial statement of the General Fund is furnished in Appendix A.

Children's Zoo :

- (b) The accounts of the Children's Zoo were separately maintained as before. An abstract of annual receipts and expenditure showing a surplus balance of Rs. 1,00,564 at the close of the year (vide Appendix B). It continued to be a centre of great attractiveness to the young Children.

White Tiger Account :

- (c) Separate account was maintained for White Tiger as before, as abstract of which is furnished in Appedix C. The year closed with a surplus balance of Rs. 1,13,503. Number of visitors to the White Tiger swelled of during the year by a lakh.

Acknowledgement :

The Committee express their indebtedness to the Government, the members of the public, different Institutions, Societies, Editors of Newspapers, All India Radio, and the Calcutta Royal Turf Club for the diverse facilities and assistance extended by them to the Garden.

The Committee also convey their gratefulness to the different donors who made gifts of their animals to enrich the collection of the Garden. Thanks are also due to the generous owners and Calcutta Turf Club who sent their old disabled horses to the Zoo to be destroyed under most humane condition for utilisation, if found fit, as food for the carnivora.

Lastly, the Committee record their appreciation of services of the staff and employees of the Garden which have substantially contributed towards the satisfactory results achieved during the period under report.

A. Kumar,

Honorary Secretary.

Dated :

The 25th August, 1977.

APPENDIX A

Abstract Financial Statement of the year 1972-73.

GENERAL FUND

Receipts.		Rs.
1. Opening balance		1,77,138.52
2. Rent, licence fees, etc.		52,027.05
3. Entrance receipts		9,54,258.50
4. Miscellaneous receipts:		
	Rs.	
(a) Sale of Rhino urine, ride, etc.	14,260.50	
(b) Sundries	34,268.84	
	<u> </u>	48,529.34
5. Interests on investment		31,037.80
6. Government contribution		25,000.00
7. Government grants for increased rate of Provident Fund		4,100.00
8. Government grants for pay, etc., of V.A.S.		5,000.00
		<u> </u>
Total receipt during the year		11,19,952.69
	Net	<u> </u>
		12,97,091.21

Expenditure.		Rs.
1. Establishment pay, etc.		5,05,342.25
2. Food of animals		3,10,509.59
3. Contribution to various funds		41,340.86
4. Miscellaneous and contingencies		58,085.37
5. Gardening (Seeds, Plants, etc.)		2,708.93
6. Repairs to buildings		45,715.00
7. Purchase and transport of animals		2.00
		<u> </u>
Total expenditure during the year		9,63,704.00
	Balance in hand	3,33,387.21
		<u> </u>
	Net	12,97,091.21

APPENDIX B

Children's Zoo Account

Receipts		Rs.
1. Opening balance		79,145.90
2. Entrance receipts		72,255.00
		<hr/>
		1,51,400.00
		<hr/>
Expenditure		Rs.
1. Establishment pay, etc.		28,042.67
2. Food of animals		10,950.00
3. Miscellaneous and contingencies		11,844.48
		<hr/>
		50,837.15
	Balance in hand	1,00,563.75
		<hr/>
		1,51,400.90
		<hr/>

APPENDIX C

White Tiger Account

Receipts		Rs.
1. Opening balance		80,255.82
2. Entrance receipts		1,17,868.25
		<hr/>
		1,98,124.07
		<hr/>
Expenditure		Rs.
1. Establishment pay and allowance		24,407.14
2. Food for white tigers		56,971.47
3. Repairs to enclosure		508.87
4. Contribution to Funds		1,608.89
5. Miscellaneous and contingencies		1,124.88
		<hr/>
		84,621.25
	Balance in hand	1,13,502.82
		<hr/>
		1,98,124.07
		<hr/>

APPENDIX D

List of Donors for the year 1972-73

- M/s. Chowringhee Sales Bureau Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta — 2 Stump-tailed Monkey
Sm. Binapani Chakraborty, Calcutta — 1 Rhesus Monkey
Sri Nirmal Kumar Majumdar, Calcutta — 1 Hanuman
Sri Daraka Nath Maity, Midnapore — 1 Sand Boa
D.F.O., Malda Division — 1 Nilgai
Sri Sudhangsu Deb Roy, 24-Parganas — 1 Python
O.C. , Belgharia P.S. , Calcutta — 3 Indian Cobra and 1 Russell's Earth Snake
Sri Ranjit Chaudhuri, Jalpaiguri — 1 Barking Deer
Mrs. Arati Chakraborty, Calcutta — 1 Stump-tailed Monkey
Sri B.L. Dhandhanian, Calcutta — 1 Lesser Adjutant Stork
Sri Jayanta Bhattacharyya, Calcutta — 1 John's Earth Snake
Sri Giorgi Vito Marcelli, Vice-Consul for Italy — 1 Indian Antelope
Sri Sudip Majumdar, Calcutta — 1 Large Indian Squirrel
Sri Ashoke Kumar Mitra, 24-Parganas — 1 Russell's Viper
Sri Kalipada Mandal, 24- Parganas — Marsh Crocodile
Shri C.S. Chatterjee, Calcutta — 1 Pied Hornbill
Sri Munna Sardar, Calcutta — 1 Golden Plover
Sri S.K. Chakraborty, Calcutta — 1 Python & 1 Common Cobra
Sri G.J. Lahari, Calcutta — 1 Land Monitor
Sri Haripada Some, Calcutta — 2 Common Krait
Sri Nishit Kumar Ghosh, Calcutta — 1 Rhesus Monkey
Sri Sushil Kumar Safui, Calcutta — 1 Common Otter
Sri Sovan Roy, Calcutta — 1 Rhesus Monkey
Sri S.N. Mukherjee, Calcutta — 1 Bar-headed Goose
Sri P.K. Mukherjee & Sri S. Agarwala, Calcutta — 2 Stump-tailed Monkey
Sri J.C. Halder, Calcutta — 1 Sand Boa
Sri G. C. Saw, Calcutta — 1 Red Sand Snake

(ELEVEN)