



# WILD THINGS!

Summer 2011



## Did you know?



## Have you seen our fallow deer?

Check them out next time you visit – **they are new to the zoo!**

### The EZ Echo

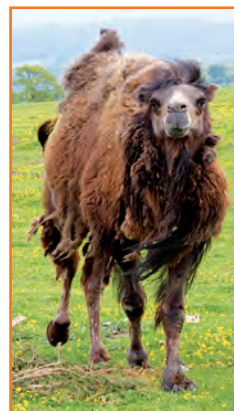


The penguin enclosure has become a very busy and noisy place with the hatching of 59 gentoo chicks!

Both mum and dad penguin feed their chick. Whenever the fluffy youngster pecks mum or dad on to the beak, the parent “brings up” semi-digested food for them to eat. Yummy.

You can have a look at the chicks and see how fast they are growing by watching them on the Penguin Cam on our website.

### The HWP Herald



We recently weighed Karnali our male camel and he is a whopping 580kg (that's 91st 4lb for our older readers)!

He was weighed when he arrived at the Highland Wildlife Park in May 2009 and he was only 226kg (35st 8lb) then but as you can see he has grown into a very large, very strong and very hungry camel.

Karnali eats grass, straw, hay and he gets a handful of deer nuts all to himself each day!



Scorpions are fluorescent under ultraviolet light

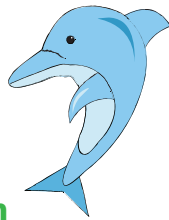


Snakes can see through their eyelids



Vultures sometimes eat so much they can't take off again

Dolphins sleep with one eye open



Woodpeckers can peck 25 times per second



Bats are not blind, contrary to the popular saying “blind as a bat”



Baby hippos are born underwater



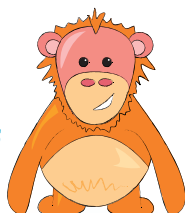
Sea turtles are immune to the sting of the box jellyfish



Tigers have striped skin not just striped fur



The word orangutan means “person of the forest”





**Winner** of the **Wild Things!** photo competition is **Jane Ambler** with this stunning picture of one of our flamingos. Jane has won a silver adoption of the Chilean flamingos. Well done!

**Runner up** is **Colvin Henry** with his picture of our Victoria crowned pigeon. Colvin has won a bronze adoption of this colourful bird.

*Thank you to everyone who entered.*



## PHOTO COMPETITION



Send in your best 3 photographs of our **hoofstock** animals at either **Edinburgh Zoo** or the **Highland Wildlife Park**. The **Winner** will receive a **silver adoption** of that species and the runner up will win a bronze adoption. Both will have their **photograph** printed in the next edition of **Wild Things!**

Either email your photograph to **thope@rzss.org.uk** or send it to **Tracy Hope, Development Department, Edinburgh Zoo, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, EH12 6TS** by **30th September 2011**. Please include your name, contact details and age with your entry. If you would like your photograph returned then please write your name and address on the back of it.

P	F	L	A	M	I	N	G	O
R	O	S	D	C	A	M	E	L
L	T	L	V	H	W	F	B	Q
I	K	O	A	L	A	U	S	J
O	A	G	Z	R	Y	T	D	A
N	S	A	P	V	B	O	C	G
M	B	T	W	K	H	E	P	U
C	F	U	X	R	L	X	A	A
O	G	N	O	B	T	E	S	R

## Just For Fun

Can you find the words hidden above?

- **FLAMINGO**
- **BONGO**
- **POLAR BEAR**
- **CAMEL**
- **JAGUAR**
- **KOALA**
- **ELK**
- **LION**

*(find the solution on the back page)*

**Congratulations to Michael Mooney from Falkirk and Fiona Grant from West Linton who have each won a copy of Disney's Club Penguin game for the Nintendo Wii.**

**They both gave the correct answer that Gentoo penguins are the fastest swimmers. In fact Gentoo penguins can reach speeds of 35mph when swimming.**

# Follow in their Footsteps...



## Dr. Arnaud Desbiez RZSS Regional Conservation & Research Co-ordinator for Latin America



### When did you start working for RZSS?

In 2005 the RZSS funded part of a study I was conducting in the Brazilian Pantanal on the impact of feral pigs (domestic pigs that have escaped into the wild from ranches) on native/local wildlife. Ever since then, RZSS has been funding my research and other conservation activities. I was hired as Regional Conservation and Research Co-ordinator for Latin America.

### When did you know you wanted to work in conservation?

I have always been passionate about wildlife and I always knew I wanted to work with animals. I started working as a zoo keeper when I was 17 and as a child wanted to become a veterinarian. It was only when I attended university that I realized you could dedicate your life to the conservation of wild animals and wild places and so I studied to become a field biologist.

### Which is your favourite animal?

My favourite animal species is actually... DOGS! I suppose however you were hoping for something more exotic... My favourite animal is always the animal I am currently studying. Right now RZSS is starting a new long term conservation research project on giant armadillos. Giant armadillos are amazing gigantic mammals about which we know absolutely nothing. At the moment giant armadillos are all I think about!

### What don't you like about your job?

It sometimes feels like we are fighting a battle we can never win. Destruction of wildlife and wild places is happening at

unprecedented rates and it sometimes feels like we are powerless. Last year one of the ranches where I used to work converted all their forested areas into pasture. I knew this area and its wildlife so intimately, I was heartbroken.

### What would be your advice to someone who wanted to work in the same profession as you?

Work hard in school; we really need well trained professionals. Try to volunteer in a zoo, wildlife park or local conservation project to get hands on experience. Although it is a challenging field to get into, don't give up!

### What has been your funniest moment when working out in the field?

A few years ago when I was conducting an animal census, I stumbled upon a puma sleeping... it was snoring!

### Who has been your inspiration?

George Schaller and Jane Goodall are certainly an inspiration. However the people who really inspire me and who I believe are the true conservation heroes are the local people and communities who live with wildlife and help to preserve them.



# EVENTS

## Adopter Night

**Date:** Friday 12th August 2011

**Time:** 6.30pm - 9.00pm

**Location:** Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park

**Cost:** Free to Animal Adopters  
£6.00 for adults who are not adopters  
£4.00 for children who are not adopters  
All children under the age of 3 are free

**Booking:** If you are planning on visiting the Highland Wildlife Park can you please confirm your attendance by calling **01540 651 976** or emailing **wildlife@rzss.org.uk** by Friday 5th August as parking and numbers are restricted.

*A special event for our Animal Adopters - come and visit your adopted species when both parks will be closed to the public. There will be keeper talks and animal feeds throughout the night.*

## Carnivore Talk

**Date:** Wednesday 17th August 2011

**Time:** 7.30pm - 9.00pm

**Location:** Lecture Hall, Education Centre, Edinburgh Zoo

**Cost:** £5.00 for Adult Members  
£3.00 for Child Members  
£7.00 for Non-members

**Booking:** Advance booking recommended; Call 0131 314 0334

*Join our carnivore keepers for an update on our toothy animals. Recommended for children aged 8 and over.*

