

WILD THINGS!



Photo by Robyn Rowles

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Spring 2011



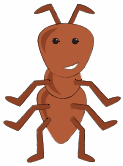
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Did you know?



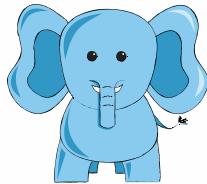
A zebra is white with black stripes

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue



An ant can lift 50 times its own weight

Elephants can't jump



A lion's roar is so loud it can be heard from five miles away

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain



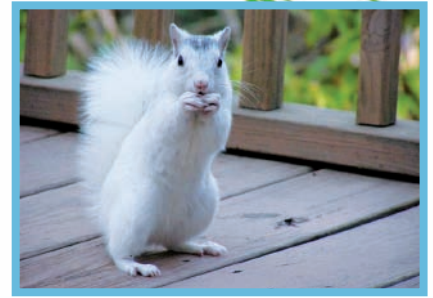
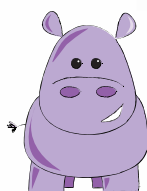
Of all the bear species, the sun bear has the biggest canines

Kangaroos cannot walk backwards



Giraffes can clean their ears with their tongue

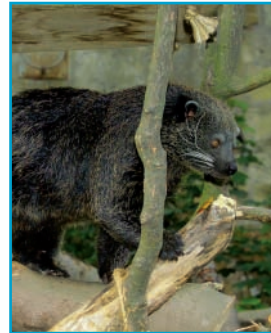
Hippopotamus means "river horse" in ancient Greek



Have You Seen Alby the Albino Squirrel?

Scott McAlinden of **Fife** took the best photograph of Alby, in our Albino Squirrel Photo Competition. Look out for Alby on your next visit to Edinburgh Zoo.

The EZ Echo



Our Binturong pair, Billy and Bali, recently had to be moved again, due to the fact that the roof of their enclosure collapsed with the weight of a sudden heavy snowfall. This happened overnight and we were all very relieved to find both animals still tucked up in bed in the house, unaware that anything had happened! Unfortunately Billy has had a sore eye which needed daily eye drops - he would only stay still long enough for us to use them if we gave him a banana!

The HWP Herald



Walker the polar bear had a visit from the dentist. He had been having problems with a tooth and so he needed a check up. Because he is a very boisterous bear he had to be asleep when the dentist had a look at his tooth. Unfortunately after inspection the dentist realised that the tooth had to come out but as he was asleep Walker didn't feel a thing! Once he woke up he was much happier as he didn't have toothache any more. So remember to brush your teeth!

Photo of Walker: Jan Morse



Winner of the **Wild Things!** photo competition is **Evi Haynes** with this beautiful photo of the Amur tiger at the Highland Wildlife Park. Evi has won a Silver adoption of the Amur tigers.

Runner up is **Abbi Templeton** with her lovely image of the Amur leopard having a nap.

Abbi has won a Bronze adoption of the Amur leopard.

Thank you to everyone who entered.



PHOTO COMPETITION



Send in your best photograph of a **bird** 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!**

There are two age categories:
ages 3 to 8 and **9 to 15**.

Either email your photograph to competition@rzss.org.uk or send it to **Tracy Hope, Development Department, Edinburgh Zoo, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, EH12 6TS** by **31st May 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.



competition WINNER

Congratulations to...

10 year old **Bryony** from **Tollcross Primary School**.

Bryony won a young reporters competition in conjunction with the launch of the new Disney Club Penguin game for the Nintendo Wii, to spend a day with our penguin keepers.

Bryony got to meet the keepers, prepare the fish for the penguins, help at the penguin parade and even feed the penguins their lunch!

She said the day was more than she had dreamed of and one she would remember forever.

We have two copies of Disney's Club Penguin game for the Nintendo Wii up for grabs. The first two entries pulled out at random will each win a copy of the game, simply answer this question:

We have rockhopper, gentoo and king penguins here at Edinburgh Zoo - but which species is the fastest swimmer?

Send your answer with your name, contact details and age to either competition@rzss.org.uk or **Katie Paton, Marketing Assistant, Edinburgh Zoo, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, EH12 6TS** by **Tuesday 31st May 2011**. The two winners will also have their name listed in the next edition of **Wild Things!**

Good Luck!

Follow in their Footsteps...



Darren McGarry Animal Collection Manager EDINBURGH ZOO



When did you start work here?

I started here in 1986 on a Youth Training Scheme when I was 16 years old. This was supposed to be a placement for 2 years being trained as an animal keeper and time spent at college completing the animal management course and a variety of smaller certificates.

When did you know you wanted to work with animals?

I had many pets as a child and always had an interest in wildlife. I am also not the best at getting on with people so animals were always a comfort to me.

Which is your favourite animal?

I would have to say the pygmy hippo but I also love the rhinos and pudu and have a special liking for the white faced saki monkey.

What don't you like about your job?

On the whole I don't dislike anything about my job but there are things that happen from day to day that I don't like. These are normally related to humans rather than animals.

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

Contact as many zoos and wildlife parks as possible and ask if you can become a volunteer. Hands on experience is a great advantage. Obviously a keen interest in animal biology and animal husbandry is essential, however I would suggest that you don't go into an interview raving on about how cute the baby animals are.

What has been the funniest moment at Edinburgh Zoo?

I have had the great fortune to say that I grew up at Edinburgh Zoo. I have had many laughs with keepers and animals. It would be fair to say that keepers have a chuckle at other keepers misfortunes. I did laugh loudly when a young keeper, David, received a bite to the posterior from a very angry mother otter. It is fair to say she did not want her babies handled.

Who has been your inspiration/hero in the animal world?

While I watched natural history films and TV programmes as a child I never really looked at anyone as my hero. I was very inspired by the work of Dian Fossey and loved to watch David Attenborough delve into the animal world. However it wasn't until I worked at Edinburgh Zoo in the 1980's for Roger Wheeler and Miranda Stevenson and of course now in the naughties for Iain Valentine that I realised there were people like me out there and I can always learn something new from them. I hope someday some young keeper will say they have learned something of the zoo business from me.



EVENTS

Hoofstock & Primate Talk

Date: Thursday 12 May
Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Cost: £7.00 Non-members;
£5.00 Members
Booking: Advance booking recommended; Call 0131 314 0334

Join our dedicated keepers for an update on changes to the sections and an insight to what our animals have been up to over the last few months.

Highland Wildlife Park Trip

Date: Saturday 14 May
Time: 8.30am - 6.30pm
Cost: £35.00 Non-members;
£25.00 Members
Booking: Advance booking required; Call 0131 314 0355 or book online at www.rzss.org.uk

Join us for our first trip of 2011 up to the Highland Wildlife Park. Enjoy a drive through the main reserve before exploring the walk through area on foot. See how well Walker has settled in and visit some old friends such as the red panda, Scottish wildcats and Amur tigers.

Plant Conservation Day

Date: Wednesday 18 May
Time: 11.30am - 3.30pm
Cost: Included with Zoo admission
Booking: Booking not required

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland is participating in this international event and our Gardens Team hope to raise awareness of the plight of plants and issues of sustainability. Plantlife Scotland will also be joining us for the day. Find out what you can do to contribute to conservation through the activities.