

SNOW LEOPARD

INTERNATIONAL SNOW LEOPARD TRUST

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THE 1982 INTERNATIONAL CAPTIVE SNOW LEOPARD REPORT

The following correction to the previous years report has been made: The Shanghai Zoo in China kept two wild caught females in 1981, which earlier had not been reported to the studbook keeper. The captive population therefore comprised of 121.122 animals at the end of 1981 and not of 121.120 as reported (Blomqvist, 1982). These two females have been transferred to San Francisco Zoo in 1983.

In 1982 altogether 54 cubs (28.25.1) were born in 22 different litters in 15 zoos. 14 of the litters were born in North America, 8 in Europe, while the USSR recorded no births in 1982. The zoos in Cincinnati, New York (Bronx), San Antonio and Zurich all recorded 2 litters each, while Helsinki Zoo recorded 4 litters in 1982. This is the greatest number of litters ever born in one zoo. All cubs were furthermore successfully reared by the dams in Helsinki (Blomqvist 1983). Of the 28.25.1 cubs born in 1982, 10.5.1 died before they reached the age of half a year, the cub mortality was therefore almost 30%.

Furthermore 7.8 subadults/adults died the very same year which leaves us with the fact that altogether 31 (17.13.1) animals died in 1982. Despite the fairly high mortality of the cubs, the zoo-population has increased with 23 animals in 1982 as the population comprised of 266 (132.134) snow leopards at the end of 1982. One male snow leopard was wild caught and first arrived to Dushanbe Zoo in the USSR before it was transferred to Moscow Zoo in November 1982 where it is presently kept.

Six new zoos acquired snow leopards in 1982, three of which had kept them earlier. On the other hand four zoos which previously had kept snow leopards did not exhibit them at the end of 1982. It is also worth mentioning that Mr. Nardellis' collection of 3.3 snow leopards in 1982 were transferred to Howletts/Port Lympne in Great Britain.

Leif Blomqvist



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