

FIRST INTERNATIONAL SNOW LEOPARD CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI, 7th - 8th MARCH 1978

by Dr. Leif Blomqvist, Secretary of the
Conference and Studbook keeper.

On 7th - 8th March 1978, the First International Snow leopard Conference was arranged in Helsinki Zoo. The initiative for this conference was taken by Director Peter Weilenmann and Director Walter Encke in the autumn of 1977. As Helsinki Zoo is keeping the international studbook of Snow leopards, this zoo was chosen as the most suitable host for the first conference. An invitation was sent to all zoos keeping Snow leopards and to persons involved in this species. The following participants attended the conference :

Dr. Leif Blomqvist, Helsinki Zoo, Finland

Director Walter Encke, Krefeld Zoo, GFR

Dr. Helen Freeman, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, USA

Dr. Reinhold Gandrass, Krefeld Zoo, GFR

Dr. Ewald Isenbugel, Zurich Zoo, Switzerland

Director Ilkka Koivisto, Helsinki Zoo, Finland

Director John Knowles, Marwell Zoological Park, England

Professor Bjorn Kurten, Helsinki University Department of Geology, Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Ingo Rieger, Zurich Zoo, Switzerland

Dr. Ulla Rosquist, Helsinki Zoo, Finland

Dr. Dieter Ruedi, Basel Zoo, Switzerland

Dr. Carl Wahlberg, Helsinki Zoo, Finland

Director Peter Weilenmann, Zurich Zoo, Switzerland

Dr. Joep Wensing, Arnhem Zoo, Holland.

The purpose of the first conference was to provide a method by which essential information on the Snow leopard could be assimilated and exchanged on an international basis. Certain tasks were divided among the conferees. These are as follows :

1. Leif Blomqvist, studbook keeper, will serve in an advisory capacity to zoos wishing to exchange Snow leopards. It will be necessary for the studbook to be kept current at all times. Therefore, zoos are requested to report to the studbook exchanges of Snow leopards, either as breeding loans, transfers or sales, as they occur and not wait for the annual report. It is recommended that zoo management contact Dr. Blomqvist *before* an exchange is made so that inbreeding can be avoided.

2. Helen Freeman will coordinate data

regarding the social behaviour of the Snow leopard. Mrs. Freeman will collect behavioural data on the captive population and develop a data bank from which information can be disseminated on an international basis.

3. Professor Bjorn Kurten will study skull and bone material of Snow leopards to investigate the possibility of a sub-species.

4. Ingo Rieger will conduct a study on the different types of Snow leopard enclosures and how management techniques influence the species.

5. Dr. Dieter Ruedi will coordinate data in liver cirrhosis in Snow leopards.

6. Dr. Carl Wahlberg will collate and evaluate post mortem reports.

Individuals who are interested in any of the above projects, or have investigations which are related to the above, are asked to contact the respective individuals so that an exchange of information can be facilitated.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are made by the 1978 Conference to zoos holding Snow leopards:

1. Secluded off-exhibit maternity dens to be made available to pregnant females.

2. Littermates not to be sent together on breeding loans.

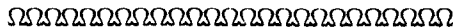
3. The advice of the studbook keeper to be asked before the transfer of Snow leopards for breeding purposes.

4. Post mortem findings to be sent to the studbook.

Future:

The first volume of the Snow leopard pedigree book, along with the proceedings of the 1978 Symposium, will be published this summer. It will be sent to all zoos keeping Snow leopards, and will be available on request from the Helsinki Zoo to all other interested zoos or individuals.

The Second International Snow leopard Conference will be held at the Zurich Zoo in the autumn of 1980.



INDIAN ELEPHANTS

Two males, ten females, shoulderheight 160 - 190 cm. (5½ - 6½ ft.)
and other animals. Please contact :

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