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 subspecies.

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 on 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:

G. VAN DEN BRINK B.V., DEN BLIEKLAAN 52-A, 3766 AV SOEST / HOLLAND. TELEX 43075 BRINK NL.

CABLES: GEBRIAM SOEST