

ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

ZOO

NEWSLETTER

**VOL 2
ISSUE 9**

AUGUST 2020



DIRECTORS CORNER

In this issue

- Virtually connected with the zoo during the lockdown
- Virtual Zoo Ambassador programme
- Zoo celebrates 35th anniversary at Vandalur
- Independence day celebration 2020
- Ganesh Chaurthi celebration
- Leopard rescued from Nilgiris
- Ostrich beak fracture - fixation
- Hog deer - Intestinal anastomosis
- Wildlife educational series by TNFA
- Online contest on important forests days
- International Tiger day
- World Lion day - Painting contest best entries
- World Elephant day - Painting contest best entries

Editor

Sudha Ramen IFS
Deputy Director, AAZP

Articles

Dr.K.Sridhar Dr.M.Sekar
Dr.A.Manimozhi Mr.G.Kamaraj

Compilation by

Ms. P.Shankari

For the fifth month in a row, Arignar Anna Zoological Park remained closed to the public and continued to grapple along with the rest of the world with the challenge posed by the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic. All efforts were directed at keeping the zoo inmates safe by, inter alia, compliance with the advisories issued by the Government, CZA, WAZA on Covid prevention protocol including the prescribed sanitization and disinfection regime, ensuring uninterrupted supply of feed and veterinary care, facilitation of a contactless environment to the extent feasible, quarantine of infected people and counselling.

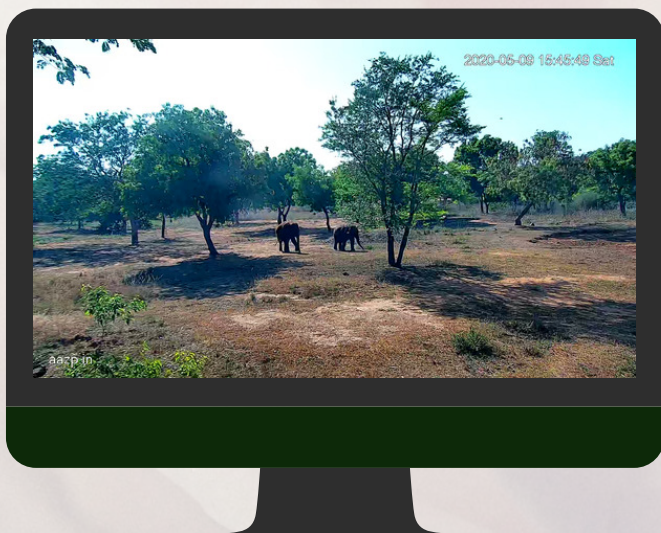
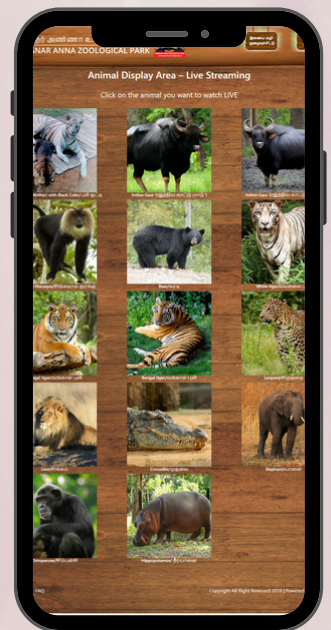
Whether or not our animals could sense the unprecedented distress and concern that their human counterparts were faced with, will probably never be known but fortunately, they showed no signs of distress or infection. The uncertainty and enigma surrounding the virus notwithstanding, the initial fear psychosis of the staff gradually made way for the understanding and realization that the need of the hour was not to despair, but repose faith in the ingenuity of the humans as a species to overcome the challenge and join hands to combat the contagion, and that life must go on and we will survive this crisis.

Significantly, the pandemic also brought under a sharper focus the need for living in harmony with nature, maintaining ecological balance and the value of life itself. In furtherance of its mandate of conservation education, the zoo attempted to reinvent itself and has stayed connected with the public through a virtual platform during the lockdown period, through live streaming and special online events.

DEBASIS JANA IFS
Additional Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests & Director

Virtually connected with the zoo during the lockdown

Due to COVID 19 Pandemic situation, as per the Government of Tamilnadu direction, Arignar Anna Zoological Park was closed to the public on 17th March 2020. However, it remained in continuous connect with the people through the Virtual platforms. It has a world-class live streaming facility for 15 Zoo animals which can be watched 24 x7 through the Zoo website and Zoo mobile App (introduced in 2018). This Park takes pride to be the first Indian zoo to introduce live streaming of Zoo animals, 24 X 7. It is also the first zoo in the world to live stream as many as 15 animal enclosures free of charge. An exclusive live telecast of Zoo animals was made on the Zoo website and Zoo Mobile App from 12 noon to 4 pm. It is highly remarkable that 4.4 crores of views have been recorded in the AAZP live streaming.



"Arignar Anna Zoological Park connects you with wild through the Virtual platform"

Virtual Zoo Ambassador

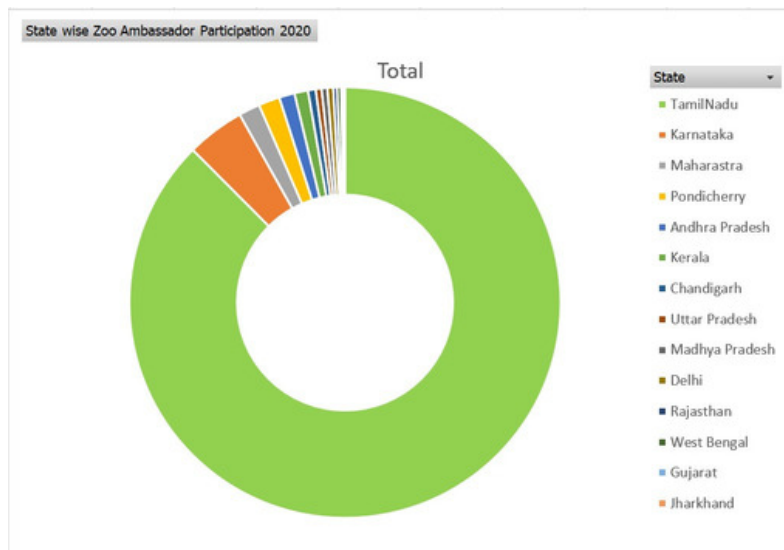
ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Zoo School of Arignar Anna Zoological Park facilitates conservation education through various awareness programmes focusing on the importance of Forests and wildlife such as zoo orientation for visiting schools, Zoo outreach, Zoo Ambassador programme, Special thematic workshop, certificate course for school dropouts, Webinars, special awareness talk on important forest and environment days, online contests etc. throughout the year.

As the first of its kind initiatives, Arignar Anna Zoological Park introduced "Zoo Ambassador programme" to the school students in the year 2018. The programme was conducted as summer camps, winter camps and one day camp for Government school students. So far 26 batches of zoo ambassador programme have been conducted during the period 2018-2020. Over 2500 students have been trained under this programme and titled as "Zoo Ambassador of Vandalur Zoo." Students are provided with a certificate, badge and Zoo passport which comprises 10 free visits to the zoo for a period of one year. In this programme, students learn to discover and explore wildlife science in separate modules on Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes and Butterflies through field-based learning at the zoo. The programme was operationalized by the team of Biologists, Veterinarians and Zoo Educator, led by the Deputy Director Tmt. Sudha Ramen IFS.

This year due to Covid 19 Pandemic, the Zoo ambassador programme was conducted through the virtual platform. The summer virtual Zoo Ambassador programme was scheduled in two batches. The first batch was a seven-day programme from 4.5.2020 to 10.5.2020 and the second batch was a 10-day programme from May 18 to May 28. On the last day of the programme, the students were taken on a virtual zoo trip which they enjoyed immensely. The programme was scheduled from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Every day assignments were given to the students who showed a keen interest and submitted the completed assignments. Arignar Anna Zoological Park which has been a pioneer in Zoo education became the first Indian Zoo to conduct online sessions even while as it remained closed for visitors due to lockdown.

The programme was hosted by Zoo Educator and mentored by Zoo Biologists & Zoo Veterinarians. The programme has received an overwhelming response from all over the country. Apart from students from Tamilnadu, this time students from other states and countries also participated in the virtual Zoo ambassador programme. This programme has reached an extra mile in wildlife education and involved in educating the students from other states and countries.



State wise Zoo Ambassador Participation 2020

Feedback from the Zoo Ambassadors

FEEDBACK ON VIRTUAL ZOO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM 1,2- VIBHA KALLIRA ACHAPPA

I am Vibha Kallira Achappa, attending Arignar Anna Zoological Park's Virtual Zoo Ambassador-Season 2 Program.
My Feedback

- I learned a lot about different animals, and I learnt interesting facts like 'King Cobras live upto 25 years in captivity; the recorded age', about thermoregulation in reptiles, different sub-species of a particular animal, etc.
- I got the chance to present my creativity by means of drawings, poems, stories and interesting articles, thereby learning more about the animal.
- To ask queries if having in Question and Answer tab was an excellent way to communicate directly with experts.
- Being heard by all participants during live chat session with presenter and mentor was good as doubts not up to the level of asking in Question and Answer tab could be asked here.
- I enjoyed the last day: Virtual Zoo Tour a lot.
- The lockdown period was used productively by all participants, including myself.
- On whole, I loved the sessions, assignments posed, live chat sessions, PPT Presentations and most of all, I loved the animals of the Zoo and the Wild.

Please conduct many more such events. It will be joyously participated by everyone, most of all, I would love it.

Please post more animals in "Live Animal Yard" so that we can watch more wonderful animals.

Anand Rengaraj <anandr2277@gmail.com>
to me
Mon, 11 May, 22:19

Dear Madam,
Reference : A.Aradhanahis

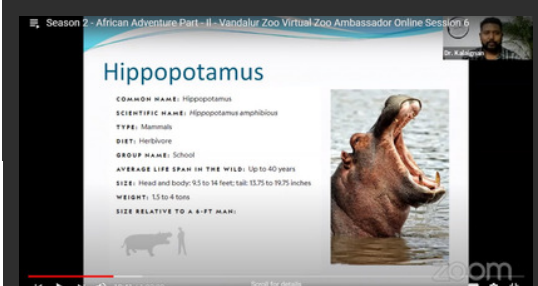
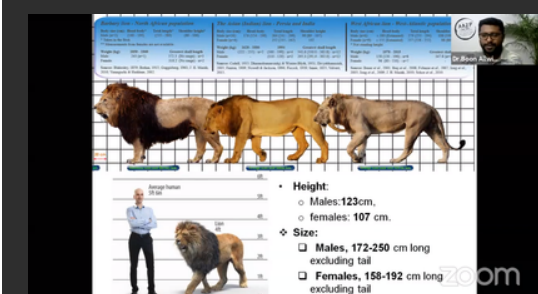
We thankful to you for this wonderful opportunities. we learned and enjoyed this session.
kindly update such kind of courses in future.

Regards
A.Aradhana

Oviya Jayashima <ovijayashima@gmail.com>
to me
Fri, 5 Jun, 12:43

Hello sir/ma'am,
I attended both Season 1 and 2 of the Virtual Zoo Ambassador program...I learnt so much over the course of the program and also the assignments that were given, helped me to gain extra knowledge about the animals that were discussed in the daily sessions. It was a productive use of my time during this lockdown. I sincerely thank all the Wildlife Veterinarians and Biologists who mentored us and to the Vandakur Zoo School for carrying out this initiative.

Regards,
Oviya Jayashima





Zoo celebrates 35th anniversary at Vandalur

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is one of the oldest Zoos in India. The first Zoo at Madras was established on 23rd November 1855 near Central railway station. Later it was relocated to Vandalur RF area on July 24, 1985, and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran at the present location at Vandalur

Over the years, the Zoo has grown from strength to strength to become one of the modern and scientifically managed Zoos in the country to have pioneered in wildlife conservation, conservation breeding of endangered animals, research and training, wildlife education, rescue and rehabilitation. At this juncture, AAZP recollects the efforts of all the officers and staff who have contributed so much to its development. We thank the State Government and Central Zoo Authority for their continued support which helped the zoo to achieve several milestones. The park celebrated the event by distributing sweets to the staff members.



Independence Day celebration 2020

Arignar Anna Zoological Park celebrated the 74th Independence day along with staff members. A parade was conducted by uniformed staff and then the National Flag was unfurled by Thiru. Debasis Jana, IFS, APCCF & Director which was followed by a brief address Deputy Director S. Sudha Ramen, IFS, other Zoo officials, staff and animal keepers were present during the event.

Ganesh Chaurthi Celebration

Arignar Anna Zoological Park celebrated Ganesh Chaurthi in a grand manner. On this occasion, a special feast was arranged for the Elephants housed in Zoo with their favourite fruit delicacy and jaggery combo meal.



Leopard Rescued from Nilgiris



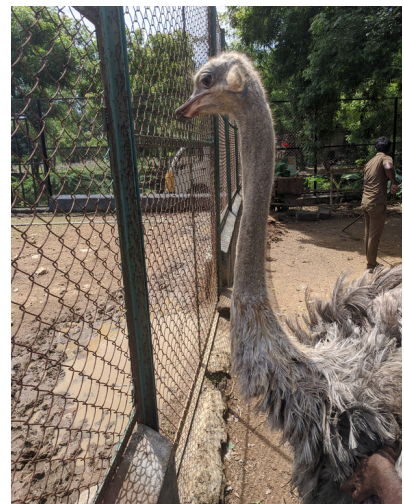
A male leopard rescued from Nilgiris Forest Division was transported to AAZP for emergency and critical care treatment. On preliminary evaluation, the animal exhibited signs of altered mentation, ataxia and deficits in cranial nerve functions. Further neurological examination revealed visual impairment, posture and gait reflex deficits with decreased postural reactions in the animal. Presently, the animal is being housed at the quarantine unit of Zoo Veterinary Hospital at AAZP and is being critically monitored.

- Hematological and serum biochemistry evaluation was carried out, renal infection controlled and by appropriate treatment, renal function was retrieved back to normal.
- Molecular diagnoses screening was done for infectious agents and was found negative for suspected viral, bacterial and protozoal diseases.
- Intensive care with physiotherapy was given from the day of admission; the animal ambulated on its own after 25 days of intensive treatment.

Ostrich beak Fracture - Fixation

An ostrich with beak fracture and unable to feed and drink water was reported. On examination, there was a longitudinal fracture of the lower beak with tearing of soft tissue up to the beginning of the throat was noticed.

The bird's futile attempt to drink and eat food was because of dropping through the fracture and soft tissue opening. Under IV anesthesia, at enclosure itself the beak fracture was fixed with cerclage wiring and acrylic hybrid technique. The animal started feeding and drinking water normally from the very next day without any discomfort and leakage.



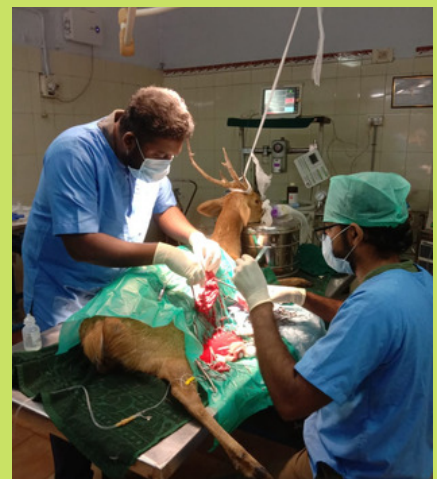
Hog Deer - Intestinal anastomosis



Devitalized deviscerated abdominal



Devitalized intestinal segment



During surgery



Closure of Skin



Positioning of animal in closed circuit

Hog deer with wound was reported from enclosure. On visiting the enclosure, the animal was found be on sternal recumbency with laboured breathing. Soon the animal was chemically immobilized and on examination, the evisceration of intestines through a puncture wound (in fight) noticed, and also the eviscerated part was devitalized.

The animal was brought to the zoo hospital immediately. Under Gas Anesthesia, intestinal resection and anastamosis were done and the wound was debrided and closed. The procedure lasted for 2.5 hours. The animal was under intensive critical care for 14 hours and could not survive. Even though a diligent attempt to save animals was not fruitful, it has aided in standardizing gas anesthesia and surgical protocol, which would again aid us in saving more similar animals.

Wildlife awareness series by TNFA

Tamilnadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore has introduced a special dedicated wildlife awareness series exclusively for children. During this quarter, five exclusive webinars on Elephants, Tigers, Leopards, Lions King Cobra and Sloth bears were conducted by TNFA and live telecasted in Arignar Anna Zoological Park - YouTube Channel to reach more number of people. In this webinar various topics like animal rescue operations, characteristics features and significance of the animals were discussed in detail.

**Online
contest on
important
Forests days**

1.Creative writing contest

On 22 May 2020, International Day of Biological diversity "Creative writing contest" on the topic "Our solution are in nature" (Theme of the year) was conducted in which Students from class V and above participated. More than 50 students participated in the contest and e-certificates were sent to the participants.



**2.'Water the birds' campaign on
World Environment Day on
5.6.2020**

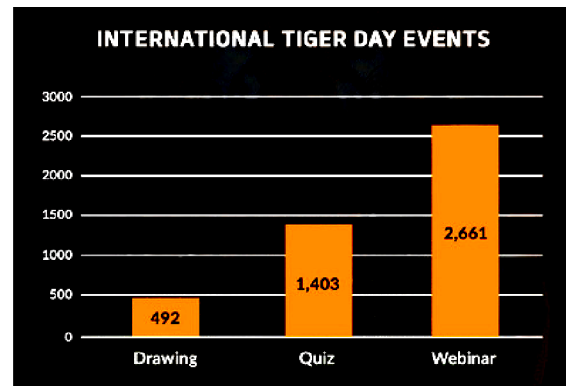


**3.Native tree planting campaign -
Van Mahotsav week - 2nd July to
8th July 2020**



Green Ganapathy challenge on Ganesh Chaurthi day

On the occasion of Ganesha Chaurthi, Arignar Anna Zoological Park invited people to participate in "Green Ganapathy Challenge" and to share the eco-friendly models of Green Ganapathy by tagging the zoo social media handles. The campaign witnessed a good number of entries. The best entries are published here.



On the occasion of International Tiger day 2020, Arignar Anna Zoological Park organized various contests and webinar sessions. Online painting contest on the topic "Tigers and our future", online quiz contest and webinar on the topic "Wild stories of Tiger" were conducted. The programme received an overwhelming participation from all over the country.

An exclusive webinar talk was organized. The Guest speakers for the session Dr. K. Sankar Director(SACON) presented the topic "Tiger conservation in India and the experience of Tiger relocation". Dr. N. S. Manoharan (Additional Director of Veterinary services -Retired) presented the topic "Tamilnadu Tiger reserves and rescue operations" and Dr. K. Sridhar (Zoo Veterinary surgeon- AAZP) presented the topic "Conservation breeding of Tigers at Zoos and the experience on hand-rearing the tiger cubs at AAZP".

On this special occasion, six animal keepers and casual labourers who rendered their excellent service in maintaining proper care of Tigers were appreciated with a memento as a sign of recognition by Thiru. S. Yuvaraj IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden. Thiru. Yogesh Singh, IFS, APCCF & Director, Sudha Ramen, IFS, Deputy Director, and other Zoo Officials were present during the occasion.



World Lion Day - Online Painting contest



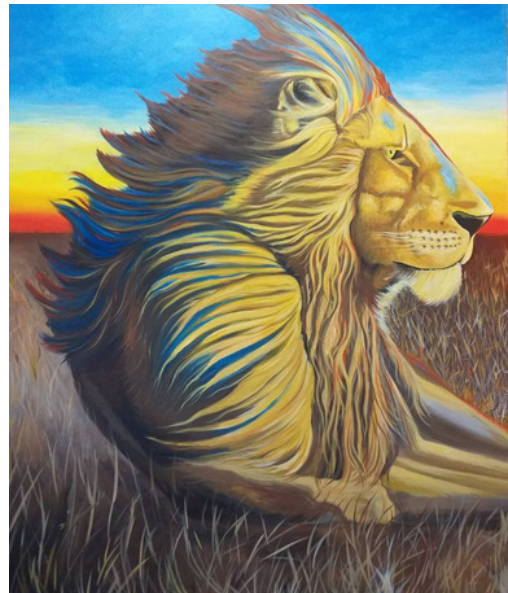
Category 1 (Primary)
Class III - Vedashri Walimbe



Catergory 3 (High School)
Class X - Sanjay Raj



Catergory 2 (Middle school)
Class VII - GM Jayashri

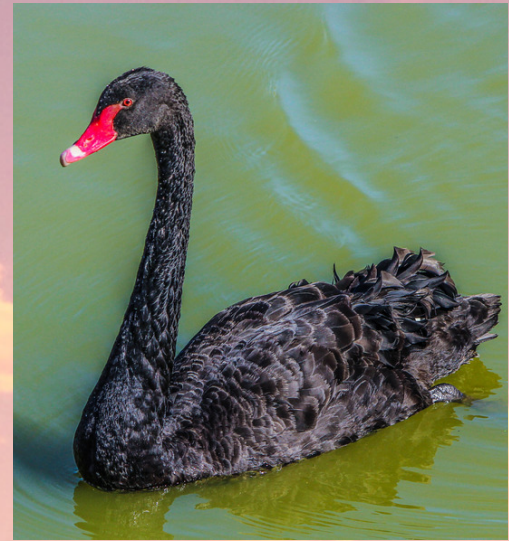


Catergory 4 (General)
- Sarvanan

World Elephant Day

On the occasion of World Elephant Day, 12th August 2020, Arignar Anna Zoological Park organized a painting and quiz contest on the zoo website. Best entries of the painting contest are published here. Over 100 enthusiasts participated in the painting contest and 220 participated in the quiz.





**Arignar Anna Zoological Park,
Vandalur, Chennai ,
Tamilnadu - 600048**

Ph.no - 044-22751089

FAX - 044-22750741

Email: directoraazp1@gmail.com

To



Connect with us



**To Subscribe to this newsletter contact Zoo School
aazpzooschool@gmail.com**