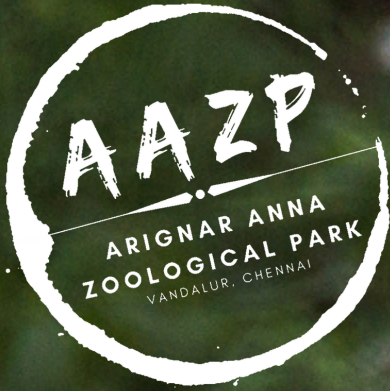


# ZOO NEWSLETTER


VOLUME III, ISSUES II, AUGUST 2025



ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

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Congratulations to Arignar Anna Zoological Park on successfully revamping and revitalizing its quarterly zoo newsletter. This refreshing initiative marks a wonderful step in strengthening the bond between the zoo and its visitors. The publication not only showcases the park's dedicated efforts in animal care, conservation, and education but also reaffirms its commitment to keeping the community engaged and informed. With this new chapter of communication, AAZP continues its upward journey, earning well-deserved appreciation from the public and inspiring many to connect more deeply with wildlife and support the zoo's mission of conservation.

**Rakesh Kumar Dogra, I.F.S.,**

PCCF & CWLW

**Tamil Nadu Forest Department**

## In this issue

- Establishment of Rat breeding centre
- Mass cleanliness drive
- Plastic-free zoo initiatives
- Ways of ticket booking to zoo
- Field visit to Mysore zoo
- Zoo newborn
- Enrichment for zoo animals
- Fodder Cultivation in AAZP
- Visit of Hon'ble Forest Minister
- Inauguration of Vedanthangal and nocturnal house
- CSR-Paravathy hospital

## Veterinary Corner

- Fracture management in a large Psittacine birds
- Management of parasite dermatitis in Indian Grey Wolf
- Deworming and vaccination of Golden Jackal, puppies
- Pneumonia and intervention protocol adopted for black buck
- Therapeutic intervention of pneumonia in ostrich

## ZooSchool

- Zoo Venture
- Zoo Ambassador
- Zoo Outreach
- Celebration of wildlife days
- Hands on training in collaboration with AIWC
- Testimonial from zoo events
- Student activity
- Zoo Keeper story

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is proud to share some significant steps taken during last quarter as we continue our journey of conservation, education and animal care. Our collective vision of a plastic-free zoo is steadily becoming a reality, thanks to the dedicated participation of our staff in successive mass cleanliness drives, which have transformed our premises into a cleaner and greener space for both animals and visitors.

In addition to the existing live-rearing units, we have established a rat breeding centre to ensure sustainable and reliable supply of feed for our zoo animals. Long-awaited exposure visits for staff have strengthened our learning culture through interaction with peer workers. We have initiated periodic enrichment programmes to improve animal welfare. Much-awaited Vedanthangal and Nocturnal animal House are now open to visitors.

The visit of the Hon'ble Forest Minister to felicitate our mahouts and cavadies was a moment of honour.

We launched "Zoo Venture", a special programme designed for Government school students which makes wildlife education more accessible and impactful. Zoo Ambassador-summer camp, outreach programmes, and the celebration of wildlife days continue to inspire awareness and responsibility among young minds.

From this edition, we are bringing to you stories from our animal keepers, giving readers a glimpse into the dedication of our staff behind the scenes.

Together, with your support, Arignar Anna Zoological Park is growing as a hub of conservation, education, and inspiration

**T.Ritto Cyriac I.F.S.,**

Director

**Arignar Anna Zoological Park**

## Establishment of Rat breeding centre – A Step towards sustainable animal care

Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) has strengthened its sustainable zoo management by establishing a Rat Breeding Unit alongside its existing mealworm, superworm, and roaches rearing units. This initiative ensures a steady supply of protein-rich live feed for zoo animals while reducing costs and dependence on external sources.



Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) requires around 241 rats every week to meet the dietary needs of its diverse collection of snakes, lizards, and raptors. The zoo is home to 16 species of snakes, 4 species of owls, and 5 species of vultures, all of which rely on rats as a vital part of their nutrition.

Reptiles such as snakes and lizards generally prefer live feed, and the size and age of the rats provided vary according to the species.

- Pinkies – for beauty snakes, green vine snakes
- 7-day-old rats – for juvenile anacondas
- 10-day-old rats – for boas and water snakes
- 2-week-old rats – for pythons, owls, and vultures
- 3-week-old rats – for rat snakes, vipers, kraits, cobras, and monitor lizards

AAZP procured its supply of rats from the recognised Irula Cooperative Society, However, with the increasing demand and the need for a steady, reliable source, the zoo has taken a forward-looking step by establishing its own Rat Breeding Centre. The facility currently houses 360 breeding pairs, which are already breeding successfully and steadily contributing to the zoo's feed requirements.

This initiative represents more than just a feed supply solution—it is a significant stride towards sustainable animal care practices. By developing an in-house breeding facility, AAZP has reduced dependence on external suppliers while ensuring that its reptiles and raptors receive a consistent, nutritious, and welfare-oriented food supply. The Rat Breeding Unit thus stands as a testimony to the zoo's commitment to animal welfare, innovative management, and long-term conservation goals.



# MASS CLEANLINESS DRIVE

10<sup>th</sup> June & 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

As part of its vision to achieve a Plastic-Free Zoo, Arignar Anna Zoological Park organized mass cleanliness drives on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 to clear plastic and other waste within the campus. The campaign witnessed the active participation of around 300 zoo staff and 50 volunteers, reflecting collective responsibility toward conservation.

The initiative focused on removing plastic waste, dry leaves, deadwood, and litter scattered across the premises. While organic waste such as leaves and wood was set aside for composting into organic manure, plastic items like bottles and caps were carefully segregated for recycling, thereby reducing environmental impact.



To encourage enthusiasm, the best cleaning team and individual performers were recognized with awards, and all volunteers were presented with certificates of participation.

This cleanliness drive was not just a routine activity but a significant step in AAZP's Plastic-Free Zoo campaign, reinforcing its commitment to creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable environment for both animals and visitors.



# PLASTIC-FREE ZOO INITIATIVE AT ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP), Vandalur, is dedicated to maintaining a clean, green, and sustainable environment for both wildlife and visitors. To support this mission, the park has implemented eco-friendly measures to reduce plastic use and promote responsible practices

To regulate the entry of plastic bottles inside the campus, those brought by visitors are tagged with stickers at entry. Those bottles sold by various food outlets inside the zoo are tagged with stickers of different colours. A deposit of Rs 10 is collected for each bottle. After visit, if the bottle is safely taken back, caution deposit will be returned back to the visitors.



Inside the park, all food outlets are restricted to using only eco-friendly materials such as biodegradable spoons, cups, and plates, while single-use plastics are strictly prohibited. At the zoo entrance, any food items brought in plastic packaging by visitors are replaced with paper bags, reinforcing the park's commitment to a plastic-free environment.

## Ways of Ticket booking to Zoo

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, the oldest and one of the largest zoos in South Asia, attracts over 17 lakh visitors annually. To ensure hassle-free movement and better visitor experience, the park has introduced multiple ticketing options that make entry simple, quick, and efficient. Tickets are generated with QR code and it get validated at the entrance.

### Kiosk Booking

Visitors can use the self-service kiosks at the zoo entrance for on-the-spot ticket purchases, making the process quick and convenient.

### WhatsApp Booking

By scanning the QR code displayed at the zoo or on official platforms, visitors are directly redirected to the ticket booking page.

### Website Booking

Tickets can be booked in advance through the official zoo website, where visitors can select the date, number of visitors, and complete payment online.

### Vandalur Zoo Mobile App

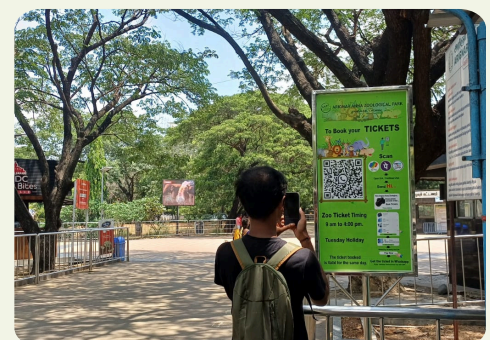
The official mobile app, available on Google Play Store and App Store, allows visitors to book tickets anytime, anywhere, along with access to additional zoo information.

### Cash Counter

Cash Counter is also available at the entrance for visitors who prefer cash payments.



Kiosk Booking



Whatsapp Booking



## FIELD VISIT TO MYSORE ZOO

Article By Mr. S Subash, FRO I

To enhance knowledge and foster a peer-learning experience, Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP), Vandalur organized a two-day field visit programme to Mysore Zoo.

As part of the Phase I training programme, two batches of staff members participated:

- The first batch, comprising 33 trainees, visited from 18.06.2025 to 19.06.2025.
- The second batch, comprising 32 trainees, visited from 08.07.2025 to 09.07.2025.

The primary objective of the visit was to observe and learn various aspects of zoo management practices including:

- Veterinary care and animal health management
- Breeding programmes for endangered species to ensure their survival
- Wildlife conservation awareness and recreational education
- Enrichment activities and their connection to animal welfare
- Enclosure design and visitor amenities that strengthen the connection between people and nature

This initiative provided participants with valuable exposure to best practices in modern zoo management and conservation strategies.



# Zoo Newborns

(May–August 2025)

Article By Mr. G.Kamaraj, Biologist



Arignar Anna Zoological Park is being a thriving center for conservation, breeding, and scientific management of wild animals. This quarter the zoo has been blessed with several delightful additions across different species.

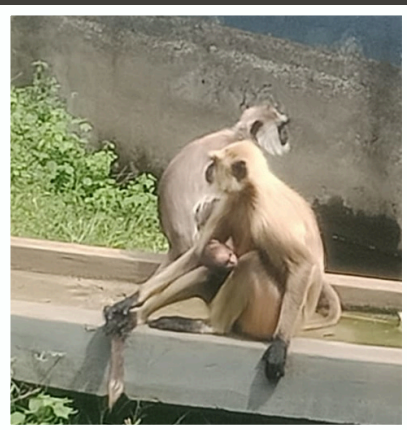
The quarter began on a promising note with the birth of five **jackal** puppies on 2nd May 2025. In the avian section, a white peafowl chick hatched on 10th June, followed by a brahminy kite on 29th July. Our **night heron** collection also grew with 3 hatchlings on 22nd August and 2 more on 29th August in the newly constructed Vedanthangal bird aviary.

The **ostrich** section witnessed one of its best breeding seasons, producing seven chicks between 11th and 23rd July, reflecting the dedicated care of our keepers. Adding to the excitement, on 10th July, 10 **yellow anacondas** were born, enriching our reptile collection.

Among mammals, Happy news from hippo house, three new borns in this quarter. A hippo calf was born to the hippo Lakshmana (8 yrs) and Pragathi (6 yrs) on 31.08.2025, Lakshmana (8 yrs) sired a calf with Kala (6 yrs) on 30.07.2025, it was noteworthy to mention the birth of calf to Lakshmana (8 yrs) and Trisha (5 yrs) on 16.11.2024. A **mouse deer** gave birth on 12th August, reaffirming our conservation commitment, followed by the birth of a **Hanuman langur** on 21st August.

All newborns are under close monitoring and special care, ensuring healthy growth before they are gradually introduced for public viewing.

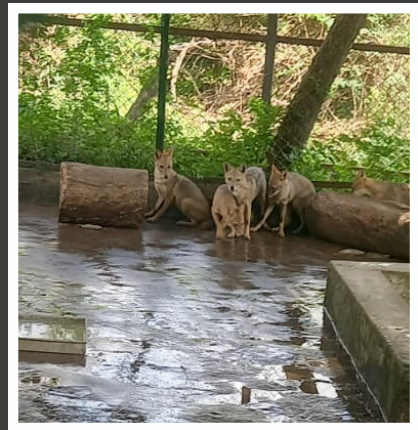
These births are a testimony to the dedicated efforts of our zoo staff and mark another milestone in AAZP's commitment to ex-situ wildlife conservation.



Hanuman Langur



Yellow Anaconda



Jackal

# Enrichment for Zoo Animals – Enhancing Welfare in Captivity

Article By Dr. S.R.Chandramouli , Biologist

Enrichment in zoos is an essential practice that ensures the physical and mental well-being of animals living under human care. It involves introducing a variety of activities, objects, and experiences that stimulate animals' natural instincts and behaviors, making their environment more engaging and dynamic.

One of the primary benefits of enrichment is that it encourages animals to explore, forage, and play in ways similar to how they would behave in the wild. This not only keeps them physically fit and active but also mentally stimulated and engaged reducing boredom and stress. Without enrichment, animals are more likely to develop stereotypic behaviors such as pacing, over-grooming, or repetitive movements, which indicate psychological distress.



Enrichment can take many forms – from *food-based* enrichment like hiding treats to stimulate foraging, to *sensory* enrichment using scents, sounds, or visual stimuli that mimic natural experiences. *Environmental* enrichment such as climbing structures, logs, ropes, or water pools provide opportunities for exercise and exploration. *Social* enrichment, such as housing compatible species/individuals together, also plays a vital role in promoting natural interactions both within and between species.

For zoo visitors, enrichment activities also enhance the experience by allowing them to witness animals displaying natural behaviors, which helps in building awareness about wildlife and the importance of conserving their natural environment.

Ultimately, enrichment is not just about entertainment – it is about improving animal welfare, ensuring that creatures in captivity remain healthy, active, and better adapted to their surroundings. By incorporating innovative and species-specific enrichment strategies, zoos fulfill their responsibility of providing a safe, stimulating, and humane environment for the animals under their care.



# Fodder Cultivation Activity in AAZP

Article By Dr. K. Shankar, Veterinary Officer

In our zoo, a major portion of the daily green fodder requirements of herbivorous animals is met through in-house fodder cultivation plots. High-yielding green fodder varieties such as COFS 29, CO-4, and CO-3 are cultivated along with the leguminous fodder hedge lucerne (*Desmanthus virgatus*). While green fodders serve as a rich source of total digestible nutrients, hedge lucerne provides high crude protein content, ensuring a balanced and nutritious diet for the animals. This fodder is supplied daily to herbivores including hippopotamus, rhinoceros, elephant, deer, and gaur, thereby reducing dependency on external sources and ensuring a reliable supply of fresh forage throughout the year.

Additionally, tree fodders such as *Ficus* sp. and *Sesbania* sp., rich in essential minerals, are harvested from within the campus and provided to giraffes and elephants. These efforts not only enhance animal health and immunity but also promote self-sufficiency and sustainability in zoo management. By integrating fodder cultivation with resource conservation, AAZP sets an example of eco-friendly practices while ensuring the highest standards of animal welfare. Our fodder plot are currently under expansion to ensure fodder availability round the clock.



**Sugar Cane**



**Hedge lucerne**



**Red Napier**



**Sorgham**



**Co4**

## Review of Conservation Breeding Programme by CZA

The Deputy Inspector General of Forest (DIG) of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), New Delhi, Mrs. Akanksha Mahajan I.F.S., visited Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP), Vandalur to review its ongoing conservation breeding programmes. AAZP plays a pivotal role in ex-situ conservation as:

- Coordinating Zoo for Lion-tailed Macaque and Nilgiri Langur
- Participating Zoo for Indian Gaur, Royal Bengal Tiger, Indian Giant Squirrel, and Wild Dog.

During the review, the successful breeding of Indian Gaur at AAZP was particularly appreciated. The zoo hosts a healthy and sustainable population of this species, reflecting its commitment to conserving India's rich biodiversity.



## Health Advisory Committee meeting

Arignar Anna Zoological Park conducted a Health Advisory Committee Meeting (17.7.2025) to discuss various veterinary aspects and health challenges faced in the zoo. The 11 membered committee meeting was chaired by the Director, AAZP. The session brought together veterinary experts to share insights, assess current practices, and suggest improvements for ensuring the well-being of our animals.

## Grievance meeting

AAZP has initiated the practice of conducting weekly grievance meetings, providing workers an opportunity to share their problems, concerns, and positive feedback with the respective Forest Range Officers. The objective of these meetings is to encourage open communication and create a better, more supportive workplace environment.



# Visit of Hon'ble Forest Minister



The Hon'ble Minister of Forests & Khadi, Tamil Nadu, Thiru. R. S. Rajakannappan, visited AAZP and interacted with 15 mahouts and cavadies who successfully completed elephant care training at the Thailand Elephant Conservation Centre, Lampang, held from 17th to 21st June 2025.

The Minister highlighted that this training will greatly benefit the work at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) and Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) elephant camps. He noted that this was the second government-led training initiative in Thailand, aimed at enhancing the skills of mahouts and cavadies while ensuring the health and well-being of camp elephants.



**“பஹான் சொல் கேட்டு நிமிரும் களிறு,  
அவனது கரம் தொட்டு நடந்திடும்.”  
-பெரும்பாணாற்றுப்படை**

**The elephant rises at the mahout's call,  
and walks gently at his touch.  
— Perumpāṇāṟṟuppaṭai**

# Inauguration of Vedanthangal and Nocturnal animal house



Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) extends its sincere gratitude to the Sun Foundation for their generous CSR contribution towards the construction of the new Vedanthangal Aviary and the renovation of the Nocturnal House.

These two facilities were formally inaugurated on 26th June 2025 by Mrs. Mallika Maran and Mrs. Kavery Kalanithi, Executive Director, Sun TV Network Ltd., in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister of Forests & Khadi, Thiru. R. S. Rajakannappan, Additional Chief Secretary (EFCC Department), senior forest officers, and zoo visitors.

The newly developed exhibits not only enhance animal housing but also significantly enrich the visitor experience. Zoo visitors have been particularly appreciative of the modern structures and the clearer viewing opportunities these facilities provide.



## CSR - Paravathy hospital

Parvathy Hospital, under its CSR initiative, has taken up painting the zoo's compound walls along GST-Kelambakkam Road. The hospital also provides an ambulance facility inside the zoo during working hours and conducted a health camp on bone health, eye care, and general health for zoo staff.



# VETERINARY CORNER

## Fracture Management in a Large Psittacine Bird

Article By Dr. K.Sridhar, VAS

Macaws are large, colourful birds belonging to the family Psittacidae and are native to the tropical regions of the America. A blue Gold Macaw was reported for not bearing weight and not perching with left leg. On examination, it was observed that the identification ring on the leg was crushed tearing skin and muscle leading to fracture of tibio-tarsal bone. Macaws have large and powerful beak with capability to crush the metal identification ring and was suspected to be crushed the ring, as they were curious birds with tool manipulating capability. On radiography, under gas anaesthesia it was diagnosed as complete open fracture of left distal tibio-tarsal bone. Fracture was surgically fixed by internal fixation using 1.6 mm K-wire, under injectable premedication and gas anesthesia. However on the 7th post-operative day animal succumbed and on post mortem examination it was found to be multi organ failure involving pneumonia, nephritis and hepatitis, which could be a result of factors like stress due to separation from flock, treatment handling, implant induced stress, etc., even though measures were taken to keep these factors at the least.



Deep laceration due the leg ring compression.



Animal prepared for surgery and mounted on Digital radiography pane



Post-operative radiograph showing internal fixation of fracture with intra medullary pin



Bird perching and bearing weigh o the operated leg

# Management of parasitic dermatitis in Indian grey wolf

Article By Dr. K.KavinKumar. Zoo Vet



Before treatment of Indian grey wolf

The Indian grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) is a subspecies found in the Indian subcontinent. Parasitic dermatitis is not uncommon in these species. Parasitic dermatitis can be caused by direct contact with infected animals and also by ectoparasites like such as ticks (*Rhipicephalus* sp.), fleas (*Ctenocephalides* sp.), mites (e.g., *Sarcoptes* sp., *Soroptes* sp., *Demodex* sp.etc), and lice (*Trichodectes canis*) can severely affect the health of wolves, as well as by stress factors, auto-immune disorders and hormonal imbalance leads to secondary parasitic dermatitis.

Clinical signs include alopecia, pruritus, skin lesions like (red bumps, crusts and pustules).The affected animal was treated with parenteral ivermectin (0.2 mg/kg body weight S/C, weekly). Herbal acaricides (Zerokeet) (1:2 dilutions in water) was prepared and applied topically by spraying and spreading over the body with cotton soaked with same mixture for every three days once. Oral skin and coat supplement (Starcoat) was advised through meat once a daily. Along with above mentioned medication, ectoparasiticide spot-on (e.g., fipronil) was applied once in three week. In the enclosure acaricides was mixed at 20 ml per litre of water was sprayed except in water troughs. Flaming was done in water trough areas and animals were not allowed in enclosure after being sprayed.



Parenteral anti-parasitic injection were given

Controlling ectoparasites improves the animals' health, prevents secondary infections, reduces the risk of haemoprotozoan diseases. It also reduces the stress and deficiency disease conditions like anemia, hypo-proteinemia and also enhances general well-being and reproductive performance



After treatment of Indian grey wolf (Hair growth noticed)

## DEWORMING AND VACCINATION OF GOLDEN JACKAL PUPPIES

Article By Dr. Mohammed Ramees Zoo Vet



In May 2025, Priya, a female Golden Jackal at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, gave birth to five male puppies. They were provided intensive care, dewormed, and vaccinated at eight weeks, with booster doses later. Tick infestation was controlled with fipronil, permethrin, and enclosure flaming. Deworming and vaccination proved vital in protecting the young ones from parasites and diseases.

## Pneumonia and intervention protocol adopted for Black buck

Article By Dr. R.Sachidanandhan, Zoo Vet

In a captive enclosure of blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), also known as the Indian antelope, is a native to India and Nepal. Death of three animals over a period 10 days was noticed. Post-mortem examination revealed pulmonary congestion and frothy exudate in the trachea. Based on the gross lesions the case was tentatively diagnosed for pneumonia. Soon, population medication of entire flock with a course antibiotic in feed was initiated at a dose rate of 10 mg/kg per animal supplemented with probiotics administered through concentrate feed. Measures were also taken to drain the stagnated water and to prevent stagnation. The death was controlled effectively soon after the initiation of the treatment. Pre-monsoon weather with alternative extreme weather and related stress in these species could be a possible etiological factor. Prompt assessment and multi-factorial approach aided in a favorable outcome



Oral antibiotic mixed in the feed



Animals consuming antibiotic mixed feed

## Therapeutic Interventions of Pneumonia in Ostrich

Article By Dr.P.Kamalanathan VAS



Administration of oral medication through stomach tube under physical restraint

A 8-month-old sub-adult ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) was reported for reduced feed and water intake. Clinical examination revealed dehydration decreased excretory output and radiographic findings indicated pulmonary involvement. Based on these observations, a tentatively diagnosed as pneumonia. Therapeutic management included initially parenteral fluids and anti-inflammatory given for two days, oral administration of antibiotics, multivitamins, liver supplements, herbal immunomodulator and water (for dehydration through stomach tube for ten days).

The bird responded favorably to the treatment, showing gradual improvement in feed intake and restoration of excretory function. This case highlights the importance of early diagnosis and integrated supportive therapy in the successful management of pneumonia induced dehydration in ostriches.



Blood collection and administration of parenteral medicine under physical restraint

# ZOO SCHOOL

Articles of this session by Ms.P.Shankari, Zoo Educator

## Zoo Venture: Expanding Learning Horizons for Government School Students

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, continues to strengthen its role in zoo education through impactful Zoo School programmes. As part of its commitment to promoting conservation education among government school students, the zoo has recently revised entry fees to Rs 20 for all government school students and teachers, a significant reduction from the earlier rates (Rs 90 for adults and Rs 50 for children).

To further support inclusive education, the zoo launched the Zoo Venture Programme in July 2025, exclusively for Government and Government-aided Home Care Schools. Held every Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., this free initiative accommodates up to 50 students per batch and includes:

- Interactive learning on animal behavior and ecological roles
- Expert-led sessions by zoo Biologists, and Educator
- Guided tours to enhance real-time field experience
- Documentary screenings on wildlife and conservation

Along with refreshments and educational material to the participants.

Schools can register online at <https://aazp.in/zoo-venture/> with an approval letter from the principal.

Since launch, 253 students across five batches have participated, with overwhelmingly positive feedback on the learning experience and exposure to wildlife conservation.

In addition, the Zoo Explorer Programme, for private schools, planned to happen on every Thursday of the week and has welcomed over 400 students and this paid structured sessions includes guided tours and expert talks.

The Zoo School, Arignar Anna Zoological Park continue to be a valuable platform that nurturing a generation that is more aware and sensitive toward nature and its conservation.





## Zoo Ambassador programme

AAZP successfully organized five batches of the Zoo Ambassador Programme, a flagship summer camp, with 50 students in each batch, totaling 250 participants. During the camp, students were exposed to various zoo animals and engaged in interactive learning sessions facilitated by zoo veterinarians, biologists, and educators. The programme provided a unique platform for knowledge sharing and experiential learning, which was received with great enthusiasm by the participants. Upon completion of the camp, each student was conferred the title of "Zoo Ambassador of Vandalur Zoo" and awarded a certificate, badge, and a special passport that entitled them to 10 free visits to the zoo.



## Zoo Outreach



To commemorate International Tiger Day, Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) conducted a Zoo Outreach Programme at Maharishi Vidhya Mandir, Thiruvotriyur. The event was organized in two sessions to engage students of different age groups.

The first session was conducted for primary school students of Classes 2 to 5, where conservation messages were delivered through interactive video presentations. This was followed by a session for students of Class 6 and above, focusing on tiger conservation. During this session, students gained insights into the importance of tiger conservation, the methodology of tiger census, and the ecological significance of tigers. The programme aimed to create awareness among young learners and inspire them to contribute towards wildlife conservation.

# Celebration of Wildlife days



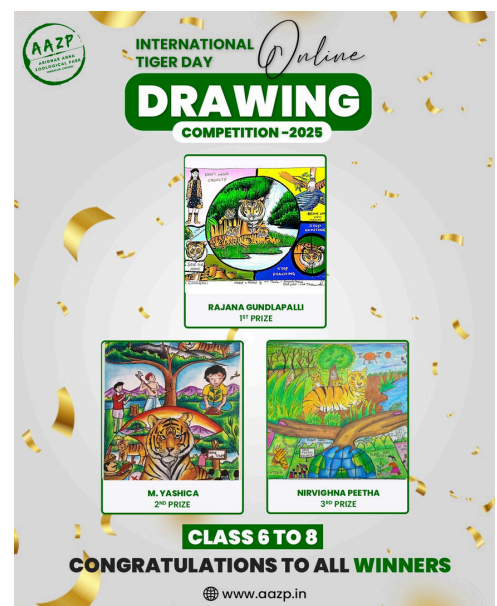
On the occasion of World Snake Day, an awareness campaign was organized in which around 180 students participated. The programme highlighted the ecological importance of snakes and emphasized how a harmonious relationship between humans and snakes benefits the ecosystem. Students actively interacted during the session, gaining valuable insights into the role of snakes in maintaining ecological balance.



International Giraffee day awareness campaign near Giraffee enclosure visitors were educated in batches



Chimpanzee day awareness campaign near chimp enclosure visitors were educated in batches



On International Tiger Day 2025, online painting contest was hosted around 100 students participated. Best entries was awarded with zoo voucher, first prize worth Rs 2000, second prize worth Rs 1500, Third prize worth Rs 1000.

## Hands on training incordination with AIWC



Hands on training - Crocodile rescue



Hands on training - Snake rescue

On 3rd June 2025, AIWC conducted hands-on training at AAZP on crocodile rescue and handling techniques for forest department staff, focusing on crocodile biology, behaviour, and humane rescue methods. Similarly, on 1st July, a training on snake handling and rescue techniques was organized to address rising snake-human conflicts effectively and scientifically.

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) is a large scavenging bird with a wingspan of up to 2.6 m. Found across Europe, North Africa, and Asia, it feeds mainly on carcasses, preventing the spread of diseases and maintaining ecological balance. By cleaning nature's waste, this vulture plays a crucial role in keeping ecosystems healthy.



**Griffon vulture**  
*Gyps himalayensis*

Photo: M.Vishnu, VII Grade,  
Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Avigna Celeste  
Zoo Ambassador

# Testimonial from zoo events

## Zoo Ambassador



**MY LEARNING EXPERIENCE AT ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK SUMMER CAMP 2025**

**K S DURAI MURUGVEL**

I, K. S. Durai Murugavel take the opportunity to share my Learning experience at AAZP Zoo Ambassador Summer Camp between 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.

The first day's agenda was "Mammalia & Reptilians". We saw many mammals ranging from Primates, Big Cats to Mega & Meso herbivores. In Reptiles, we saw, Snakes, Crocodiles & Monitor Lizards, with their physiognomies & adaptations. As of allied curriculum learning, we broke many presumed misconceptions

On the final day, Our Guide explained about butterfly habits, morphology, steps & amenities used to help butterflies thrive in their reserve. Finally, We saw Birds, Raptors, Psittacidae, Ratite & Pheasant Families & then went to the Oteri Lake & Vedanthangal enclosure, which aims to give a lifelike environment to migratory, exotic & indigenous birds.

Overall, it was a memorable journey. Knowledgeable guides shared facts about animals & the zoo's conservation efforts. Animals thriving beautifully in captivity sparked learning about Animalia & biodiversity. Issuing an ambassador badge made me feel honored with a sense of stewardship while I befriended many cohorts. I hope the management will organize more programs in the future to educate young aspirants on responsible environmentalism. Thank you.



## Zoo outreach

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the engaging presentation on Tiger Day as part of zoo outreach.

The children were really excited after watching the video and gained valuable new information about tigers from your informative presentation. We appreciate the effort you put into making the session both educational and enjoyable for the students. Thank you again for your valuable time with us.

**Mrs.D.YOGALAKSHMI.M.sc,B.Ed,M.Phil**  
Principal,  
Maharishi Vidhya mandir, Thiruvottriyur

## Zoo venture

தேச இனங்கள் பற்றி, தெரிந்து கொள்ளும் விழைவு கொண்டவர்கள் Field Trip பயணத்தில் கலந்துகொள்ளும் வாய்ப்பை வழங்கியதற்காக கிடைத்தது. இந்த விருந்தினர் தேச இனங்களைப் பற்றியும், விலங்குகளின் பற்றியும், உயிர்வாழ்வு மற்றும் காப்பகம் பற்றியும் கற்றுக்கொள்ளும் வாய்ப்பை வழங்கியதற்காக கிடைத்தது. இந்த விருந்தினர் தேச இனங்களைப் பற்றியும், விலங்குகளின் பற்றியும், உயிர்வாழ்வு மற்றும் காப்பகம் பற்றியும் கற்றுக்கொள்ளும் வாய்ப்பை வழங்கியதற்காக கிடைத்தது.

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## Recent Google Reviews

**Paradaman J**  
Local Guide • 106 reviews • 41 photos

★★★★★ 6 days ago **NEW**

One of the most visit Zoo especially if one is in Chennai. Well maintained zoo park - cleanliness held despite thousands of people around on daily basis. Battery Vehicle, cycle and e-cycle facility are key to attract public more frequently to the site. Such a vast place needs transportation to cover all animals and birds. Deer and Lion safari are lively experience like in forest. Tamilnadu government did well in renovation. Parking facility is good. Overall, good place to spend a day, children likes most of it.

Visited on Weekend

**Pradeep s**  
Local Guide • 267 reviews • 54 photos

★★★★★ 3 days ago **NEW**

One of the good place to spend your day with your family and friends. Maintenance of the park is good and the food was good too

Visited on Public holiday

Wait time No wait

Reservation recommended No

**Karthik N**  
Local Guide • 16 reviews • 0 photos

★★★★★ 3 days ago **NEW**

Minimum of the largest zoo. Ample collections like Rhino, Hippo, Giraffe & So on.

One hour 3 to 5 hrs required to visit through bicycle (Electric also available) if it by walk 5 hrs +

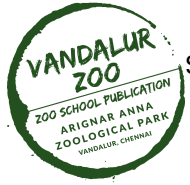
Battery vehicle inside the campus is there, Shall recommended for elders.

Especially bicycle having baby seat, So can utilise well.

Decently maintained as well parking available in two areas.

Overall decently maintained and worth to visit.

Visited on Weekend



## Plastic Perils: Who Faced What?

Story: Four animals encountered different plastic items in different places, causing different problems. Who faced what?

Connect them with lines animal- item-place-problem



Lake



Fishing line



Snacks in plastic wrapper

Entanglement

Ingestion



Beach



Bottle ring



land fills



Tourist places



Choking



open land near forest area

Strangulation



## Unscramble the words

1. I often mistakes plastic bags for jelly fishes
2. I often ingest plastics, thinking it's food
3. I swallow microplastics thinking they're plankton or algae
4. I ingest larger plastic pieces while feeding on schools of fish
5. I feed microplastics directly, im a filter feeder

1. TRUETL
2. BSARIDE
3. SHIF
4. HLAWES
5. RSYTEO



Complete 5 or more and send us a photo – get featured in the next newsletter as a Zoo Eco-Champion!

Plastic-Free Week – Say no to single-use plastic (bags, bottles, straws).

Plant a Tree – Plant at least one native tree or two saplings.

Save Water – Turn off taps & reuse water for plants.

Zero-Waste Picnic – Pack food in reusable containers & carry back all waste.

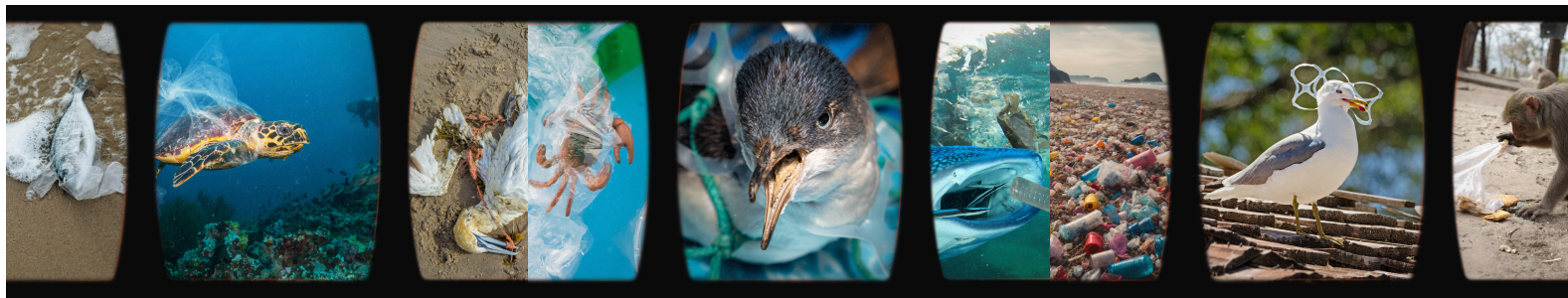
Respect the Wild Rule – Pledge not to feed or disturb wild animals.

Green Transport Day – Use cycle, walk, or public transport once a week.

Pollinator Garden – Grow 3 flowering plants for bees & butterflies.

Upcycle It! – Turn old waste into something useful (bird feeder, planter).

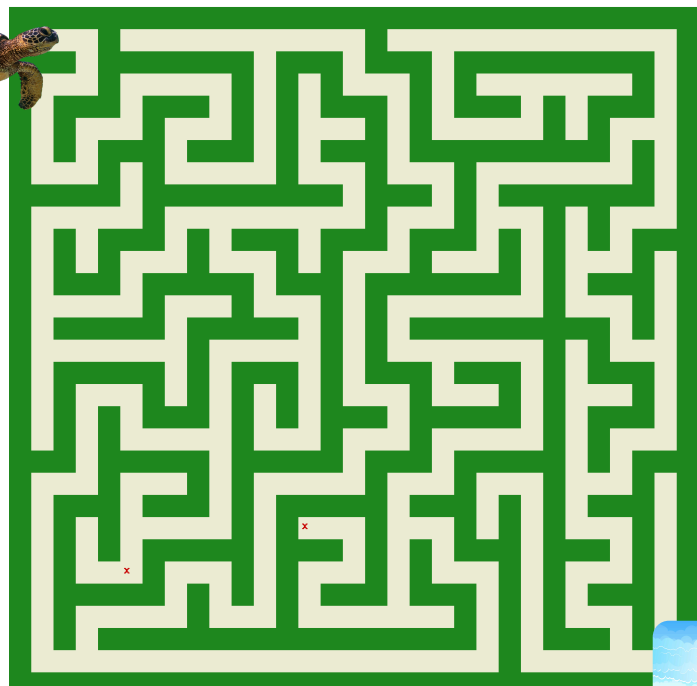
## Create a story with given images



Best Stories / posters/ painting will be use for awareness creation on plastic pollution. Write to us at [aazpzooschool@gmail.com](mailto:aazpzooschool@gmail.com). Best entries will be awarded with zoo vouchers.



**Help the turtle  
to reach the sea**





## 15 YEARS WITH OSTRICHES – A KEEPER’S JOURNEY

BY M. YESU, OSTRICH KEEPER, AAZP



I joined Arignar Anna Zoological Park 15 years ago, at a time when our zoo had only two ostriches and a single enclosure. Since then, the ostrich section has grown steadily, and today we have six separate enclosures and nearly 49 chicks successfully bred under my care. Many of these birds have also been shared with other zoos in India through animal exchange programs.

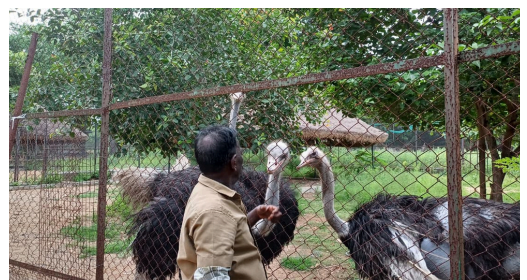
My passion for animals has always driven me to protect and care for them, and working with ostriches has been both a challenge and a joy. The ostrich is a strong bird and often pretends to attack as a defense mechanism. When threatened, it can deliver a powerful kick that is extremely dangerous. For safety, we always maintain a 4–5 feet gap while handling them. I also carry a long stick when entering the enclosure – if a bird pretends to charge, I raise the stick above its head, hide behind trees, and calmly make my way out.

One of the biggest challenges we faced in the early years was egg incubation. Like many zoos, we initially found that ostriches did not incubate their eggs in captivity. To encourage them, I created a mud saucer about half a foot deep and placed collected eggs at the center. To my delight, the female began laying her eggs in the saucer, and soon the pair started incubating naturally.

I track the incubation period in a very simple way – by dropping a stone into a box every day. After 42 days, the eggs hatch. I will never forget the moment when all 18 chicks hatched successfully for the very first time in our zoo. That remains one of the proudest moments of my career.

I am fortunate to be supported by my assistant, Mr. Ellis Kumar, who shares responsibilities with me in feeding, breeding management, and ensuring the well-being of the birds.

Looking back, these 15 years have been a fulfilling journey of challenges, learning, and success. Every day with these magnificent birds is an opportunity to grow, care, and contribute to the larger mission of conservation. For me, ostriches are not just part of my work – they are part of my life.



# Best Keeper Award

Every month, 2 to 3 best-performing workers are identified and recognized with the Monthly Best Keeper Award for their dedication and performance



Mr. Appanraj, CL



Ms. S. Chitra, CL



Mr. K. Sivanantham, CL

June

July



Mr. Prabhakar, Welder



Ms. K. Vasantha, Mali

During this quarter, AAZP welcomed over 4.7 lakh visitors, of which around 1 lakh were children.

294 adoption has been done for the amount of Rs 2,70,100 in which the most adopted animals were indian Cobra and pheasants.

Cover Page Photo

**Our majestic lioness Buvana, has been the pride of the safari for 16 remarkable years.**

## Editorial Team

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