



News Letter – *September 2011 Issue*

We have had a very busy summer holiday period and we would like to start this brand new, re-designed news letter by thanking all of our visitors who made our holiday period a huge success! Without your continued support through the summer (and hopefully beyond) it's always a long winter! Now there's a lot of catching up to do so here come the news:

Cambodian Smooth Coated Otters

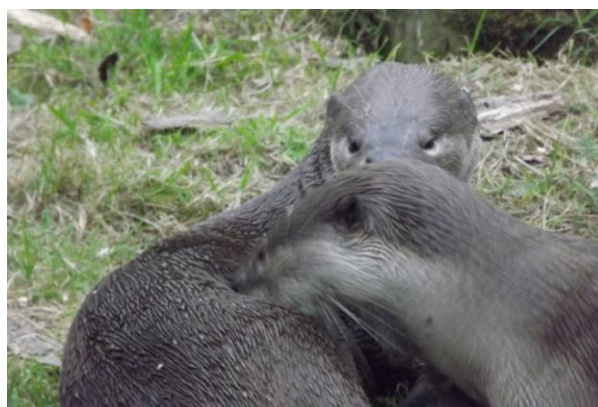


We recently managed to secure 2 female Smooth Coated Otters, both of which are captive born sisters which came from the Rare Species Conservation Centre at Sandwich.

These 2 otters are very important and exciting for us, helping us take another step closer with the work we are carrying out at the park to keep more endangered species in our collection.

At present there are 10 of these Otters in the UK, spread out through just 3 separate zoos (along with us there are also some individuals at Belfast Zoo and Colchester Zoo).

It is of course our aim to bring in another one or two males to give us a chance of breeding this species which is vulnerable to extinction in the wild.



Emperor Tamarins



A further species which we managed to bring in to our collection from the Rare Species Conservation Centre were our newest Primates. We have got a beautiful pair of Emperor Tamarins, which now live in the Common Marmosets old enclosure (who have in turn moved in to a new enclosure at the bottom of the Parrot House). These tiny guys who look like little Kung-Fu masters have been a HUGE hit.

New Bird Arrivals

Earlier during the summer we travelled to London Zoo where we picked up birds from both of the ZSLs animal collections. Firstly we now have a male Black Winged Lory living in our Tropical House who we hope will pair up with the female Lory we have had in there for many years. This bird came to us from London Zoos collection, while the second bird came from Whipsnade. This second bird is a first for us and comes in the form of a gorgeous Raven... Until you see them in person and spend some time with them its hard to believe how clever these birds are!

Introducing Our Newest Little Big Cat!



You might be forgiven at first glance for mistaking this little terror for a normal kitten. However look a little closer and you'll see that he is actually our newest big cat. This is the final animal which we recently received from Rare Species Conservation Centre and is a Puma cub called Binx.

At the moment he is still living indoors (until he has had his vaccinations like any kitten) but will come out to see visitors soon!

Whether you call them Pumas, Cougars, Mountain Lions or Panthers these guys grow to be the largest cat in North America but are more closely related to the Domestic Cat than the other Big Cats (such as Lions and Tigers).

Perhaps this is why the Puma is the largest cat which purrs... And for a little cat, Binx has got one LOUD purr on him!



Binx is the second Big Cat species which has been added in to our parks collection, and I am sure will not be the last!

He will eventually go on to live at the top end of the park (not in with the Tigers as some people have speculated), in a brand new custom made enclosure.

Watch this space for more news about when you can catch your first glimpse of him.



Facebook Competition

As before we are running a competition on Facebook for a season ticket. All you have to do is like our page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/WinghamWildlifePark> And when we reach 3000 likes, one of those friends gets picked at random for the prize!



Scruffy Penguin Parade



If you have been to the park lately you would have seen some rather daring haircuts amongst our Penguins. They are all currently in moult and will return to normal very soon... You can look forward to this annually!



Flamingo Walk Through Enclosure

Our Flamingos have settled in to their new home well and the walk through is now open to the public.

There is no better way to take some up close photos of these gorgeous birds!

And I am sure you will all agree that they are starting to look like proper Flamingos!



Education Centre Now Open for Hands on Encounters, Educational Posters and a Museum

