

Penscynor NEWS

PENSCYNOR WILDLIFE PARK, CILFREW, NEATH, W. GLAMORGAN.



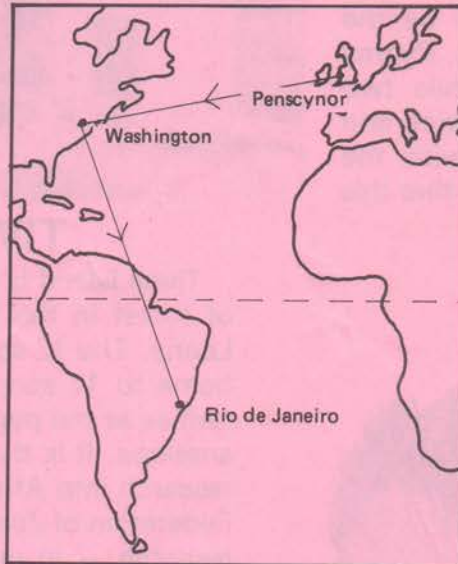
GOING HOME

Less than 20 years ago, the squirrel sized Golden lion tamarin, perhaps the most beautiful of all the monkeys, was facing certain extinction as its forest home in SE Brazil disappeared to make way for agriculture. Conservationists successfully organised a cooperative effort by major zoos throughout the world to prevent the total loss of this animal and worked hard to have a small forest reserve created to protect the remaining few wild animals.

This project has been so successful that captive bred animals are now being returned to suitable areas, under the close supervision of a team of American and Brazilian scientists. It was with great delight that Penscynor accepted a request to make one of our family groups available for return to Brazil in the autumn of this year.

British Airways, under their "Assisting Nature Conservation" programme, are kindly flying the six animals to Washington DC free of charge; after a short period of health checks, the animals fly on to Rio de Janeiro (any potential sponsor for this leg of the journey is invited to contact Rob Colley at Penscynor!). Transfer to the release site near the Poco das Antas Reserve follows, and by mid- October the Brazilian forest should be echoing to the cries of monkeys with Welsh accents.

The Road to Rio



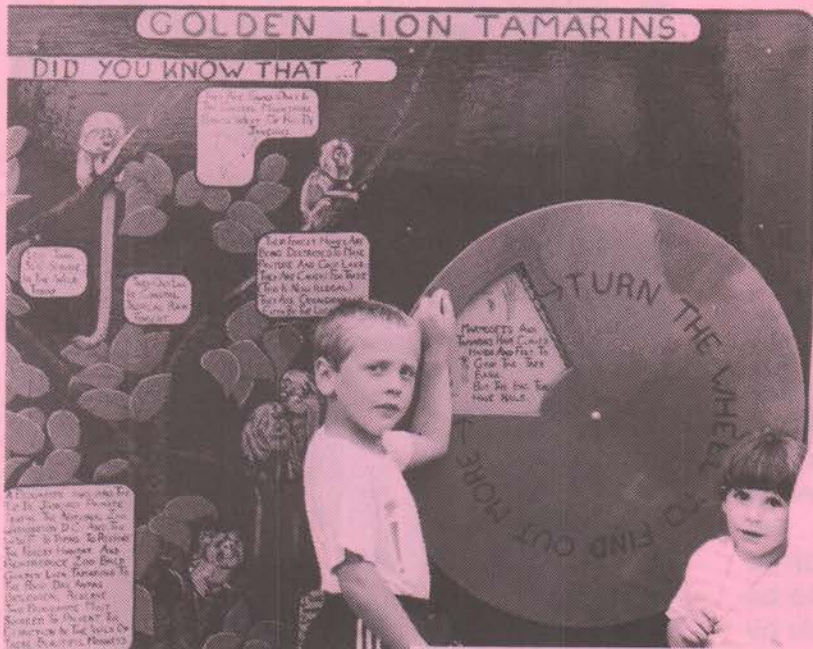
SUMMER 1988

RECENT ARRIVALS

- 2 male Emus
- 1 pair Trumpeter Hornbills
- 2 pairs Stella's Lory
- 1 male Golden lion tamarin
- 1 female Emperor Tamarin
- 1 pair Ringed teal
- 2 pairs Wigeon
- 1 female Black swan
- 4 White's tree frogs
- 1 female King snake
- 3 Guanaco
- 1 Llama
- 2 pairs Pygmy marmoset
- 1 pair Goeldi monkeys
- 1 pair Demoiselle cranes

BIRTHS — JAN-JUNE 1988

- Humboldt's penguins
- Blue and gold macaw
- Goeldi's lory
- Yellow streaked lory
- Perfect lory
- Green naped lory
- Splendid parakeet
- Alexandrine parrot
- Ring neck parakeet
- Crimson rosella
- Barraband
- Round island skink
- Silvery marmoset
- Goeldi monkey
- Cotton top tamarin
- Brown capuchin
- Green monkey
- Sooty mangabey
- Brown lemur
- Ring tail lemur



Finding out about Golden Lion Tamarins



Cotton Top Tamarin

587
258

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

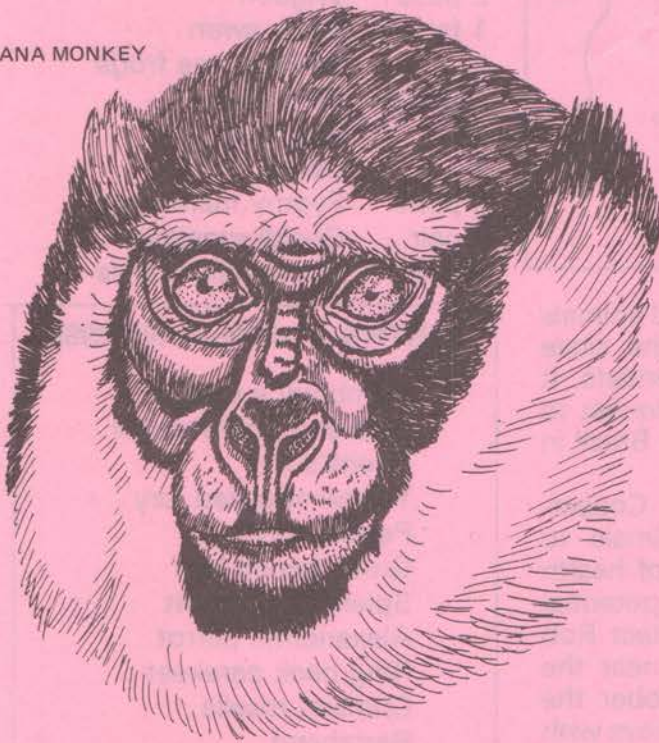
PETS CORNER

A corner of the flower gardens has recently been reorganised to provide an area where children can make direct contact with a selection of favourite animals. Perhaps the most interesting newcomers here are the gorgeously ugly pair of Vietnamese Pot-bellied pigs — and now their piglets, too — but rabbits continue to be the greatest favourite for our younger visitors. Pygmy goat and chickens share the area, while two orphaned lambs live next door. In the spring and early summer many children helped with the bottle feeding of these two and we hope that this will become an annual feature.



The new Pets Corner

DIANA MONKEY



150
214
7

TIWAI ISLAND

Tiwai Island is one of the last remaining blocks of forest in the West African country of Sierra Leone. The 12 sq. km island, in the Moya River, is home to 11 species of primate, as well as such rarities as the pygmy hippopotamus and the royal antelope. It is the site of intensive and important research into African forest ecology and the 1988 Federation of Zoos Appeal aims to support further research — in particular, into the behaviour and requirements of the highly endangered Diana monkey.

Various events at Pencyrnor, particularly during the July "Zoo Month" aim to help this appeal: in addition, our usual Primate Society of Great Britain activities will contribute to wider primate research on Tiwai.

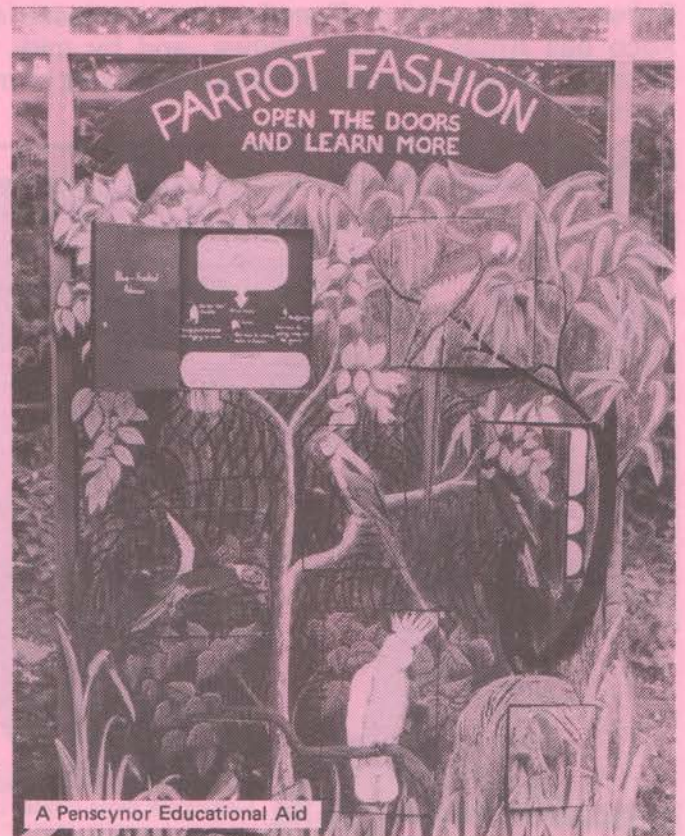
These efforts include fun activities like "hunt the monkey" and the sale of unusual and superior gift items — details in the Education Centre.

EDUCATION

In early January we were delighted to welcome Denise Cox, formerly of the Twycross "Zoo Interpretation Programme", to the new position of full-time Education Officer. Her task is to help visitors, particularly youngsters, to enjoy and appreciate the wildlife resources of the zoo.

150
20
x7

To this end, Denise has begun production of a range of "guides for teachers" (five titles available to date) and information sheets for general use, and she is always available for pre-booked school tours. She is also producing a series of cage mounted "interactive graphics" to make information gathering fun and has mounted a variety of exhibitions and activities in the Education Centre (she will also be closely involved in the design of the new Education Centre, to be built this autumn). Further details are available by contacting Denise at the zoo.



A Pencyrnor Educational Aid

A KEEPER'S DAY

Ever fancied being a zoo-keeper? Every week we get lots of letters from people who do. Understandable, of course — making friends with those cuddly monkeys, splashing around with the sea-lions, helping the vet. with a few tricky operations, perhaps the occasional TV appearance; and all in the glow of a glorious British summer! Or is it? To see if the keeper's lot really is such a happy one, ace undercover "Newsletter" reporter Ima Mole tracked bird keeper Sean Heath through a typical day.....



8.00 a.m. Arrived at work after a breakfast-jolting bump-start of the old van, to be greeted by horizontal rain and 2 tons of frozen sprats — delivered during the night and awaiting transfer to the freezer room. Half an hour in the arctic temperatures of the feed store sees the fish safely stowed and it's time for a walk around the section. Most of the birds are deep inside dense bushes, or snugly in the weatherproof shed, making this daily head-count and health check more difficult than usual. Eventually everyone is seen and all yesterday's feed dishes collected.

9.00 a.m. Washing dirty dishes at least offers respite from the rain and the twenty minutes at the sink soon pass. On with the waterproofs again, and the daily round of sweeping and swilling begins. Not too much time to consider the greater mysteries of bird-keeping — why do mynah-bird droppings stick better than super glue? How can one parrot make so much mess over such a large area? A quick coffee at 10.00 sees a — temporary? — halt to the rain and by 11.00 all the routine cleaning is finished and it's back to the kitchen to prepare the day's food.

11.00 a.m. Bananas peeled and diced, grapes quartered, meat minced, eggs boiled, baby cereal mixed, bread crumbled, nine types of seed mixed, and in thirty minutes it's back on the round: this time pulling a trolley laden with 27 assorted dishes to distribute to over a hundred impatient beaks. A brief diversion **en route** to clear a blocked streamway and relieve the associated flooding in the Tropical House, but otherwise a normal, six days a week morning.

1.30 p.m. After hitching the zoo trailer to the jeep, it's down the road to where workmen have been clearing roadside sycamore trees. Half an hour with a bow-saw and the trailer bears enough boughs to re-perch the cockatoo's cage — a monthly job, given these birds' delight in chewing timber to pulp. This job will have to wait until tomorrow: today is the penguin keeper's afternoon off and two penguin chicks need to be hand-fed with sprats containing vitamin tablets. Each fish eaten

is matched by another liberally and expertly smeared down Sean's trousers; still, nothing to compare with last year's horrors of trying to pour a mixture of liquidised fish and whipping cream into a reluctant sea-lion pup.

3.30 p.m. A distant bell rings and the PA system announces the "feeding of the penguins"; this has come ten minutes too early, after the struggle with the chicks, and it's quite a dash to be at the poolside in time to ensure equal shares for all and answer the watching public's endless questions. No respite afterwards, either, as a breathless visitor reports a fight to death in the ferret pen. Another hurried sprint to separate the combatants, and along to the first-aid station for a plaster on the bite. Why is it always the domestics who bite, and how long is the tetanus jab good for?

4.00 p.m. Off to the kitchens to begin cleaning away the day's debris; waylaid on the way by an elderly gentleman needing help to recover his spectacles. How they landed in six feet of water, half way across the duck pond, remains a mystery but a monkey-catching net strapped to a broom handle saves the day. Back at the kitchen, a note on the table: "Don't forget it's your turn to feed the parrot chicks tonight — 8.00 & 11.00"

4.45 p.m. home time already

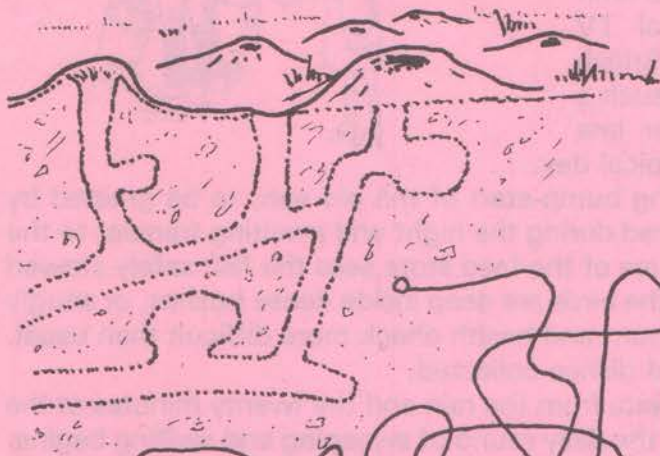


Feeding a 5 week old Penguin

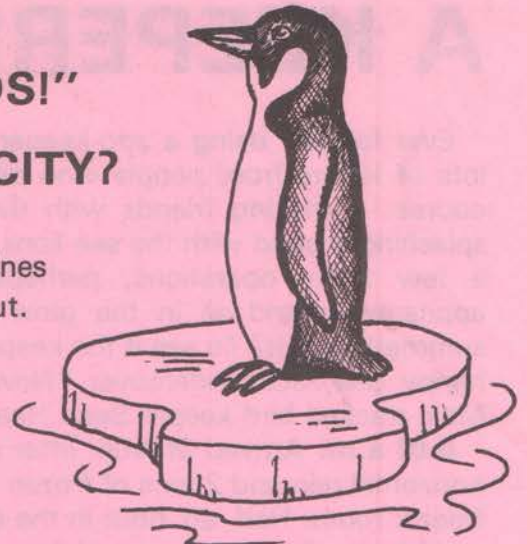
Mr. Cool SAYS

"HAVE A GO AT THESE PUZZLES KIDS!"

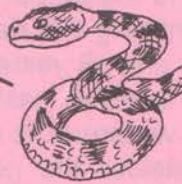
WHO LIVES IN THE UNDERGROUND CITY?



Follow the lines and find out.



Rattle Snake



Prairie Dog



Porcupine

FUDDLED FEET!

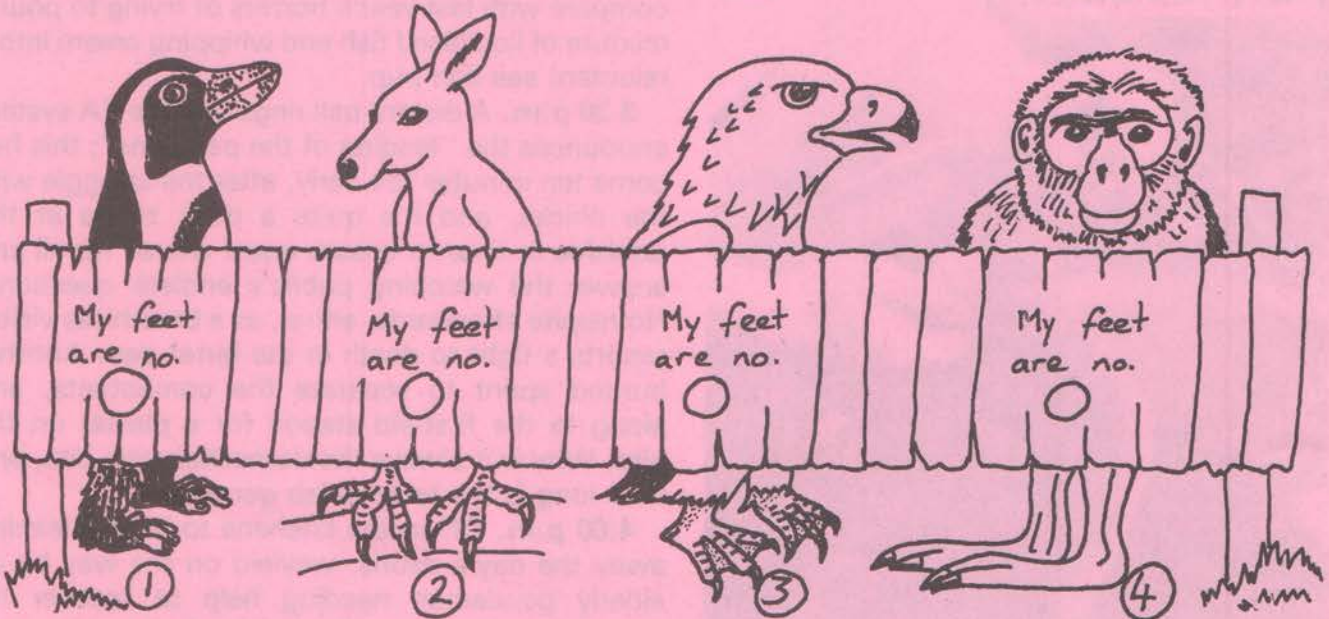
These animals have got their feet mixed up. Can you match the correct feet to their rightful owner?

Penguin

Wallaby

Eagle

Chimp



Answers

Penguin - 3 : Wallaby - 4 : Eagle - 2 : Chimpanzee - 1.

The prairie dog lives in the underground city.

Penscynor Wildlife Park is open every day except Christmas Day, from 10.00 a.m.

The Park is 2 miles North of Neath, off the A465

Further details Tel.: NEATH (0639) 2189