

EDITORIAL

Almost one year since our initial launch and we've reached Issue 4 already. Since its inception we have quickly gained subscribers and supporters, with the number now standing at more than 1300. To everyone who has supported us in this venture, our thanks go to you. We are looking to expand our membership even further, so please forward our website address to colleagues who you feel would be interested in receiving the newsletter. This newsletter relies on your enthusiasm, so please keep those articles coming in.

We continue our "focus on" theme within this issue where we look at some of the problems of the illegal trade in wildlife in Somalia. Osman Amir describes the worrying trend within the country of illegal wildlife trade with Gulf and South East Asian countries. He calls for international conservation organisations to help in halting this trade by assisting in the establishment of small reserves to protect the unique Somalian biodiversity and wildlife. Looking at one country's efforts at combating this, Priptal Soorae and colleagues give a detailed account of the current status of CITES regulations within the UAE. They describe the organisations who are responsible for the implementation of the local legislation to enforce CITES regulations. Looking at the veterinary implications and risks associated with the illegal trade in wildlife, Chris Lloyd describes one case of a cheetah presented with toxoplasmosis and highlights the potential threats this form of trade could have within collections.

As described in past issues there is a need for greater husbandry and veterinary management of the species held in collections within the region. As part of our collection management series, Mark MacNamara from Fauna Research describes how they used portable restraint equipment Tamer II and Tamer Jnr together with mobile corrals to safely restrain different species of ungulates at a particular collection in Al Ain, UAE. Jackie Strick concludes her article on the hand rearing of exotic felids and describes methods of enrichment, feeding and weaning of young leopard and cheetah cubs.

Our news section features articles on the satellite tracking of bald ibis and survey work being completed on the Hulayla mangrove wetland in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. We also include a brief report from the recent Conservation Workshop for the Fauna of Arabia held at the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife (BCEAW) in Sharjah, UAE. A second report on the Conservation of the Arabia Leopard which was again hosted by the BCEAW is available on line at www.wmenews.com. Unfortunately due to space limitations we were unable to include both reports.

Our literature review focuses on two theses describing natural reserves in the UAE and the reproduction in the Arabian leopard. Our final literature review describes the status and distribution of gazelle species in Egypt.

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WILDLIFE MIDDLE EAST NEWS OBJECTIVES

- Raising awareness of environmental and conservation issues affecting wildlife in the Middle East.
- Distributing information to enable better management healthcare and welfare of wildlife.
- Providing a central contact point for practical advice and information on wildlife management in the region.

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

The newsletter aims to contribute to the development of a network between zoo and wildlife professionals working in the Middle East with the objective of being the premier source of regional information on zoo and wildlife management, husbandry and care. The newsletter will publish articles with an emphasis on practical, useful and relevant material.

Proposed categories include:

- Conservation education & environmental awareness.
- Husbandry & nutrition.
- Design and management of zoological facilities.
- Capture and translocation techniques.
- Wildlife diseases and preventive medicine.
- Products, book reviews & research.
- Summaries of recent literature on Arabian animals.
- Letters, news and events.