

EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue three of Wildlife News Middle East.

In this issue, our regular "Focus on" feature concentrates on the Badia Centre for Ecological Education in Jordan where Zuhair S Amr and colleagues are promoting the concepts of ecotourism and environmental education. We also continue our series of articles on collection management where Declan O'Donovan takes a look at issues relating to the planning of a zoological collection in the form of institutional collection plans. With this series of articles the editors aim to raise awareness of fundamental issues in wildlife management and medicine. The hope is to stimulate interest in more responsible and productive methods of animal management.

Poor collection management and the ever present illegal wildlife trade mean that the hand rearing of orphaned or smuggled exotic felids is not uncommon in the region. In this issue we feature the first of two articles on the practical aspects of hand rearing exotic felids by Jackie Strick of the Breeding Centre for Endangered Arabian Wildlife. In the first instalment Jackie looks at the basic equipment needed and routines required when rearing these animals. We look forward to the second part when suitable milk formulas and expected growth parameters will be discussed.

Reptiles are often overlooked in conservation issues because of their perceived lack of appeal to the public. The "Dhub" lizard however was the focus of a relocation project in the U.A.E in 2005 due to a construction project. Jamie Samour and Jesus Naldo have subsequently given us a "taster" of some baseline veterinary and biological data that will hopefully prove useful in the future conservation of this fascinating species.

This issue also contains book reviews and updates on some important conservation and breeding projects in the region, in particular a very interesting book on the wildlife of Iran.

Wildlife Middle East News appears to have been welcomed by many throughout the region and we now have 799 subscribers in 67 different countries. However we are always looking to increase our readership so please forward our website details to friends and colleagues and get them subscribing "online". The newsletter relies on the support of its readership for articles so please help us to help you by sending any articles, announcements or press releases to the editors.

We would like to thank RAKBANK for their continued support of this newsletter.

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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 editors welcome 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.