

Elephant Workshop at Sosto Zoo, Nyíregyháza, Hungary 25-27. Aug 2014



Yoki with her calves in Sosto Zoo's enclosure





László Gajdos, stockbreeding engineer, the founder Director of Sosto Zoo welcomes workshop participants.

Dear Guests, dear Friends,

Sosto Zoo looks back upon a past of just 18 years, hence we are glad to give place to professional meetings, as it is a great honour, and of course also a great responsibility for a young zoo.

Hungary used to be a so-called country of „one zoo” for a long time, alongside the zoo of the capital city no countryside animal displays developed for 100 years. The great breakthrough was brought along with the regime change of the 90’s and then the joining of Hungary to the European Union in 2004, when young, enthusiastic and creative experts undertook building modern zoos at different points of the country.

In 1997, in Nyíregyháza, when we could start to lay down the foundations of Sosto Zoo Non-profit Ltd. in a marvellous oak forest of 30 hectares, we did not think that we will receive such a huge amount of help from the foreign colleagues ahead of us. We endeavored to learn, travel around the world and bring the most up-to-date animal keeping techniques and technologies of the period from everywhere. Now our zoo welcomes a number of even 500.000 visitors a year, and beside the capital city’s zoo, this one is the most popular Hungarian collection.

The almost 100 young people working here are dedicated to zoology, and we try not only to develop ourselves, but also to – monitoring the world’s professional processes – modernize Sosto Zoo year by year. Sosto Zoo is the only zoo in Hungary which operates without support and is able to maintain itself on a market basis. We always succeed in finding European Union or governmental sources for the developments, this is the reason why we can profess the principle that one can never finish building a zoo, only stop it.

The zoo profession in the entire world is a large family built on love, and we are glad to be a member of this family. We trust that these few days spent with us in the company of excellent colleagues will strengthen not only your professional knowledge, but also your spirit.

Monday, 25th August 2014

- 12:00 – 14:00 Arrival, ice breaker, friendly hugs, Hungarian palinka, snack bar
14:00 – 14:30 **Welcome speech** (László Gajdos, Director); **Introduction** (Dr. Endre Papp, Vice Director of Zoology), opening of the conference, snack bar
14:30 – 18:00 Guided tour in Sosto Zoo
18:00 – 20:00 Dinner

Tuesday, 26th August 2014

- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast
09:00 – 09:30 Captive elephants and their management in South Africa: **What is a captive elephant? The South African scenario** – Dr. Debbie Young (AERU)
09:40 – 10:10 **Conservation of Bornean Elephant in Sabah-Malaysia** – Dr. Cathrin Schröder (SOS Elephants Foundation)
10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break
10:40 – 11:10 Environmental enrichment for captive African elephants: **Using elephant behavior to guide management and improve welfare** – Dr. Debbie Young (AERU)
11:20 – 11:50 **The African elephant's situation in Europe** – Dr. Harald Schwammer (EAZA African elephant EEP)
12:00 – 12:40 The current questions of the reproduction biology of African elephants: **Captive elephant breeding - status quo** – Dr. Imke Lüders (GEOLifes)
12:40 – 14:00 Lunch
14:00 – 15:00 Practical session in the African elephant house of Sosto Zoo: **Ultrasound examination of an elephant cow; Application of behavioral enrichment tools in the treatment of a tusk problem; PC training of an elephant bull** – Sosto Zoo Team
15:00 – 18:00 Informal discussions, Hungarian palinka, free programme
18:00 – 20:00 Dinner, surprise

Wednesday, 27th August 2014

- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast
09:00 – 09:30 Means of the treatment of the elephant hoof: **Common foot problems in elephants. The development of an elephant net enabling veterinary procedures.** - Dr. Wolfgang Zenker (Tierarztpraxis Neuwiesen)
09:40 – 10:10 **The current situation of Asian elephant keeping in Europe** – Martin van Wees (EAZA Asian elephant EEP)
10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break
10:40 – 11:10 **Current questions of elephant feeding** – Dr. Andra Fidgett (Chester Zoo)
11:20 – 11:50 The relationship of elephants and humans: **50 years take care for elephants, from enthusiast HANDS ON to professional HANDS OFF** – Marjo Hoedemaker (Dierenpark Amersfoort, MHEF)
11:50 – 12:20 **Handling elephants by mahouts in Sri Lanka - correct or cruelty** – Marjo Hoedemaker (Dierenpark Amersfoort, MHEF)
12:20 – 12:40 Buffet
12:40 – 13:40 Practical session in the Asian elephant house of Sosto Zoo: **Application of the lectures' messages in feeding, handling protocol and hoof management** – Sosto Zoo Team
14:00 – 15:00 Lunch, farewell, hugs



Dr. Debbie Young is presently the director of AERU (African Elephant Research Unit), a non-profit research trust dedicated to captive elephant research, based at the Knysna Elephant Park, South Africa.

Graduating from Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, she specialised for many years in the marine mammal field, working with both captive and free-ranging whales, dolphins and seals.

She co-founded AERU and has been its director since its inception in 2009. She oversees all aspects of research and animal welfare at the Park and other sister facilities; specialising in behavioural studies and the implications of using research to monitor and optimise elephant welfare in captivity.

What is a captive elephant? The South African scenario

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Using elephant behavior to guide management and improve welfare

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Dr. Cathrin Schröder is conservation biologist, ethologist, board member of SOS Elephants Foundation.

The SOS Elephants Foundation is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the conservation of Bornean elephants, founded by SafariPark Pombia-Italy in July 2011.

The mission of the SOS Elephants Foundation is to emphasize the need for immediate, practical and adaptive conservation actions to

ensure the long term survival for Bornean Elephants in Sabah – Borneo (Malaysia).

Conservation of Bornean Elephant in Sabah-Malaysia

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Dr. Harald Schwammer is Coordinator of the African Elephant Studbook, board member of the International Elephant Foundation, and is running elephant conservation projects in Sri Lanka.

Starting in Vienna with the Elephant Management Academy he was active lecturer in India, Thailand and Sri Lanka training veterinarians, biologists, elephant keepers and mahouts.

The African elephant's situation in Europe

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***Dr. Wolfgang Zenker** finished his veterinary studies in 1988 in Zürich. After working in a mixed veterinary practice in the Canton of Solothurn and in Jersey Zoo (Island of Jersey), Dr. Zenker took a 3 years long course at the University Clinic for Tocology, Gynaecology and Andrology in the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. He worked in the veterinary practice of Tiergarten Schönbrunn in Vienna for further 13 years, where*

not only pets are handled, but the practice is also responsible for the veterinary care of the zoo's animal collection. The scope of species in the practice ranged from the bird-spider to elephants. In 2008, he established his own practice in Uster.

Common foot problems in elephants. The development of an elephant net enabling veterinary procedures.

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***Martin van Wees** has been working in the Zoo of Rotterdam since 1968.*

He works with carnivores, primates and during the last 25 years mainly with hoofstock and bigger animals like rhinos, tapirs and elephants.

Since the beginning of 1991 he has been involved with the Asian elephant studbook, first as assistant and later as studbook keeper. Since 2000 he is also the studbook keeper for the red panda, and since last year

he is the collection manager for the Belgian zoo Pairi Daiza.

The current situation of Asian elephant keeping in Europe

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Dr. Andrea Fidgett is nutrition advisor to the EAZA's Elephant TAG. She contributed the chapter on nutrition in three editions of the BIAZA Elephant Management Guidelines and she sits on the UK Elephant Welfare Group as champion for food, feeding and weight management.

Her position as full time nutrition specialist in Chester Zoo is unique in the UK, her responsibilities include providing a nutrition service

to Chester Zoo, delivering expert training and consultancy service to universities and other zoological collections internationally, and conducting targeted, collaborative research as a supervisor on UK Research Council funded doctoral studentships.

She designed diet management software for zoos (Zootrition), is Chair of EAZA's Nutrition Group, Vice-Chair of EAZA's Research Committee, Editor-in-Chief of conference proceedings published as the book series 'Zoo Animal Nutrition' and a founding editor of the Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research, EAZA's scientific publication launched in 2013.

Current questions of elephant feeding

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Marjo Hoedemaker is senior zoo advisor at DierenPark Amersfoort, also working as a mentor for several zoos - Tbilisi, Bitola, Kharkov - and as international screener for the EAZA.

The Marjo Hoedemaker Elephant Foundation supports projects and research in the conservation of the Asian Elephant, both in zoos and in the wild. “The Marjo Hoedemaker Elephant Foundation is committed to the elephants on the island of Sri

Lanka, in the area around the sanctuary Uda Walawe. This is accomplished by investing in cultivating the elephant population, the locals and goodwill”.

**50 years take care for elephants, from enthusiast
HANDS ON to professional HANDS OFF**

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Handling Elephants by mahouts in Sri Lanka - correct or cruelty

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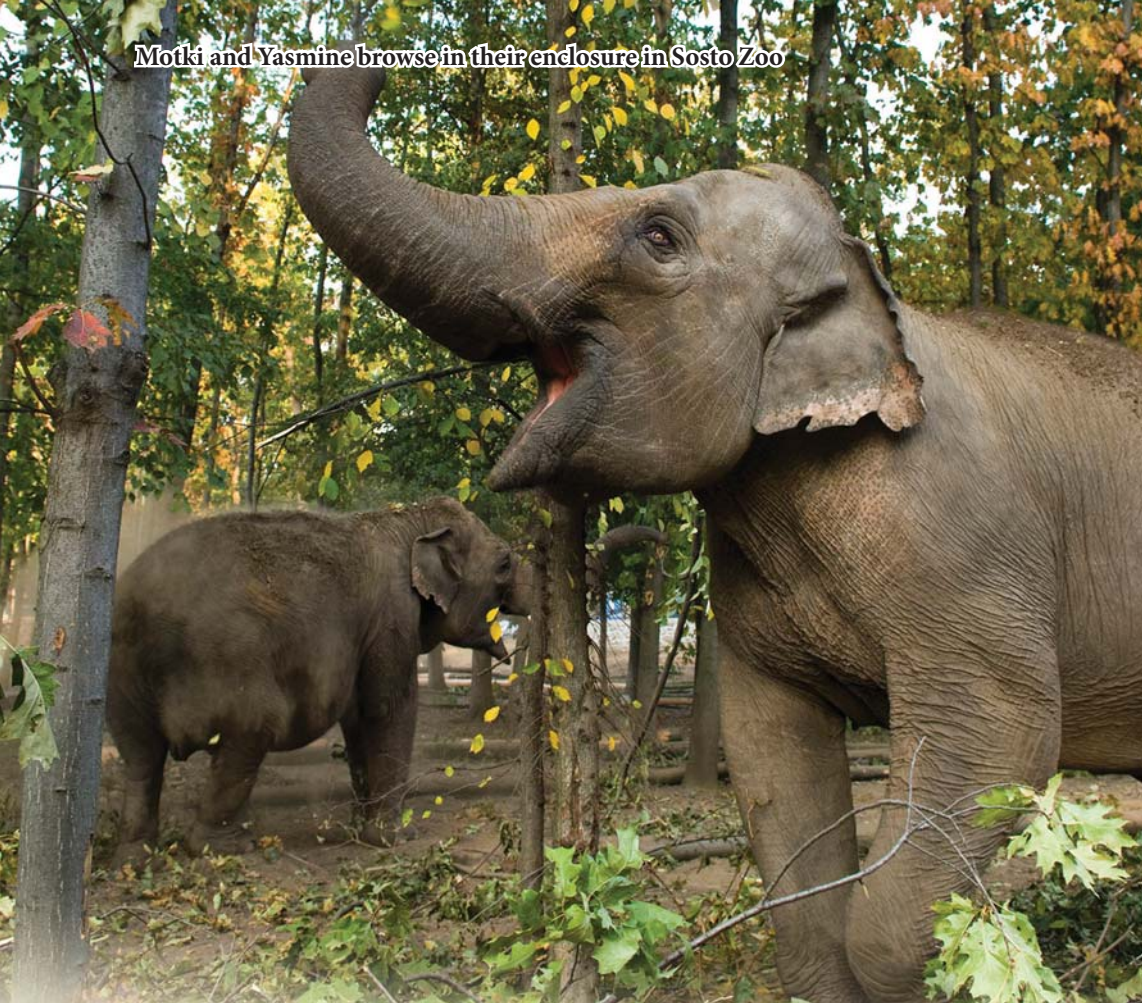
Practical session in the Asian elephant house of Sosto Zoo

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Motki and Yasmine browse in their enclosure in Sosto Zoo



Registration fee:

The registration fee for the workshop period is 100€/person, including meals and buffets.

Accommodation:

We are able to provide accommodation for the period of the workshop in two hotels.

A limited number of rooms are available in our own zoo hotel – Hotel Jungle –, for the price of 40€/night with breakfast. If apart from the two workshop nights (25 and 26 August) accommodation is required for 27 August, too, we are only able to provide it in this hotel.

In the other hotel – Bathing House Pension, 5 minutes walk from the zoo – we are able to provide accommodation for the two nights of 25-26 August at a price of 50€/night with breakfast, also in a limited number.

Registration and bookings to these hotels can be arranged through Sosto Zoo, please contact Eva Zagata until 30 May 2014.

Participants registering after the deadline need to find accommodation in the city individually.

Information:

The official language of the workshop is English, but we are able to provide help in German, Hungarian, Polish and Russian language on demand.

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