

87-year history of elephants maintenance in Kyiv Zoo, Ukraine



10-year-old Horace in Autumn 2015 eats pumpkin on Halloween holidays. Photo: Kyiv Zoo

Introduction from the Editorial Board: outside Ukraine very little is known about the history of elephants maintenance in Kyiv Zoo, and it is almost impossible to find publications. That is why we are very grateful to the Director of Kyiv Zoo, Mr. Kirill Trantin, for conducting a study on this topic and authorizing the publication of the results of his work with rare photos in the magazine ElefantenMagazin.

World War II, political upheavals on the eve of Soviet Union collapse, and later in Ukraine, as well as changes in zoo policy led to the lack of complete, detailed documentation in zoo archives as to elephants maintenance. In some cases, there are also contradictions or differences in data from other sources, for example, according to previous publications, the elephants seemed to have been transferred to Kyiv Zoo, but such a transfer can hardly be proved because of the lack of own supporting documents, and the fact of animal's arrival in Kyiv Zoo in general remains unproven. If there are uncertainties or divergences from the previous publications of the European group "Elephant" and other authors (as far as they are known to us), we will mention this during the narrative about the animals concerned. Information about the two elephants, about the presence of which in Kyiv Zoo no information based on the results of the study could be found, is summarized in the antecedent.

Then Director Kirill Trantin will introduce you to the 12 (6,6) elephant characters who have lived in Kyiv Zoo since 1929 and were important persons both for the Zoo and its visitors. Kirill will accompany his story with historical photographs.

Kirill Trantin, General Director of Kyiv Zoo

In early November 2015, Reuters, one of the most influential news agencies in the world, released a video of Halloween celebrations in Kyiv Zoo. Obviously, this video significantly differs from the previous Western media news releases about the current state of Kyiv Zoo. Because the video shows enclosures from the inside, equipped with different furniture and outfit, and animals with their natural behavior.

Ukraine has changed dramatically in recent years. In 2014, Vitali Klitschko became the new mayor of Kyiv. In the same year, the author of this report, Kirill Trantin, became the new director of Kyiv Zoo.

He has many years of experience in various fields of the zoo and has been trained in zoos in European cities such as Berlin, Munich and Budapest. In addition, the author is also a certified guardian of elephants.

This fact explains his personal enthusiasm as to the zoo development in Kyiv. The author hopes that this will be the beginning of a happy new chapter of the 87-year history of elephants maintenance in the zoo of Ukrainian capital. In 2016, the zoo celebrated its 107th anniversary. The first elephant, more precisely the female of Asian elephant Mary, arrived in Kyiv in 1929 year.

87-year history of elephants maintenance in Kyiv Zoo, Ukraine

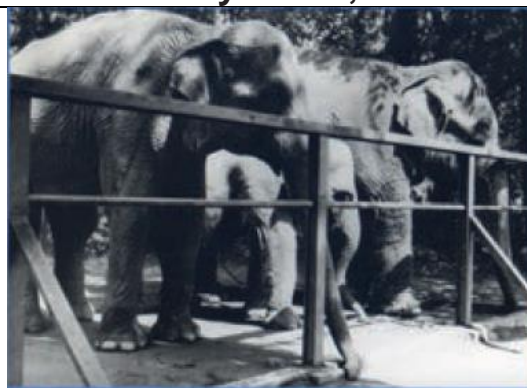
Elephants maintenance till 1945 year

0,1 Mary the Asian elephant

Mary is a wild animal from India. In Kyiv city guide dated 1930 (Fedor Ernst) it is mentioned: "At the end of the garden in a large enough enclosure with an open territory lives the most powerful instance of terrestrial mammal - the elephant Mary. This 11-year-old animal arrived in Kyiv only one year ago". [1]

It is obvious that that time maintenance conditions differed significantly from modern ones, and enclosures for elephants did not meet biological needs of animals. Therefore, while living in Kyiv Zoo, Mary was kept without siblings, that was widespread at that time.

There is a credible evidence that Mary was transferred to Königsberg zoo (now Kaliningrad) during the German occupation of Ukraine during the Second World War, and then killed by the Wehrmacht during the retreat from the Red Army at the end of the war [2]. In addition, in the photo from Königsberg Zoo that was taken during the indicated period, three elephants are depicted, one of which is most likely to be Mary[3].



Top: An extremely interesting photo-confirmation of Mary's stay at Königsberg Zoo, made between 1942 and 1944 years.

Mary is on the right, next to the elephants Kateňka (in the middle) and Jenny III (from right to left). Photo: Photo archive Ostpreußen, www.bildarchivostpreussen.de

Left: The first female elephant of Kyiv Zoo, Mary, in 1935. Photo: Kyiv Zoo

Bottom: Asiatic Elephant Lucia with a guardian. Photo: Kyiv Zoo

0,1 Lucia the Asian elephant

Immediately after the war, a new elephant Lucia had arrived in Kyiv Zoo. It was received on July 18, 1945 from the Trade Organization of Animals of Central Moscow Zoo of former Soviet Union.

Lucia, as it was common for that time, most likely, taught various circus tricks through direct contact. In 1946 the following was written in the magazine "Ukraine": "The pride of the zoo is Lucia the elephant, who arrived in Kyiv in July 18, 1945. She is a very intelligent animal and brought up like a dog. Lucia artistically balances on the bar, raises her hind and front legs on high and raises a deck. There is always laughter around the enclosure"[4].

Only ten years after her arrival, Lucia received the company - an adult male. She lived in Kyiv Zoo for 24 years and died in June 1969 at the age of 50 years.



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On this page:

Three photos of 1957 year

From the top left: Lucia (l.) and Baby found a common language. In the foreground, you can see a number of nails, which were supposed to ensure the presence of a drain ditch before the elephants. The barrier was replaced later

Photo in the middle: Male elephant Baby was an impressive animal

Photo from below: calves Ravi (l.) and Shashi maintained in the adjacent enclosure and did not communicate with adults.

1,0 Baby the Asian elephant

According to zoo data, male elephant Baby arrived in the zoo on 05.09.1954 [5]. Other sources indicate another arrival date - August 28, 1954 [6]. He was born in 1932 in Ceylon, the present Sri Lanka. Imported through Hagenbeck in 1933, the same year he arrived in Prague Zoo. From there in 1951 after an intermediate stop in Central Moscow Zoo he was transferred to Leningrad zoo (today: St. Petersburg). I

Baby and Lucia lived very well together and were kept together for six years. Unfortunately, Baby died in June 1960 at the age of only 28 years old.

On the picture you can see a barrier for visitors, which was used at that time in many zoos, in the form of several rows of nails, which were supposed to ensure the presence of a drainage ditch. Later due to the risk of injury, this unfit system was replaced.

From 1956 to 1960, four elephants were living in Kyiv Zoo at the same time: Lucia, Baby, and two calves Shashi and Ravi. This young couple of elephants was a gift to Soviet children from India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

1,1 Shashi and Ravi the Asian elephants

When in July 15, 1956 male Ravi and female Shashi arrived in the zoo they were about 2 years old. They came to Kyiv from Odessa zoo, where they lived for 11 months. They did not live together with two adult elephants Lucia and Baby, but were maintained in the adjacent enclosure.

Unfortunately, two newcomers died relatively early. Female Shashi was only 7 years old and she died in June 1961. Male Ravi lived for 15 years and died in June 1969. The cause of both elephants death is unknown.



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1971 2010

1,0 Karat the Asian elephant

After two years without elephants, from November 1971 to May 1977 Kyiv Zoo was taking care of elephant Karat. He was the offspring of elephants' pair living in Moscow Zoo 1.0 Shango and 0.1 Molly, and was born on August 25, 1952. From there, he arrived in Kyiv after staying at the Soviet State Circus (where he was transferred in 1955 from Moscow at the age of almost three years old) and Almaty Zoo (arrived on September 3, 1966). In the picture you can see the stairs to the pool, and the elephant balances on the side of the pool. In May 1977, Karat was transferred to Nikolaev Zoo, where he died on May 17, 1993 due to liver disease.



Karat balances on the side of the pool. Photo: Kyiv Zoo

1,1 Franka and Boy the Asian elephants

In October 10, 1972, a 2-3-year-old female Franka from Great Britain (she lived there since June 1970 in Flamingoland Zoo, Malton) arrived in Kyiv after an intermediate stop at the Central Moscow Zoo (animal trade). Shortly after this the calve appeared - male Boy. Both elephants weighed about 400 kg each and got along well with each other.

When Boy was a calve he was kept in circus for some time, the same like Karat and other elephants of the zoo of the previous years. In the previous publications and documents of the European group "Elephant" the following date of Boy's arrival to Kyiv was marked - 08.08.1972 [7]. However, according to the results of recent intensive research in Kyiv Zoo, this date is erroneous, and the reasonable date according to available documents is December 7, 1972 [8]. Records in Kyiv Zoo documents about Boy's birth in 1970 in Rostok Zoo do not correspond to reality. Rostok Zoo did not have elephant calves from the very beginning of elephants maintenance in 1960 and to the end of 2013 year due to the lack of sexually adult males.

In addition, former employees of the zoo know nothing about the presence of elephant male calve in the period 1970-1972 [9]. However, Boy arrived in the zoo in transit through the former GDR.

Often, in Asia calves were taken from their mothers in captivity at the age of 3 to 4 years old but with Boy it happened when he was about 2 years, and with Franca when she was a couple months old. At that time, insufficient training of guardians in Kyiv led to animals overfeeding, and Franka died in May 22, 1978.

There is an interesting photo where the one, according to zoo data, can see Boy and very young Bama (see next page) in the early 1980s. According to the European group "Elephant", it is more likely that the picture was taken in the early 1970's and it depicts Karat the elephant who is contacting one of the calves, most likely Boy, through a double fence



Бой (л.) і Франка ще як дитинчата, приблизно початок/середина 1970-х років. Фотографія: Київський зоопарк



Boy (r.) and Bama (1980si) or Karat (r.) and Boy in 1970s years? Appearance and aspect ratio point to the last. Photo: Kyiv Zoo

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Photos on this page:

Until now, the only successful breeding in Kyiv zoo

Top photo: Breeding couple Bama (front) and Boy in the 1980s. Pay attention to the ratio of animal size and male tusks on both sides. You can see stairs leading to the pool.

Photo from below: By this time, the only offspring in the zoo — male elephant calve called Kiy. On the background of an adult animal's legs, probably a mother.

Photo in the middle: Kiy was artificially fed. on the picture Kiy is fed by his guardian Praskovija Lasun

0,1 Bama the Asian elephant

In October 10, 1981, a 7-year-old female Bama arrived in Kyiv Zoo as a Boy's companion. Bama was a former circus elephant. In 1974, she was born in the wild and lived in the state circus after import in 1978. After arrival to Kyiv, Bama had problems with the health of musculoskeletal system. Despite these problems, at the age of about 9 years she was successfully fertilized with Boy, which led to the birth of male calve in May 23, 1985. In the photos dating back to the 1980s, one can see that initially Boy first had general tufts. He broke them for many years during the "processing" of his habitat.

1,0 Kiy the Asian elephant

In the year of the first and by this time the only birth of elephant calve in Kyiv Zoo, Kyiv city celebrated the 1500th anniversary of its foundation, which contributed to the choice of the name Kiy for the calve.

Kiy, Shchek and Khoryv together with their sister Lybid are considered legendary founders of Kyiv. The legend tells about the brothers who founded the city on the hills above the Dnieper and named it in honor of the elder brother Kiy (Kyiv, Kyi City, in Ukrainian and oldrussian languages: Kyiv).



Breastfeeding caused problems with Bama's mother. Kiy was such a small newborn and could hardly get maternal nipples due to this the little elephant did not gain enough weight. Mother tried to lean over him to reduce the distance, but only pushed him to the ground. As a result, the responsible persons decided to feed the baby with colostrum and fat-free milk from local dairy companies. Elephant was successfully artificially fed by deputy director of the zoo Raisa Kravchenko and animal expert Praskovija Lasun until the transfer.

In November 24, 1986, Kiy, at the age of 18 months, was transferred to Tbilisi Zoo, where he died in December 1987. The exact date of death and the causes of death are unknown to us. However, at the age of 3 years, artificially-fed animals die relatively often [10].

His mother Bama was only 15 years old when she died in Kyiv in March 4, 1989. Preliminary evidence that Bama was also transmitted to Tbilisi in 1986 was not confirmed [11].



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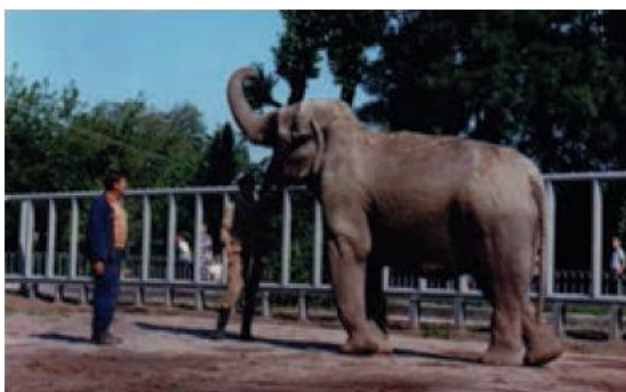
0,1 Dirndl the Asian elephant

The modern history of elephants maintenance in Kyiv Zoo begins a few years after the proclamation of the country's independence in August 1998. 32-year-old Dirndl of 1966 year of birth came to Kyiv Zoo from Munich zoo. Estimated arrival date is 07.08.1998 [12]. That time Kyiv Zoo was already a member of European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA). During the previous years, elephants territory of living was within the barriers that were most often protected by rows of nails, very often used in the past, with tubular steel fences to minimize the risk of injury.

In 1968 year Dirndl along with four siblings, was transferred by Rue company to the Gelsenkirchen Ruhr Zoo, where she arrived in 16.07.1968 and had a height of 144 cm in the back [13]. August 08, 1968 she arrived in Munich Zoo Hellabrunn. Later, after 3 decades, from 06.05.1997 to 10.10.1997 she arrived in Paris-Wensen zoor to meet male Siam for breeding, which proved to be unsuccessful.



Dirland is unloaded. Photo: Archive by R. Müller



Direct contact with Dirndl. Photo: Kyiv Zoo

Taking into account their age, these efforts were skeptical from the beginning. In addition, Siam at that time had serious health problems and died in September 1997. In Munich Zoo, Dirndl always had problems with other females in the group that is why she was looking for a new place. Kyiv Zoo was proposed as a variant for Dirndl.

Robert Muller an animal guardian, who is now the supervisor at Munich Zoo Hellabrunn was taking care of 32-year-old female. Before she came to Kyiv, she performed some commands in Russian. This greatly facilitated care, especially after the feet, as Dirndl had previously performed only verbal commands in German

Elephants in Kyiv Zoo – Part 1: 1929 – 1969

Species	Sex / Name	Birth / Genesis	Date/Event	Age
Asian elephant	0,1 Mary	around 1918, wildlife, India	Around 1918 year of birth around 1929 import and transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR 12/1941 transfer to Kaliningrad Zoo, USSR Around 1944/45 death - shot by soldiers of the Wehrmacht	11 y. 23 y 26/27 y
Asian elephant	0,1 Lucia	around 1916, wildlife	Around 1916 year of birth 18.07.1945 transfer to Kyiv Zoo from Central Moscow Zoo, USSR (trade in animals) Around 06.1969 death - the cause is unknown	29 y. 53 y.
Asian elephant	1,0 Baby	around 1932, wildlife, Sri Lanka	Around 1932 year of birth 1933 Imports, Hagenbeck, Hamburg 07/07/1933 Transfer to Prague zoo, Czech Republic August 28, 1951 transfer to International Central Moscow Zoo, USSR (trade in animals) September 10, 1951 transfer to Leningrad zoo, USSR 09/05/1954 transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR. According to other sources, arrival on August 28, 1954 Around 06.1960 death - unknown cause, possibly sepsis	1 y. 1 y.19 y.22 y. 28 y.
Asian elephant	1,0 Ravi	around 1954, wildlife, India	Around 1954 year of birth 21.08.1955 import to Odessa Zoo, USSR 15.07.1956 transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR around 06.1969 death - unknown reason	1 y. 2 y. 15 y.

Asian elephant	0,1 Shashi	around 1954, wildlife, India	Around 1954 year of birth 21.08.1955 import to Odessa Zoo, USSR 15.07.1956 transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR	1 py 2 y. 7 y.
Around. 06.1961 death - unknown reason				

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Staying with Boy, who at that time lived in Kyiv Zoo for almost 26 years, was positive from the very beginning. At first, the animals were kept separately in the adjacent enclosures with the ability to see, sniff and touch each other. From the first day elephants responded positively to each other and entered into direct contact. Boy even tried to climb through the dividing grid and thus prematurely get to his new partner. Then the enclosing grid was raised [14].

After such a socialization, they both lived peacefully. They spent a lot of time together, and there were no problems or conflicts during maintaining or feeding.



Photo on this double page:
Dirndl and Boy at union stage in August 1998.

Photo from above: Contacting through the fence.

Photo in the middle: Boy is trying to climb through the dividing fence. Then the enclosing grid was raised.

Photo from the bottom: Mating took place shortly after union.

Photos on the back: both animals got along well with each other. The elephant significantly broke the tusks later. Photo: Archive by R. Müller



Despite the fact that Dirndl twice mated with the male there were almost no hope for Boy and Dirndl offspring. Except her age, Dirndl health was weak. Veterinarians have discovered that she had cardiovascular problems. Because of this disease, two elephants were held in Kyiv separately during subsequent years.

On June 14, 2002, a tragedy happened. Trying to cut the path around the enclosure and instead pass through, Boy grabbed the guardian and mortally wounded him [15].

August 14, 2004, Dirndl condition became worse. Veterinarians of Kyiv Zoo collaborated with Hellabrunn specialists. Initially, the therapy gave positive result. Unfortunately, the recovery was short-term. On August 25, 2004, Dirndl died. Despite the intersection, no cause for death was found. On the other hand, it was reported that during the autopsy, significant dysfunctions were detected, which also prevented the ability to breed and were common for female elephant that are not in the process of reproduction during the fertile cycle of their lives.

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Elephants in Kyiv Zoo, continuance – Part 2: 1971 – 2017

Species	Sex/Name	Birth / Genesis	Date/Event	Age
Asian elephant	1,0 Karat	25.08.1952, Moscow Zoo (Shango + Molly)	Aug 25, 1952 Birth in Moscow Zoo, USSR 07/16/1955 Transfer to State Circus, USSR (A. Kornilov) September 03, 1966 Transfer to Almaty Zoo, USSR November 6, 1971 Transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR Around 05.1977 transfer to Nikolaev Zoo, USSR 17.05.1993 death - liver disease	2 y. 14 y. 19 y. 24 y. 40 y.
Asian elephant	0,1 Franka	Around 1969, wildlife	Around 1969 year of birth Around 06.1970 Imports Malton, Flamengoland, WB Around 09.1972 Transfer to International Central Moscow Zoo, USSR (trade in animals) 10/01/1972 transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR May 22, 1978 death - wrong feeding	1 y. 3 y. 3 y. 9 y.
Asian elephant	1,0 Boy	Around 1969, wildlife	Around 1969 year of birth 1970 Import and Transfer to International Central Moscow Zoo, USSR (trade in animals) 1970 transfer to circus, USSR 1972 transfer to International Central Moscow Zoo, USSR (trade in animals) December 07, 1972 transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR 26.04.2010 death - bad general condition, poisoning?	1 y. 1 y. 3 y. 3 y. 41 y.
Asian elephant	0,1 Bama	Around 1974, wildlife	Around 1974 year of birth Around 1978 import and transfer to circus, USSR 10/08/1981 transfer to Kyiv Zoo, USSR 03/04/1989 death - unknown reason	4 y. 7 y. 15 y.
Asian elephant	1,0 Kiy	23.05.1985 Kyiv Zoo (Boy + Bama)	May 23, 1985 birth - artificial feeding November 24, 1986 transfer to Tbilisi Zoo, USSR Around 12.1987 death - unknown reason	

				1 y. 2 y.
Asian elephant	0,1 Dirndl	Around 1966, wildlife, India	Around 1966 year of birth 1968 transfer to Mysore, India 1968 import Rue, Alfeld (trade in animals) 07/16/1968 transfer to Gelsenkirchen zoo, August 08, 1968 transfer to Munich-Hellabrunn zoo, H 06.05.1997 transfer to Paris-Wensen zoo, October 01, 1997 transfer to Munich-Hellabrunn zoo 08/07/08 transfer to tKyiv Zoo, Death on 25.08.2004 cause?	2 y. 2 y. 2 y. 2 y. 31 y. 31 y. 32 y. 38 y.
Asian elephant	1,0 Horace	14.02.2005, Berlin Zoo (Ankhor + Nova)	14.02.2005 birth in Berlin Zoo, 05.09.2009 transfer to Rostov-on-Don zoo 05.06.2012 transfer to Kyiv Zoo Alive	4 y. 7 y. 12 y.

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Death of Dirndl led to the emergence of strong stress in Boy. To avoid unwanted behavior, keepers have developed a special rehabilitation program for Boy. That time Boy was 35 years old. Boy had health problems well before 2010 year. Sharp changes in his living conditions, including the innumerable change of keepers have certainly negatively affected the latter period of his life.

Boy died on April 26, 2010, shortly before he was probably 41 years old. At that time he was one of the biggest Asian elephants in Europe.

He weighed about 6 tons, according to measurements conducted the height in the back was 3.20 m. The male elephant was the pride and symbol of Kyiv Zoo. In addition, he was one of the favorites of Kyiv Zoo visitors

Unexpected death of Boy was also a tragic consequence of Kyiv city administration's inability at that time to provide facilities that would meet the needs of animals or provide funding responses. This sad experience has inspired the new leadership of Kyiv Zoo to make systemic changes in current conditions of animals maintenance.



Top-left photo: Boy in 2010, shortly before death.

Photo: Kyiv Zoo

Above photo on the right: Horace in his newly-opened enclosure.

Photo by T. Duch

2010 2017 1,0 Horace the Asian elephant

Two years after Boy death on 05/06/2012, a new elephant arrived from Russia from Rostov-on-Don zoo. It was a young male Horace, born on Valentine's Day in 2005 in Berlin Zoo in Friedrichsfelde (14.02.2005). First on September 5, 2009, he was together with his brother and sister, 1.1 transferred from Berlin to Rostov-on-Don.

The state framework conditions as to building equipment were also changed.

In accordance with modern standards of animals maintenance, a large reconstruction of existing premises was carried out at Kyiv Zoo for a young elephant. Both outdoor premises and indoor enclosure were upgraded. Outdoor enclosure was reconstructed. The metal fence was installed on huge stone blocks both for protection (yet existing) rows of nails and trench and at the same time provides visitors with better visibility. The platform has also been reconstructed.

To protect Horace from sun during the hot summer season, large wooden shed was installed in the open enclosure. In the building the inner compartment was restored, new lighting was additionally installed and the floor heating was provided.



2-month-old Horace with mother Nova (r.) during one of the first walks in the outdoor enclosure of Berlin Zoo, accompanied by female Cynthia (l) with daughter Sinta. Photo: Archive by G. Shchyschchik

It seems that Horace now feels very good that could be seen on YouTube videos from Halloween's holiday when he enjoyed eating pumpkins. In summer 2016 visitors were lucky to see Horace swimming in his pool and washed under the shower by keepers. The author also enjoys taking the shower. At the same time shower is a good practical training for Horace. As you can see there is no doubt that Horace is not the only one who enjoys taking a shower.

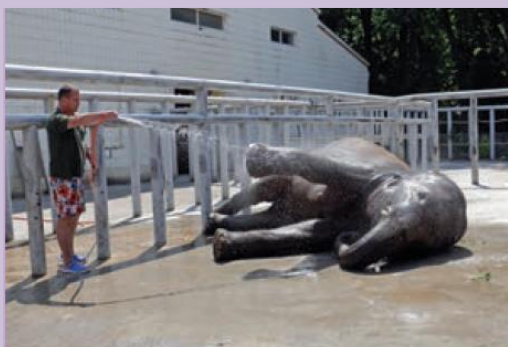
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Additions from the editorial staff:

Maintenance conditions for 12 (6.6) Asian elephants recorded in Kyiv Zoo documents were and still remain unsatisfactory. This is confirmed when a person compares them with contemporary knowledge about social behavior of intellectual and sensitive prophylactic animals and in combination with current knowledge of their mental and physical needs.

But, despite certain spatial restrictions, efforts are being made in Kyiv to offer diversity and provide enrichment in the everyday life to Horace the young male elephant, which is currently maintained separately.

Zoo disadvantages especially in the sphere of elephants maintenance should be removed as soon as possible in accordance with requirements of new zoo management and under support of city administration. Specific plans have already been developed as to organization of a new spacious complex for elephants in another place of the zoo that will be implemented in the nearest future. We are obliged to do this for our animals and at the same time significant positive development is crucial for existence and positive perception of the zoo by public after several negative incidents and partial violating of animal protection rules during previous years that were also discussed at the international level in mass media



Horace and head of Kyiv Zoo Kirill trantin enjoy taking shower

Photo: Kyiv Zoo

Oleg Hryshchenko, Head of elephants department in Kharkiv Zoo, following our request had conducted re-investigation of East Ukrainian Zoo documents and confirmed Maya arrival from Kiev [17], but there is no information about the previous history of her life and possible stay in Kyiv Zoo. It is therefore possible that period between 1947 and 1953 years she spent not in Ukrainian capital zoo but in a circus or in one of mobile zoos or menagerie that traveled through the Soviet Union. Thus, these six years of Maya life remain unknown, at least for now.

0.1 Duna, Prague Zoo: In the issue No. 20 dd 1993 in "Gazella" newspaper published by Prague Zoo, in one of Zinte Siss' articles about history of animals' maintenance in Prague Zoo, the female elephant Duna is mentioned. According to this information in October 3, 1960 year at the age of 11 – 12 years old after 8 years of stay in Prague Duna was transferred to Central Moscow Zoo. From there she seemed to have come to Kyiv Zoo [18]. But in Kyiv there are no documents confirming this assumption and elephant's presence is not recorded here. Thus, the fate of this elephant remains unknown.

The desire of all interested parties is that Horace, who is now the only elephant in Kyiv Zoo, received the company and laid the foundation for the formation of a group of elephants or a family association.

As it has already been mentioned both in literature and own publications of the zoo, there is information about elephants that seems to be delivered by the previous owners of Kyiv Zoo but there is no evidence about such cases. This applies, in particular, to two Asian female elephants from Leipzig and Prague Zoos. More details:

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Maya, Leipzig Zoo: Maya was born 01.05.1934 as a descendant of Jackie and Beng in Leipzig, where he also survived the Second World War. In Leipzig Zoo publications (for example, in the book " In the footsteps of the lion" by Mustapha Haykal and Jorg Jungholm dedicated to the 125th anniversary of the zoo published in 2003 year by the publishing house ABOUT LEIPPSIG) it is mentioned that Maya was presented to the Soviet Union as a compensation for damage caused during the Second World War and came in Kyiv in spring 1947 year. [16]. Taking into account this fact we can consider that Maya came to Kyiv Zoo however there is no evidences of May's stay in Kyiv Zoo that is why we asked Leipzig Zoo to compare any available evidence or documents for this article. Unfortunately, despite repeated requests we received no answers before publishing this article. It is proved that Maya arrived in Kharkiv Zoo in autumn 1953 year where she gave birth to elephant in 1958 and died in September 13, 1965.

Europe. Munich 1993 year, page 167

[8] . Kirill Trantin, Kyiv Zoo, personal memories

[9] . Personal memories

[10] Case, N. 2011: Artificial feeding of elephants of both species. B: European Elephant Group [edit.]: magazine "Elefanten Magazin" 18/2011 Pages 44-50

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