Louisville Zoo Receives Komodo Dragon

A juvenile Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) has gone on public display at the Louisville Zoo. The young male, named Romulus after the founder of the city of Rome, was hatched in March at the Fort Worth Zoo. The animal is currently on display in its own space within the larger outdoor dragon enclosure, which will serve as its permanent home when it reaches maturity.

Source: WDRB.com; 31 May 2018

Officials Consider Public Opinion Poll for What to do with Lumpini Park Monitors

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) officials have noted that Asian water monitors (*Varanus salvator macromaculatus*) living in Bangkok’s urban Lumpini Park have been reproducing quickly and disturbing visitors to the park, and that they may hold a public opinion poll to ask residents whether the lizards should be evicted from the park. A population size of around 400 individuals is estimated in the park, and it is claimed that the species can reproduce two or three times a year in the park. The BMA relocated 150 adult monitors from the park in 2016, and an additional 150 individuals in 2018. The administration has noted that it will consider holding an opinion poll before taking any further action.

Source: The Nation (Thailand); 4 September 2018

Four Arrested in Killing of Bengal Monitor

Four residents of Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India have been arrested for the illegal killing of a Bengal monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*) that had entered into their house. Video footage of the killing was posted online, which also led to additional charges of “trophy hunting”. Bengal monitors are protected in India under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, which calls for punitive action against capturing, killing, poisoning, snaring or trapping protected species.

Source: The Times of India; 24 June 2018

Seizure of 49 Bengal Monitor Hemipenes

A recent raid by forest officials and members of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in Chikkamagaluru, India resulted in the seizure of 49 sets of dried Bengal monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*) hemipenes and the arrest of four individuals. The perpetrators were stopped in Chikkamagaluru where they traveled to sell the reproductive organs. Wildlife activists note that this activity had been confined to northern India, and that this seizure represents the first in southern India.

Source: The Deccan Chronicle; 16 December 2018
Komodo Dragon Breeding Facility at Chattanooga Zoo

Chattanooga Zoo has announced the planning of a new facility specifically for the breeding of Komodo dragons (*Varanus komodoensis*). Currently, the zoo is home to two dragons: a male, Kadal, and female, Charlie, both seven years old. Both animals were transferred to the zoo as part of the Species Survival Plan but have yet to be introduced to each other. In addition to work areas and facilities to raise resulting offspring, the area will serve as a connecting space between the zoo’s indoor dragon exhibit, a new outdoor exhibit, and an off-display enclosure. The new facility opened to the public in July.

Source: The Chattanooga; 29 June 2018

Man Arrested in Catalonia with Illegal Komodo Dragon

Officials with the Nature Protection Service (Seprona) of the Civil Guard recently seized an illegally sourced Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) from a private property in Catalonia, Spain. The specimen exhibited prior injuries including a missing front foot and partially missing tail, and had been illegally acquired along with 20 specimens of other reptile and invertebrate species. The animals were in the care of a local resident described as a 43-year-old US citizen, who was charged with crimes against the protection of flora and fauna, smuggling, and illicit arms possession. According to Europol, this is the first illegally-acquired Komodo dragon to be seized in Europe. The animals have since been transferred to zoological care centers in the region.

Source: www.elpais.com; 23 July 2018

Four Komodo Dragons Hatch at San Antonio Zoo

Four Komodo dragons (*Varanus komodoensis*) recently hatched at the San Antonio Zoo. These hatchlings represent the second and largest successful clutch of *V. komodoensis* hatched at the zoo. The offspring will be placed on display in the coming months.

Source: News4SA.com; 2 November 2018