

The duration of the life cycle of butterflies in captivity are:
Eggs: 4-5 days; larvae: 10-14 days; pupae: 8-10 days; adult:
14 days - 2 months. These figures vary with species.

Excess butterflies that hatch in the breeding section and the Park are released out. Usually approx. 2000 - 4000 butterflies are released outside the Butterfly Park every year.

In addition to natural flowers, bee honey is provided in fiberglass containers which are designed like flowers. Also some fruits like pineapple, are provided for the butterflies to suck the juice.

During heavy rains it is very difficult to manage the Butterfly Park because most butterflies die. Also on highly crowded days the Butterfly Park has to be closed because the sweat of visitors causes the death of butterflies. Usually water is sprayed only in the morning and afternoon. During hot days water is sprayed few times more than the usual. Once there was a problem of fungus growing in breeding boxes due to lack of sunlight in the breeding section. After cutting the branches of the trees on the breeding room and washing the boxes with boiling water the fungus was wiped out.

Mr. L.P. Jayantha who has 28 years of experience as an animal keeper, is in charge of the Butterfly Park. He is assisted by Mr. R.A. Rathnasiri who has about 8 years of experience in this field. Both are dedicated keepers who thoroughly understand their work.

The Butterfly Park helps almost all Sri Lankan people for close observation of butterflies. Advanced Level School Students also do a lot of project work on butterflies with the children of the Butterfly Park. Zoo employees, specially butterfly keepers try to propagate the species using various host plants. University students who do entomology also use the Butterfly Park for their studies.

We are hoping to open the breeding section for the public next. The design has been completed. According to the design, public can enter the breeding section through a new door inside the Butterfly Park. The viewing section is also to be made to the same height of the Park using some mesh. In this way the Butterfly Park will be even more fascinating and educational.

Sri Lanka Wildlife Veterinarians' Association (SLWVA) formed

The Veterinarians of the Departments of the National Zoological Gardens and Wild Life Conservation has formed a group named Sri Lanka Wild Life Veterinarians' Association recently.

The main objectives are

- ▶ To upgrade the wildlife veterinary sector in Sri Lanka.
- ▶ To coordinate training opportunities in wildlife medicine, management and conservation in Sri Lanka.
- ▶ To exchange ideas and to upgrade knowledge.
- ▶ To collaborate with other institutions and organizations which deal with wildlife.

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The first office bearers are:

President	Dr. B.V.P. Perera
Vice President	Dr. G.U.S.P. Mendis
Secretary	Dr. C.G. Wijesinghe
Asst. Secretary	Dr. B.A.D.S. Jayawardene
Treasurer	Dr. J. Alahakoon

