

often seen in combination of shouting, hitting with stones, throwing plastic materials and feeding. Our studies show that the major activities were shouting and throwing stones. Kumaragurubaran (1992) has also reported shouting to be the predominant activity in teasing zoo animals.

Shouting was seen more near lion enclosure and as Hediger (1969) observed, the reason could be that the visitors want to see them in action. It was also observed that the behaviour was maximum when people visited in groups. Male visitors were found to be the most provocative and it is consistent with the reports of Kumaragurubaran (1992). Kamal Naidu (1989) has reported that educated visitors are more provocative and present study shows that this trend still seems to continue.

Feeding of animals is done with biscuits, popcorns, peanuts, chips, banana etc. though these items are not sold inside the zoo premises. This activity was mostly accompanied by throwing empty biscuit packets and plastic covers into the animal enclosures.

As the hippos and crocodiles did not respond to either shouting or throwing plastics/paper the visitors took the alternative way of throwing stones at the animals either to make them move or to attract their attention towards them. Otters were mostly subjected to feeding and this often occurred in a repeated manner followed by the other visitors continuing the activity. Similar observations have also been reported in monkeys (Bitgood 1988)

The significant finding in our study is the children (minor group) often initiated the provocation and it was followed by the adults.

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CLIPPING OF CLAW IN BENGAL TIGRESS IN MYSORE ZOO - A CASE REPORT S.C. Valandikar¹ and R. Raju²

Reena the Bengal tigress, aged 10 years had developed excess growth (overgrowth) of right claw and was puncturing its paw since 8-9 months, leading to injury, pain and lameness, which was noticed during its walking. When examined, the claw was found flattened and curved sharp at the free end causing damage to the paw.

It was decided to cut the overgrown claw under combination of Xylase + Ketamin anaesthesia. A dose of 200 mg of Xylase and 100 mg of Ketamin was used together and fired. Within 15 to 20 minutes the tigress slept and there were no reflexes of eye or tail. She was secured for extra security with rope tied to the fore- and hindlimbs and the mouth was taped. The hair around the claw was clipped with scissors. With the support of a wooden plank under the right leg, the excess growth (about 3 inches) was clipped with chisel and hammer. The wound was cleaned with spirit, iodine and Neosporin powder was applied and bandaged, since there was little bleeding. As a precautionary measure to tetanus, Tetvac 1ml was injected subcutaneously, Dicrysticin, large dose 1 vial injected i/m and terramycin 10 ml i/m. Daily dressing was continued for a week with application of Neosporin powder.

Remarks: The tigress was anaesthetized on 25.7.94 at 12.40 pm and after 20 minutes operation was conducted which took 30 minutes to complete. The tigress recovered at 5.30 pm with a sudden roar. She had recovered in the morning but drowsiness persisted for the full day of 26th. The wound healed completely in a week's time afterwards.

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