



Wild Camel Protection Foundation

Great Gobi Kids Corner

Newsletter One



Read more about Dairii's adventures in the GGKC News section of the website

Welcome to our first ever Great Gobi Kids Corner Newsletter! This is where you'll be able to find all the latest news on what has been going on in Mongolia and everything else that is happening whilst we try to save the wild camel.

Newsletters will be uploaded every month with new facts and stories, but you can still go and read the other articles on the website or go and have a look at what Daari, our mascot is doing in Mongolia.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS IN MONGOLIA



A photo of the Environmental Club near Tol Bulag

This is a photo of an environmental group called the Umbrella Club that is from a village near a place called Toli Bulag in Mongolia. The group aims to protect the wild camel and all the other species in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.

They also want to work with other environmental clubs from other schools in Mongolia to organise a united summit of the "Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area" clubs every year.

When the second breeding centre at Toli Bulag is set up, WCPF plans to help these clubs expand by giving children's books about the wild camel to schools in this Mongolian village. This type of work is already being done in the Soums near the current breeding centre (Zakhyn Us).

FUN FACT! A soum is the name for a district in Mongolia. Because the people are traditionally nomadic, families are divided into groups to create districts without permanent human settlement.

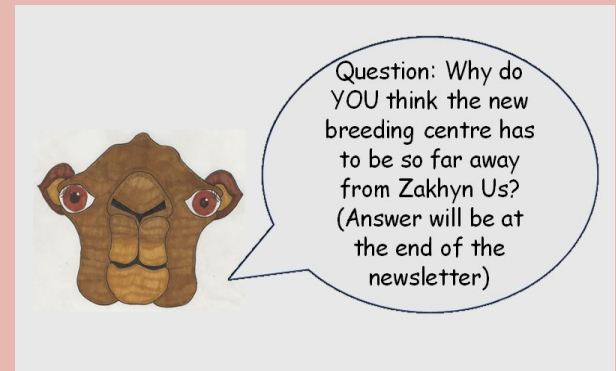
Tol Bulag

Tol Bulag is the name of the place in Mongolia where we are trying to set up a new breeding centre for the wild camel. Why do we need to do this? Because Zakhyn Us (the current breeding centre) is full! There are currently 35 camels there, and there is no more room for any more!

In 2019, John Hare visited the site with Dr Adiya Yadamsuren and they decided together that there was enough fresh water and plants for a second breeding centre to be established there. The site had to be far away from the original breeding centre for a very special reason...



John and Dr Adiya at Tol Bulag



Camera Traps in the Gobi

For those interested in the science behind the work that we do in Mongolia, this is especially interesting for you! In 2019, Camera Traps were set up in the Great Gobi "A" for a project in which we were trying to find out how many wild camels are in Gobi "A", what they are doing, and how they migrate within the National Park. Camera Traps are normally used to estimate populations of animals that can be easily recognised by their markings, however this is not the case with the wild camel, as it is harder to tell the difference between wild camels and the domesticated camel. Because of this, lots of Camera Traps must be used, with MILLIONS of images being taken and then have to be individually analysed. The traps can also be used to monitor threats like: wolf predation, climate change, water quality, human disturbance and habitat degradation (which shows how the

quality of the habitat of the camels is reduced or damaged). Human disturbance is very important at the moment because illegal miners looking for gold have once again entered Gobi "A". Seven of our Camera Traps have been stolen by these miners and their vehicles and diggings seriously degrade the wild camel habitat.

This spring (2020), Anna Jemmett and Dr Adiya Yadamuren set up Camera Traps over an area of 45000 square kilometers in the Gobi.

- They installed 113 new cameras in new places
- Replaced 20 old cameras with new ones
- Changed the batteries of the cameras
- Replaced 8 broken cameras with new ones

Dr Adiya will go back to the Gobi next September to check on the traps, and hopefully we will have some interesting pictures of wild camels in the Desert.

Wild Camel Calves!

This year seven calves were born at Zakhyn Us - 3 females and four males! Sadly, one female died, but the other six calves are all well and healthy.



For some reason that we don't yet know, more male than female calves are born at the breeding centre each year. Even though this seems like a good thing, as each calf increases the population of the Critically Endangered wild camel, we need more females than males so that many more wild camel calves can be born in the future!

Herdsman News

Tsog Erdene has been working at the Breeding Center as a herdsman since 2003! Unfortunately, Tsog Erdene had an accident involving his horse and lost his right eye. He now has a glass one and is back on duty with the Camels!

Another herdsman has been recruited, called Sosi, the fact that we now have three herdsman now means that during the summer when the wild camels leave the winter enclosure in the summer to graze someone is always keeping an eye on them and making sure that they don't mix with the domestic bactrian camels.

Camel Fact! The wild camels have to be separated from the domestic camels to prevent interbreeding and the birth of hybrid camels. We don't want hybrid camels at the reserve because they aren't purebred wild camels, and don't do anything to help us save the wild camel.

Perfect Planet

Sir David Attenborough's upcoming series - 'Perfect Planet' is going to feature the wild camel! The BBC went out to the reserve to film the mating habits of the wild camel in January, when the temperature was around minus 35 degrees celsius! This will hopefully generate lots of publicity for the wild camel which is very good news!



Puzzles and Answers

GGKC Wordsearch!

L	A	A	A	A	U	A	A	G	S	A	O	T	L
U	K	E	E	T	O	L	B	U	L	A	G	M	M
M	U	A	N	C	A	O	H	E	P	U	E	U	T
B	G	K	I	C	A	M	E	R	A	T	R	A	P
R	N	I	A	L	G	M	S	C	G	Z	R	C	L
E	L	T	M	A	O	S	B	M	A	H	B	U	E
L	I	Z	A	G	B	G	R	B	F	L	E	C	M
L	A	C	A	S	O	N	N	R	A	C	F	R	L
A	L	A	T	K	S	B	R	O	C	B	K	E	A
C	A	M	F	C	H	S	I	A	M	S	G	C	A
L	S	E	F	T	E	Y	O	L	G	I	A	B	N
U	E	L	A	E	E	L	N	U	O	H	E	L	A
B	A	M	Z	C	Z	U	E	U	M	E	E	G	L
M	M	U	M	G	A	A	G	M	S	M	E	K	U

GOBI
ZAKHYN US
CAMEL
MONGOLIA
CAMERA TRAP
TOL BULAG
UMBRELLA CLUB
GHER
SOUM
CALF

See if you can find all 10 of the words in the grid, they have all been mentioned in this newsletter!



Answer: It was important for the new breeding center to be somewhere far away like Tol Bulag so that if there is a disaster like an infectious disease that causes one of the populations of camels to die, we would still have another population of camels to carry on the breeding programme with.

Here is the answer to the question Dairii asked you earlier about Tol Bulag