

Great Gobi Kids Corner

Newsletter 2



Image of the article in the Sunday Telegraph

We've been in the papers! If you looked at the Sunday Telegraph a while ago, you might have spotted someone who looked a bit familiar...

Yes, David Attenborough is in there, but more importantly there was the famous photo of the Wild Camel that WCPF uses for its logo. The article includes Jane Goodall, famous

conservationist and primatologist, talking about how our treatment of nature has led to the Coronavirus pandemic, and the feature on the Wild Camels on 'A Perfect Planet.

Fun Fact! A primatologist is a person who studies the physiology and behaviour of non-human primates. This could include monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas, etc

THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES

Zakhyn Us



Great news from the reserve! 2 female and 3 male Wild camel calves were born this year, which means that Zakhyn Us now contains its maximum capacity - 35 Wild camels.

Some other exciting news from the breeding centre is that Adiya Yadamsuren has been awarded a veterinary training scholarship by the Wildlife Conservation Network in America to undertake veterinary training at Prague Zoo in the Czech Republic. Prague Zoo is a great supporter of WCPF and its work in Mongolia and is helping WCPF to design and finance the new breeding centre at Toli Bulag. This will be

extremely helpful to WCPF as though he will not be a qualified vet, he will have many veterinary skills that will be invaluable at the two breeding centres.

Toli Bulag

The Mongolian government has approved the new breeding centre at Toli Bulag! This is great news given that we have reached maximum capacity at Zakhyn Us, but unfortunately

due to the coronavirus we can't get fencing from China as their border is closed, meaning the transfer of the first 12 camels has been delayed.

PhD on Wild Camels

Anna Jemmet is doing a PhD on Wild Camel genetics at the University of Kent. This means that when she completes her degree, she'll be the only person in the world with a doctorate on the Wild Camel! Adiya Yudusamen in Mongolia recently supervised the collection of hair from under the tails of 46 Wild Camels, including the 5 new calves. Anna will take DNA from the hair samples and analyse it to see how all the camels are related to each other. This is useful because we can make sure that the camels we breed together at the breeding centre aren't really closely related. However, it is likely that the camels will share a lot of the same DNA, as when you try to breed a bigger population from a much smaller one (like when trying to save a species like the Wild Camel) there aren't many genes to be shared around, meaning many individuals will have the same genes.

Anna is also working on a project involving using camera traps to estimate the number of Wild Camels in Gobi A. There are currently thought to be around 450 Wild Camels in the area, but there could be more! Look out for an article on *Gobi Kids Corner* about this soon, and you might get to see some of the photos from the traps...

China



A short report has been sent by Director Yuan Lei (with whom John Hare undertook 5 expeditions into Lop Nur) sent a short report saying that they have been doing some work fitting Wild camels with satellite collars, so that their movements can be tracked. They have fitted 8 in total and plan to do 10 more.

Professor Liu Shaochuang who is in charge of collaring in the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Nature Reserve in China, which WCPF helped to establish, has generously agreed to send samples of collared wild camels to Anna Jemmett which will help greatly with her PhD.

