

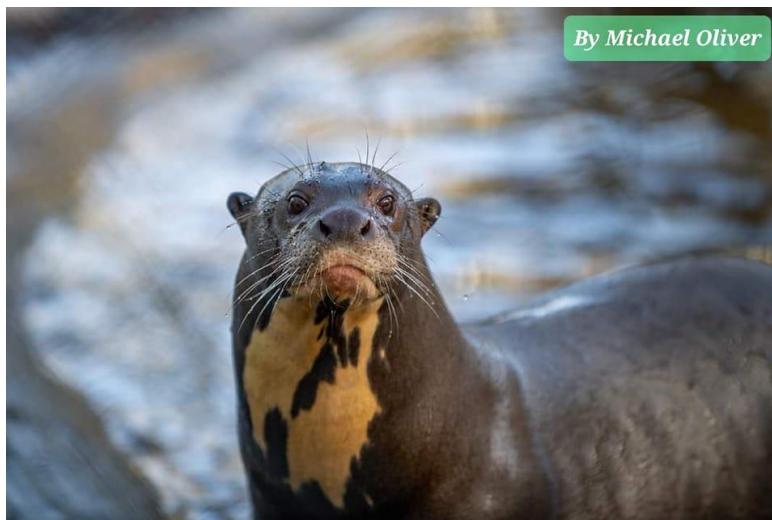
## News from New Forest Wildlife Park – Summer/ Autumn 2022

### Animal Birthdays!



#### **Pola turns 5!**

We celebrated our female European Bison, Pola, turning 5 years old on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022!



#### **Simuni the Giant Otter is 12 years old!**

Simuni (& his brother, Akuri) were the first ever Amazonian Giant Otter cubs to be born in the UK on 23/06/2010 at our sister park, Chestnut Centre in Derbyshire (closed 2017).

Simuni moved to NFWP at 18 months old!

Happy 12th Birthday to our handsome Simuni and many thanks to Michael Oliver for letting us share his fabulous photo of him!



Chestnut



Franklin

### **A sad goodbye and a fond hello!**

#### **Meet Chestnut the Eurasian Otter!**

Sadly Franklin, our Eurasian Otter who lived in the Main Building, passed away earlier in the summer, aged 9. He is sorely missed by all the keepers and staff at NFWP and the visitors who enjoyed spying him asleep in his 3 little windows looking into his sleeping holt!

If you've visited recently you may have noticed a new furry face in Franklin's old enclosure!

We are very excited to introduce Chestnut, who is Franklin's son! Born to Millie and Franklin here back in January 2018!

Chestnut takes after his dad in so many ways, he likes to snooze in his inside holt, loves an afternoon swim and of course is extremely handsome!

Chestnut is named after the Chestnut Centre, in Derbyshire, which was the family's first centre (opened in 1984 – closed in 2017). He is the first born otter cub here after the Chestnut Centre closed.

## **Wild Boar have moved residence to the Paddocks!**

Duke, Duchess and the boarlets, moved to two new enclosures on the paddocks in Deer Encounter on 8<sup>th</sup> July! Safe to say they are thoroughly enjoying it!



## **'Maverick' the New Red Stag**

has joined our herd from Watatunga Wildlife Reserve!



## **Conservation and Rescue work**

### ***We have some otterly great stuff going on!***

From the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022 our Curator, Jason Palmer, attended the 15<sup>th</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature, Species Survival Commission, Otter Specialist Group congress. Held this year in Sospel, France, it was a chance for otter experts from all over the world to come together to share and promote the amazing work that is going on around the world for all 13 species of otter. Delegates from countries including Singapore, Japan, South Africa, Argentina, India and even Bhutan were all in attendance.

Jason, as an IUCN OSG global species advisor for Asian Short Clawed otters, spoke about the ongoing work we do for the global captive population of this species.

Here at the New Forest Wildlife Park, we are proud to be championing the four species of otter we look after!



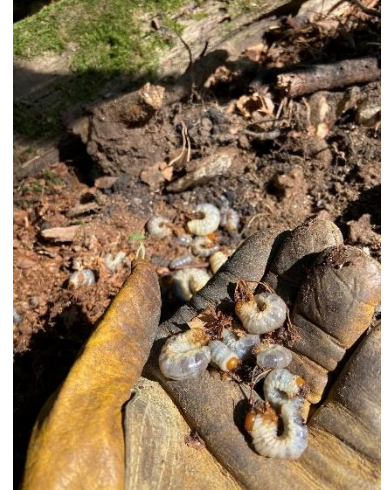




On the 7<sup>th</sup> August, we had an unusual rescue and release... of Stag Beetle Larvae!

We were contacted by Chrissy who came across the larvae while removing a rotten tree from her garden. Chrissy knew that Stag beetles have been declining in numbers, so wanted to make sure they were relocated somewhere safe! That's where we were able to help, we were more than happy to home the larvae by some rotting oak in one of our dedicated wildlife areas.

The adult Stag beetle is instantly recognisable as it is the largest UK insect with antler like jaws! They spend three to seven years in the ground as larvae, emerging once fully grown and living only a few months as an adult beetle.



### **Building Work continues in the Deer Encounter**

After Storm Eunice back in February created 14 fallen trees and 3 more felled, the clear up work has been extensive. With the loss of our enclosure for the Scottish Wildcats and one of our Pine Marten enclosures too.

The work of the dedicated maintenance team continues after the removal of these two enclosures, lots of tree surgery and the continued construction of the new otter enclosure – opposite the Giant Otters.

### **Bat Rescue**

In early September, one of our keen-eyed visitors spotted a bat in need of help on one of our trees in the car park and alerted the Keeper team!



After a very supportive phone call to the [Bat Conservation Trust](#) and a return call from our local support [Hampshire Bat Group](#), this Brown Long-eared Bat was safely moved by the Keepers, Lizzy & Tom, into a suitable transport box. Keeper Shanna transported the bat directly to our local Bat Carer, Lena, based in Totton! We received the wonderful update this week that the Long-Eared Bat is doing well and responding to specialist care & treatment. Once flight assessments are undertaken in the coming weeks, Lena hopes for a successful release back onto our site!

To learn more about what you should do if you find a bat in need of help - check out Hampshire Bat Group website: [www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk](http://www.hampshirebatgroup.org.uk)

All 18 species of bat present in the UK are fully protected!



### ***Keeper Swaps with Paultons over September!***



It is a really awesome treat to be able to do Keeper Swap days with other collections to learn about a different range of species and meet other Keepers specialist in their field. Our Keepers Victoria and Toby were welcomed at Paultons by their keeping team during September.



***Our fabulous, friendly Keeper team have answered lots of interesting visitor questions, given hundreds of public talks and hosted many, many Keeper Experiences over the last 6 months! Here they are:***



***(L-R) Back line – Toby, Jason, Shanna, Tom, Jenn  
Front Line – Lizzy, Donna and Victoria***

***Catch up with our current news on our Social Media:  
Instagram: ‘#NFwildlifepark Facebook: ‘The New Forest Wildlife Park’  
We hope to see you soon.***

**[www.newforestwildlifepark.co.uk](http://www.newforestwildlifepark.co.uk)**