

NEW ARRIVALS

RAREST MAMMAL ARRIVES AT ALPENZOO INNSBRUCK



THE BAVARIAN PINE VOLE (*Microtus bavaricus*) is one of the rarest mammals in Europe, if not the world. In the IUCN Red List, it is classified as Critically Endangered. The only currently existing and known occurrence of the species is in Tyrol, Austria right around the corner from Alpenzoo Innsbruck. Bavarian pine voles were only discovered in 1962 near to the German city Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Unfortunately, the original site is now occupied by a hospital and the Bavarian pine voles no longer live there; they have disappeared from other places in the

Alps as well. As a result, the species was considered to be lost or extinct. Fortunately in 2000 some animals were sighted in Tyrol and have been subsequently identified as Bavarian pine voles. Since 2014 there has been regular monitoring (search cycles) and some basic botanical surveys at the site in the Rofan Mountains where the animals were found.

Alpenzoo Innsbruck has been keeping individuals of this species since September 2021. On 13 June 2022, there was a sensation in the zoo when two offspring were seen in the enclosure. 'We are as happy as small



children about these offspring, because this vole is more endangered than a tiger, snow leopard or panda,' said zoo director André Stadler, proudly. After 21 days the young animals were separated from their parents and the sex was checked. Happily they turned out to be two females and so the zoo was able to establish another breeding pair.

Alpenzoo Innsbruck sees itself in a leading role for the protection of this species, since these young were the world's first offspring born in human care. This is a very important step for species protection and for building up

a conservation population in zoos. The threats to the animals, however, are far from over. Together with many other partners, we are doing our utmost to protect this vole under the slogan: 'We are saving an unknown species.' To date, there have been three successful births, with seven animals raised in total. The zoo now holds roughly 10% of the world population, as the data shows that there are probably no more than 100 animals left in the Rofan Mountains.

The animals are currently housed in their own area behind the scenes because the species has never been kept in any zoo in the world. The animals are therefore being observed ethologically for the first time and basic data such as gestation periods are for being collected, also for the first time. They also undergo veterinary examinations. Later in the year, the voles will be put on display in the new 'Untertierisch' enclosure.

A special thanks goes to Aufwind, a non-profit organisation for nature (GmbH), for supporting this project.

OSTRAVA ZOO CELEBRATES WORLD'S LARGEST GROUP OF ONAGERS

IN JUNE 2022, ONAGERS (*Equus hemionus onager*) at Ostrava Zoo gave birth to eight foals, seven of which have survived at the time of writing. This increased the group to 18 individuals in total, which represents the biggest group in any zoo worldwide, based on the ZIMS data.

individuals in 13 EAZA zoos and 36 in five AZA zoos.

Ostrava Zoo has been caring for onagers since 2014. Based on the EEP transfer recommendations, one male (from Stuttgart) and four females (from Augsburg, Cologne and Hamburg) were brought to the zoo.



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