

Twin calves of European bison born in Eriksberg

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Abstract: For the first time in Sweden a cow of European bison gave birth to twin calves in Eriksberg on 26th July 2012. Twin calves are very rare in European bison and not always they survive. These two small females are now one year old and have no problem to follow the herd.

Key words: European bison, twin calves

Introduction

On 26th of July 2012, in Eriksberg arranged was a “Walking safari”, and after a long walk a herd of European bison was noticed hidden far away in the archipelag of bushes. In the herd, there were two female calves just few hours old, born in the night. This is the first time in Sweden when a cow of European bison gave birth to twin calves. We are following the growth of the two calves closely. They are healthy and have no problem to follow the herd. One interesting thing are that they do everything in the same way. They suckle, sleep and play together. Now they are one year old and they are still identical, so it is impossible to see any difference between them. We think and hope now that they will survive until adolescence. We think that the fact that they both always suckle in the same time is one of the reasons that they managed to survive as no one of them has got more milk than the other, so the cow had enough milk for both. The mother is a ten year’s old experienced cow, no **9703 EN 14**. The father is no **10477 DADINO** from Damerower Werder in Germany. The two twins are F no **12212 ENVILD** and F no **12213 ENVACKER (Fig. 1)**.

Former cases of twin calves Just few twin calves have been recorded in captivity since the pedigree book started. According to Krasinska M. and Krasinski Z. (2007) the first such birth was recorded in 1945 in Białowieża but the two females were stillborn. The second such case was in the reserve of Priosko-Terrasnyi in Russia in 1960. Two bull calves was born. The next recorded birth was in Schönbrunn, Wien zoo in 1971. Two females was born, they survived and gave later birth to calves by their own. Some years ago twins were born in Damerower Werder, Germany, but one of them died later. In 2010 twins were born in Topolcianky and one of them must be artificially feed because mother did not show any interest towards the first calf.



Figure 1. Twins with their mother, Eriksberg year 2012

References

- Krasinska M., Krasinski Z. 2007. The European bison, the nature monograph. Mammal Research Institute PAN, Białowieża: pp.
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Bliźnięta żubra urodzone w Eriksberg

Streszczenie: Po raz pierwszy w Skandynawii żubrzyca powiła bliźnięta – w ośrodku w Eriksberg w dniu 26 lipca 2012 roku. Bliźnięta pojawiają się bardzo rzadko i nie zawsze przeżywają. Dwie jałówki – bliźniaczki są obecnie w wieku jednego roku i nie mają żadnych problemów w nadążaniu za stadem.
