



# Wuppertal Zoo Society

(Zoo-Verein Wuppertal e.V.)

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## 15th Conference of European Zoo Friends

in Wuppertal from 2 – 5 October 2014

### Invitation

Dear Friends and Sponsors of Zoos,  
Dear Sir or Madam,

We, the Wuppertal Zoo Society, have been supporting our zoo through various activities for almost 60 years, including funding new enclosures and conservation projects, a wide range of membership campaigns and the operation of a souvenir shop and kiosks. With almost 1,500 members, we are one of the biggest sponsoring associations in our city and are proud of our zoo.

We have been part of the German umbrella organisation for zoo friends associations, the Gemeinschaft Deutscher Zooförderer e.V. (GDZ), since 2001. The exchange of views between the 52 member associations of the GDZ is very important to us as we can learn a lot from each other.

We are delighted to be putting on the 15th Conference of European Zoo Friends in October 2014. Such a gathering of zoo friends from Germany, Austria and Switzerland was held at the suggestion of zoo enthusiasts from Innsbruck in 1992 for the first time. **We cordially invite you to the conference in Wuppertal from 2-5 October 2014.**

In autumn 2014, we will remember events that radically changed Europe's development - World War I began 100 years ago, World War II 75 years ago and the Iron Curtain in Europe fell with the Berlin Wall 25 years ago. All the more reason why we are delighted to now be able to share ideas in Europe without boundaries and cooperate in a spirit of trust. Therefore, we also plan to take in a benefit concert organised by the city of Wuppertal on 3 October, German Unity Day, in support of the Wuppertal Zoo Society in the large hall of the Historische Stadthalle Wuppertal, Wuppertal's historical town hall, as part of the conference.

The conference presentations will focus on the theme of "cooperation". Outstanding examples of zoo friends associations cooperating with various institutions will be looked at. An attractive supporting programme, for you and those accompanying you, will complete the conference. We are also offering excursions to other zoos in the area (Cologne, Krefeld, Duisburg, Gelsenkirchen). Simultaneous translation into English of the presentations and speeches will be available to all guests who do not speak German.

Wuppertal, a popular conference location, is easily accessible by train (main train station located near the conference hotel), car (via the A1 and A46 motorways) and also Düsseldorf, Cologne/Bonn and Dortmund airports. We have enclosed the registration documents. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions regarding the schedule or organisation of the conference.

I am already looking forward to meeting you in Wuppertal. Best regards on behalf of the Zoo Society,

Bruno Hensel  
1st Chairman