



mortality in hard winter 2009/2010. Decrease of beaver has been slight so far and needs longer monitoring to assess the needs to implement any new management measure.



**EXPERIENCE OF BREEDING RARE AND ENDANGERED  
PREDACEOUS MAMMAL SPECIES IN MOSCOW ZOO  
NURSERY – EXAMPLE OF YELLOW-THROATED MARTEN  
(*MARTES FLAVIGULA*)**

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Yellow-throated marten (*Martes flavigula* Boddaert, 1785) is one of the least studied predaceous mammals living in Russia, which is categorized as a rare and endangered species. These animals have been kept in 6 enclosures (160 m<sup>2</sup> in total) of the Moscow Zoo nursery since 2003.

One pair has been breeding since 2005. It has produced 4 litters, but all of them faced problems with survival and nurturing by the mother. Having considered the experience of breeding these animals in other zoos, we tried out different variants of arranging the settings for the birth.

In May 2005, the female gave birth to one pup. A stress situation arose several days after delivery, and the pup had to be transferred to artificial nursing.

In May 2006, the second litter was born. The stress situation reoccurred in two months. Again, the offspring were removed to be artificially nursed.

We failed to save the third litter born in May 2008. It died right after birth due to the same reason.

In May 2009, several days after birth, we managed to take one pup away to be nursed artificially, again because of the stress factor. The female killed the other pup.



Our assumptions concerning the female's rejection of the pups either due to the stress situation and limited space or because of hormonal disorder or individual psychological problem in relation to the offspring shall be either confirmed or disproven late in the year 2010.



## **BROWN BEAR IN KOSTOMUKSHSKY STRICT NATURE RESERVE**

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Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos* L.) that dwells in the nature reserve belong to the nominal subspecies. It is the most common and regularly registered species in the reserve, among four large predators. The other species are registered rarely (Wolverine) or even not annually (Lynx and, especially, Wolf).

During the years of the nature reserve existence, studies of the Brown Bear were conducted within the programme "Chronicles of Nature", and the traditional method of measuring the front paw corn was used. Since 1985, about 160 cards of tracks and visual encounters have been filled in. Drawing upon these data and taking mean density of bears in north-west districts of Karelia into account it was proposed that 10-12 specimens dwell in the territory of the nature reserve.

In 2008, a co-operation agreement between Kostomukshsky Nature Reserve and Bioforsk Soil and Environment Svanhovd (Norway) about joint work aimed on studying of the current status of the Brown Bear population in the Barents region was signed. In the frames of the agreement, in 2008-2009, genetic material, mainly hair, was collected in the territory of the Nature Reserve to be then treated in Svanhovd. All in all, 34 hair samples and 7 feces samples were collected.