## **Contents**

Introduction: A tale of power plays			
and harmonious habitats	9		
Gorilla			

# Rulers and their animals: The predecessors to Zoo Berlin 15

Common pheasant

Animals as status symbols 15

From royal menageries to zoos 17

Pheasantries and menageries 17

London sets an example 20

### A zoological garden by Berlin, 1844–1870 23

Asian elephant

Makeshift beginnings 23

Hesitant investors 30

A site in the sticks 31

Tight budgets 32

The requisite reforms 35

Handle with care! 37

### The early years of the empire: A city and zoo in bloom, 1870–1900 41

Giraffe
Clearing the way 41
The Orient in Berlin 44
Restaurants and concerts 49
The city comes to the Zoo 51
Heck the collector takes the helm 56

Human zoos: "Ethnological exhibitions" at Zoo Berlin 60

## Global fame and global crises, 1900–1932 67

Crocodile

On top of the world 67
Feeding and feasting 71
The Zoo gets its own aquarium 74
The Zoo goes to war 79
Currency crises 81
Back on top: The "Golden Twenties" 83
Going cage-free 86



# In thrall to the Swastika: Zoo Berlin during the Third Reich, 1933–1945 93

European bison

Instant assimilation 93

Expulsion of Jewish board members 97

The Zoo and the Olympics 101

The "German zoo" 103

Bringing primeval oxen back from

the dead 106

"Jews not welcome" 109

The Zoo at war again 113

Heck and the "eastern expansion" 116

"Essential to the war effort":

Heck exerts his influence 118

Forced labour at the Zoo 121

The Zoo in flames 123

Reopening under fire 127

On the front line 129

#### Emerging from the ruins, 1945-1949 133

Hippopotamus

An imperfect peace 133

Taking stock 135

Katharina the Great 138

Two steps forward, one step back 142

#### Normalisation during the Cold War,

### 1949-1961 147

Picasso triggerfish

Romance across the borders:

Grete and Knautschke 147

A shadow of its former self 150

Shanti means peace 151

Competition from the East 158

Finally back on track 162

Scheming and infighting 163

Striking a good deal 166

A "whippersnapper" takes the helm 169

A race for supremacy 171

#### A zoo on an "island": The 1960s 177

Bald eagle

The Berlin Wall goes up 177

The Zoo turns 125 183

Lions and more 186

Love of animals or lack of awareness? 188

### A green oasis in the big city: The 1970s and 80s 191

Slow loris

Creatures of the night:

The nocturnal animal house 191

The Aquarium is transformed 194

A zoo director with political connections 196

The politics of expansion 199

Spies in the Tierpark 202

Celebrations on both sides of the city:

Berlin turns 750 204

The animal trade: From colonial take-whatyou-want mentality to international breeding programmes 208

### One city, two zoos: Zoo and Tierpark Berlin in the 1990s 211

Compass jellyfish

A visitor boom: Two zoos for all 211

The transitional period:

Fears for the Tierpark's future 214

Coming together 216

Unfair dismissal 218

The Tierpark gets incorporated 220

A venomous atmosphere 221

New watery habitats for creatures great

and small 224

# Modern challenges: The Zoo in the new millennium 231

California sea lion
Training for creatures of all shapes
and sizes 231
Knut mania 237

#### A Zoo fit for the future 245

Giant panda

No future without remembrance 245
Panda diplomacy: Precious bears
for Berlin 248
Standing on its own two feet 252
Making space for big plans 253
Berlin bears 255
A topsy-turvy world 256
You reap what you sow 256
Securing a future: Berlin World Wild 260

Appendix 263
Notes 263
Archives 278
Picture credits 279

The author 280