



THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

INFORMATION OFFICE ● LONDON ZOO ● REGENT'S PARK NW1
Telephone: PRIMROSE 3333

THE WEIGH-IN

On view at London Zoo for the first time this morning are the two SYRIAN BEAR CUBS born to "Winnie" and "Pickles" on 5th January - the first babies to be born in the Zoo this year.

The cubs have been named "DAVY" and "MANDY" by the Keepers, after two young visitors who came in February hoping to see them, but who were disappointed since at that time the cubs were much too small to go on view.

"Davy", the smaller of the two, was unusually tiny at birth. Both are to be weighed today and a weekly check will then be made of their weight over the next three months or so, until they become too big to handle.

In August, when they are big enough to withstand a little rough handling, their father will be introduced to their enclosure on the Mappin Terraces to complete the family group. This is seldom attempted for normally it is the nature of the male to kill the cubs but "Pickles" shows no animosity towards his cubs and the Keepers are certain that it will be safe to allow him to join them when they are about seven months old.

The Syrian Bear is a very light-brown race of the Brown Bear and is found in scattered mountainous districts from Asia Minor and Syria to Persia. "Winnie", who was presented to the London Zoo in 1949, came from Iran. "Pickles" started life in South Persia and came to London in 1934 when still a cub, between six and ten months old. He has fathered many of the Brown Bears born in the Gardens. "Davy" and "Mandy" are "Winnie's" fourth litter.

.....

20th March, 1961