

Monday 27th July 2009 – Hope Ward Children’s trip to the ‘Zoo’ (Uganda Wildlife Education Centre) in Entebbe.

....we had a fantastic time at the zoo. I wish I could give a story for every picture...this one was a picture taken just as we arrived at the Zoo.



The Executive Director of the zoo (Dr. Andrew Seguya) happens to be the husband of our Head of Nursing Directorate, he received us so warmly and was our guide!!!! We were tiny VIPs!!! At this point the children were not really excited because they did not understand what the trip was all about. Poor Dennis was in so much pain so they had to give him more morphine and took him back into the ambulance. Then Dr. Seguya allowed us to drive the ambulance into the zoo so Dennis wouldn't miss out on the experience....



Dr. Seguya giving an intro to the zoo tour



The ambulance with Dennis moving behind the other children on foot.

One of the first animals the children saw was a tortoise which they did not find interesting. Then there were some donkeys nearby that almost kicked Dr. Richard and this gave rise to hearty laughter and giggles from the children. Many would say this was a highlight of their trip. (We don't have that picture because Dr. Richard was taking the pictures...really sad).

Then next the children were allowed into a restricted area to touch a rhino...!!! This was very exciting. Just before this Dennis asked to sit on the wheelchair and move around with the other children. He looked at the hyena and said he had seen one before back at his home...



Next the children were allowed into the lion's cage and Hadija and Tom got to touch the lions.



Just before their lunch break the children got to touch a python!!! It was actually quite beautiful – not sure I would think the same if I found it outside the zoo!!



When the other children were settling down for lunch the team got a bed for Dennis to rest and set it up facing the water front. The setting was so serene and Dennis lay on his bed enjoying the lake for quite a long time. We have not seen Dennis looking so much at peace in a long time. For me...this was the highlight of the trip.



The lunch break was packed with interesting moments!!

Mubiru Iwasa a young malnourished boy on Hope Ward much he ended up chewing the bone and wouldn't let from him.



enjoyed his chicken so anyone take it away

And tiny Alaro Flavia had so much joy welling up within her that she took a deep breath, closed her eyes then threw her head back and let out a long baby chatter sentence to the amusement of all the other children.

To crown the day, Dr. Seguya had one more special treat lined up for the children....a bouncing castle!!!! For the first time since she came to Hope Ward tiny Hadija was all giggles!!! It was such a beautiful sight. The nurses said that for the first time Hadija had gone for so many hours without complaining of pain!! This was a very special day for her.



At this point – unlike at the beginning of the zoo tour – all the children were extremely happy. They spent final moments enjoying the swings then it was time to go home.

Thanks to Sharon O'Brien, Richard Feinman (Friends of Hope Ward), Emma & Rose (Hope Ward Nurses), the IHSU student nurses, Charlie (Physio), the IHK transport department, IHK kitchen (for the yummy snacks) and most especially Dr. Andrew Seguya and the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre 'Entebbe Zoo' for making this day so special for our Hope Ward children.