OASIS Park is the biggest zoological park in the Canary Islands. It is located on the tropical Island of Fuerteventura. It is one million square meters in size, has 250 species of animals (over 3,000 animals) and a Botanical garden of more than 150 square meters and thousands of tropical plants and cactuses.

One of the main attractions is our four-hectare African Savannah with a mixed collection of animals like zebras, mountain goats, Scimitar-horned Oryx and ostriches.

We have a large group of Scimitar/horned Oryx. Every year we get around 2-3 more newborns. The mortality rate was close to 0 last year but this last year we changed the group from a smaller enclosure (where they were kept alone) to the African Savannah where they live together with other species. Since then, we have seen more fights between the male Oryx and also between Oryces and mountain goats. Zebras also showed strange behavior trying to “adopt” the Oryx newborns (one female zebra was behaving like the mother of one of the baby Oryx during the first day of life).

The Scimitar-horned Oryx is listed on CITES Appendix 1. There has been no definite evidence of the survival of this species in the wild for more than 15 years. They may have formerly been widespread across North Africa, at least in arid and Saharan areas, but now...
extinct in the wild over all its range. Captive herds are kept in fenced protected areas in Tunisia, Senegal and Morocco (Sous Massa National Park, probably outside the known historical range) as part of long-term reintroduction programs.

A global captive breeding program was initiated in the 1960s. In 2005 there were at least 1,550 captive animals held in managed breeding programs around the world (Gilbert 2005). In addition, a large number (probably >4,000) are kept in a private collection in the United Arab Emirates. Additional animals are likely held on private game ranches in the USA. As part of planned reintroduction projects, animals have been released into fenced protected areas in Tunisia (BouHedma National Park 1985, SidiToui National Park 1999, OuedDekouk National Park 1999), Morocco (Sous-Massa National Park 1995), and Senegal (Ferlo Faunal Reserve 1998, Guembuel Wildlife Reserve 1999). Reintroduction is currently also planned at a site in Niger.

In June 2014, three baby Oryx were born some days apart at our African Savannah. Everything was going well, and they were growing fast without problems. Mid July we observed that one of the babies had a small abdominal hernia about 3 cm long of the right side of the abdomen, next to the last rib. We suspected it was a traumatic injury from interspecies aggression but decided to wait since the baby was not showing any other signs of disease and the mother was still taking care of him. A couple days later a blood sample was taken and analyzed with Abaxis VetScan VS2 Chemistry Analyzer.

Results showed mild dehydration and oral fluids were given. One week later the baby Oryx had to be hospitalized since the mother abandoned him and he was showing signs of weakness. Physical examination and blood analysis (see attached table with progressive blood results) revealed mild dehydration (around 8%) and abdominal pain. After fluid therapy and standard treatment the baby recovered, but 1 day later he started showing neurological signs: opisthotonus, stiffness and rigidity of four limbs and seizures characterized by cycling with four limbs (mainly when exited). Taking into consideration the symptoms, blood work, physical examination and the previous trauma 2 weeks before, tetanus was suspected and therapy was started with tetanus antitoxin, penicillin and metronidazole. Also valium was given IV to control the seizures. VetScan analysis helped us to rule out other possible differential diagnoses.

**Chemistry Results**

- Degenerative/developmental disorders: malformations of CNS, storage diseases...
- Nutritional: hypoglycemia, hypocalcemia, calcium-phosphore imbalances, hypomagnesimia, copper deficiency, thiamine/vitamin B1 deficiency, white muscle disease (vitamin E/Selenium deficiency)
- Neoplastic: brain or spinal cord tumors
- Infectious: viral, bacterial (listeriosis, clositridium, salmonella...), fungal (aspergillus, cryptococcus), parasitic (nervious coccidiosis, sarcocystis, coenuriasis...)
- Immflamatory/traumatic
- Idiopathic: cerebral oedema,
- Toxicologic: tetanus, botulism, lead and mercury poisoning, miscellaneous plan toxins, mycotoxins, organophosphate or other insecticide toxicity, salt poisons, urea/ammonia toxicosis
After 3 days with this standard treatment, IV fluids and feeding him with goat milk, neurologic symptoms stopped, although he was not able to stand and was still very weak, not being able to hold his head up. The following 2 weeks we kept administering IV fluids, since blood glucose levels were impossible to maintain without IV 50% glucose, despite the oral feeding. Injectable calcium-magnesium was given and also vitamin E-selenium. After one month from the initial symptoms and after intensive physiotherapy, our Oryx was able to stand when assisted. 2 months later when he was already able to walk assisted, he suffered a severe hypothermia when he was found almost drowning after a huge storm. Following standard treatment for hypothermia, he recovered but his physical recovery was affected.

We consulted a veterinary physiotherapist in order to provide the best care possible and now after 2 months of physical therapy he is again able to walk. In the present time, we are consulting a veterinary acupuncturist. Despite all our efforts, he is still not able to walk or stand on his own. He still has some muscle atrophy on the front legs and a several muscle contractions on his neck and vertebral column. We continue a combination of physiotherapy and acupuncture and we hope to see a fast improvement in the next months. The reason we continue to treat him even with a guarded prognosis, is the improvement we see every week. Also, he is completely used to us, showing no signs at all of stress. Even if he will be unable to be released in the wild, we still hope that he can be reintroduced in his group and could contribute to avoiding the complete extinction of his species.