



Berlin, 22 July 2016

Press release

A fairytale day out

New petting zoo opens its doors at Berlin Zoo

The smell of hay fills the air, a sheep doses off while enjoying a snack in the sun, and the loud bray of a baby donkey echoes through the farm – all the elements of a holiday in the countryside, right in the middle of the big city! Today, the former children's corner of Berlin Zoo reopened its doors to visitors. Based on the theme of Grimm Brothers' fairytale *Hans in Luck*, the new petting zoo welcomes children and parents into an idyllic rural setting.

A total of €420,000 went into transforming the empty area around the petting zoo into an enchanting backdrop straight out of a picture book, with construction taking place from April to June 2016. The fairytale-inspired design was supplied by landscape architecture office SKP Berlin Gebäude & Landschaften GmbH. The idea was brought to life with the support of landscaping firm Ingo Bauditz and playground designers Ulrich Paulig & Co. merry go round™. The old metal fences were replaced with rustic wooden balustrades and traditional picket fences, and new climbing structures and even cosier sheds were built for the animals. "We opted for natural materials to create that village feel city dwellers often long for," said Zoo and Tierpark Director Dr Andreas Knieriem, describing the key idea behind the new design.

Across an area of almost 3,500 m², visitors are invited to befriend the cow and pig that Hans exchanges for a horse and goose in the fairytale, as well as plenty of sheep, ponies and goats. Additionally, there is an 800 m² courtyard where visitors can really delve into country life and get up close to farm animals. And when our furry friends have had enough of all the fuss, they can simply wander back into secluded rest areas. Rabbits and guinea pigs, for example, can retreat to the shadows of giant mushrooms in their own idyllic mini-village.

Hans himself strolls around the romantic village square by the timbered house, the village well, the mill wheel and the tractor – charming details that help create an atmosphere of rural bliss. Hans stops at four different posts to recite excerpts of his tale, recounting the time he received a lump of gold as a reward for his hard work, kept trading it in for something better until he received a grindstone, which ended up falling into a well. Much like Hans, children big and small will leave the new petting zoo with smiles on their faces and just one thought in mind:

"There is no one under the sun so fortunate as I."