The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Feeding Resident Crocodile to Bring Russian Prisoners 'Psychological Relief'

September 18, 2014



The pride and joy of the colony is a crocodile named Lacoste-ik, which is looked after by a prisoner known simply as Lev.

When the words "penal colony" are mentioned, furry animals are not the first thing that spring to mind, but a prison in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg is changing all that with the construction of its own mini-zoo.

In addition to prisoners, the quirky colony houses a number of animals including rabbits, guinea pigs, birds and even sea turtles, tabloid LifeNews reported Thursday.

The pride and joy of the colony, however, is a crocodile named Lacoste-ik, which is looked after by a prisoner known simply as Lev.

"Lev feeds the reptile twice a week with fish and meat," a spokesman for the Sverdlovsk region prison service was quoted as saying by LifeNews.

The spokesman added that such interactions were important for the prisoners, offering a high

level of psychological relief during their incarceration.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/09/18/feeding-resident-crocodile-to-bring-russian-prisoners-psychological-relief-a39566