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Seasonality and breeding success of captive and wild Tasmanian devils (*Sarcophilus harrisii*)

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1 **Seasonality and Breeding Success of Captive and Wild Tasmanian Devils (*Sarcophilus harrisi*)**

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22

23 **Abstract**

24 The synchrony and timing of reproductive events are crucially important factors to maximize  
25 individual and offspring survival, especially in seasonal environments. To increase our understanding  
26 of the physiological basis of seasonality and the influence of associated environmental factors  
27 (maximum temperature, day length and rate of day length change associated with different latitudes)  
28 on reproduction in Tasmanian devils, we reviewed records and research data from captive facilities  
29 throughout Australia in comparison to those from a wild population study (1974 to 1987). Overall,  
30 breeding activity began 2 weeks earlier in the captive than the wild population (week  $5.7 \pm 0.6$  versus

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