Maternal effect on the commencement of hibernation and body mass of the juvenile edible dormouse *Glis glis* in captivity

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Maternal care plays a significant role in altricial species such as majority of mammals or birds (Fouqueray 2013). Juveniles in many mammal species are entirely reliant upon their mother, at least until weaning, when they reach independence and are able to start living on their own. Maternal effects are described as an influence of maternal genotype or phenotype on progeny phenotypes (e.g. Bernardo 1996, Kerr *et al.* 2007, Mateo 2009, Wolf and Wade 2009, Fouqueray 2013). Amongst animals living in the wild, maternal care may affect offspring survival probability, fitness, social relationships and lead to parent-offspring resemblance in relation to behaviour and response to environmental cues (e.g. Mateo 2009). This phenomenon is, for instance, well described in piglets (Colson *et al.* 2005, Worobec *et al.* 1999), in which earlier weaning induced a reduction in growth rate and behavioural and hormonal changes. In some species, weaned juveniles remain with their mother after the transition from reliance on maternal milk to independent feeding (Clutton-Brock 1991). Sometimes, the post-weaning parent-offspring interaction has a profound influence on the behavioural development of offspring as was found in mandarin voles (Wu *et al.* 2013).

The edible dormouse *Glis glis* (L.) is a heterothermic rodent which hibernates in underground cavities from September/October till June. Animals breed mainly in years with high food availability, after arousing from hibernation. Juveniles are born mainly in August and require the constant care of the mother at least for three weeks during which the functioning of the thermoregulatory system is developing and animals start to feed on solid food. At the age of circa 30 days in-