

White Rhino Birth at San Antonio Zoo

A male white rhinoceros was born between 6:50 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on August 28, 1972, at the San Antonio Zoo. The baby was estimated to weigh about 70 pounds at birth.

The parents are estimated to have been born about 1965/66, were captured at the Umfolozi Game Reserve in South Africa, and were shipped to Germany in 1968 where they were kept at the Gelsenkirchen Zoo for about three years. They arrived together at the San Antonio Zoo on October 5, 1970. A young female about 14 months of age, also captured at Umfolozi, was shipped direct and arrived at the Zoo on February 13, 1971, and was subsequently put with the adult pair. Mating was observed in the adult pair on February 17, 1971, and March 19, 1971. Whether any other matings occurred after this date is unknown.

The adult male and young female were removed to a separate pen when the baby was born. On August 31, 1972, the adult male was observed trying to mount the young female who is now nearly as big as the female who gave birth the baby.

This is believed to be the first captive breeding and birth of a white rhinoceros outside of South Africa.

(Ernest E. Roney Jr.)

R. 388, item in AAZPANewletter, 1 November 1972, p. 5.

Jersey
Channel Islands

Breeding the White Eared Pheasant

Due to the successful breeding of the White Eared Pheasant **Crossoptilon crossoptilon** at the Jersey Zoological Park, the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust has exported, but retained the ownership of, nine pairs to seven collections in six different countries. At the same time, the Trust has maintained sufficient numbers, ten pairs in Jersey in order to represent a viable breeding group of this endangered species. The Trust now owns approximately two thirds of the world captive population of this species, and the nine pairs exported to date have been sent to other conservation minded collections in order to minimise the chances of losing this valuable species through some contagious disease. Numerous cases of second generation births have been recorded, with 22 chicks reared during the 1972 breeding season.

(J. J. C. Mallinson)

Whipsnade Zoo
England

Water Mammals Exhibit

The Water Mammals Exhibit was recently opened to the public at Whipsnade Zoo. The exhibit has three pools, one open-air and two indoor. The open-air pool is the main one, surrounded by terraces from which 1000 visitors can watch the demonstrations.

The larger of the indoor pools is used for animal training, but it too is terraced for 200 people to watch demonstrations when the open-air pool cannot be used; it also has windows so that the animals can be seen under water.

At present there are two Bottle-nosed Dolphins in the pools, and two or three more could be accommodated.