

Ol Jogi, Ltd.

August, 1997

A Note from Tom

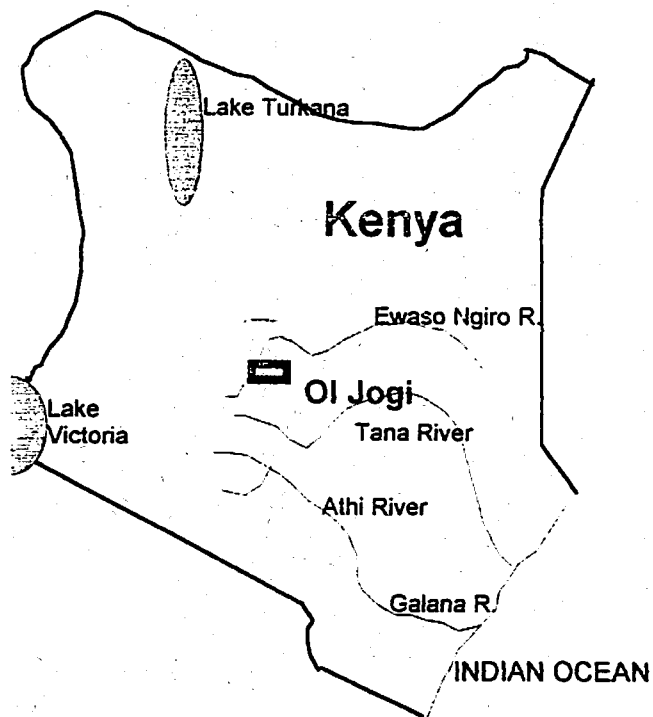
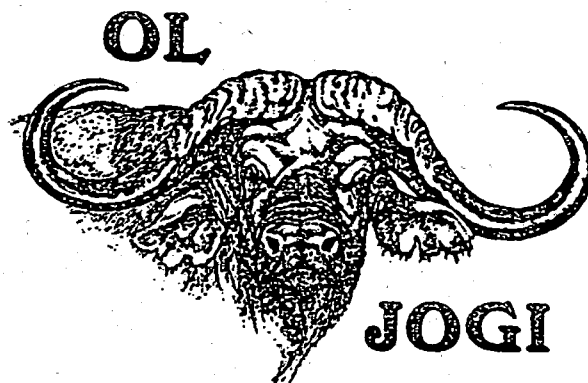
Another year has gone by bringing us to the 2 year mark. The programs at Ol Jogi are growing. The animal collection is larger, more students have come through, new research ideas are being pursued, several publications have been submitted and black rhinos continue to give birth. There is too little time and so much to do. And of course life has changed dramatically as in April, Ana and Tom had a baby girl, Alejandra.

This year the rains came well and provided a long growing season, the grass is now waist high and the animals are fat. The food supply in the reserve is secure for another year. Now the clouds have begun to break off and the sun is starting to heat up. It is the beginning of the dry season and the glorious feelings and sights of Africa are evident everywhere.

Why do I send this? We wish that Ol Jogi can be used as a study site and laboratory for advancing the science and practice of ecosystem conservation. We are interested in collaboration with institutions around the world. We have a unique access to animals in a well equipped setting. The Laikipia area contains the second largest population of free ranging wildlife in Kenya.

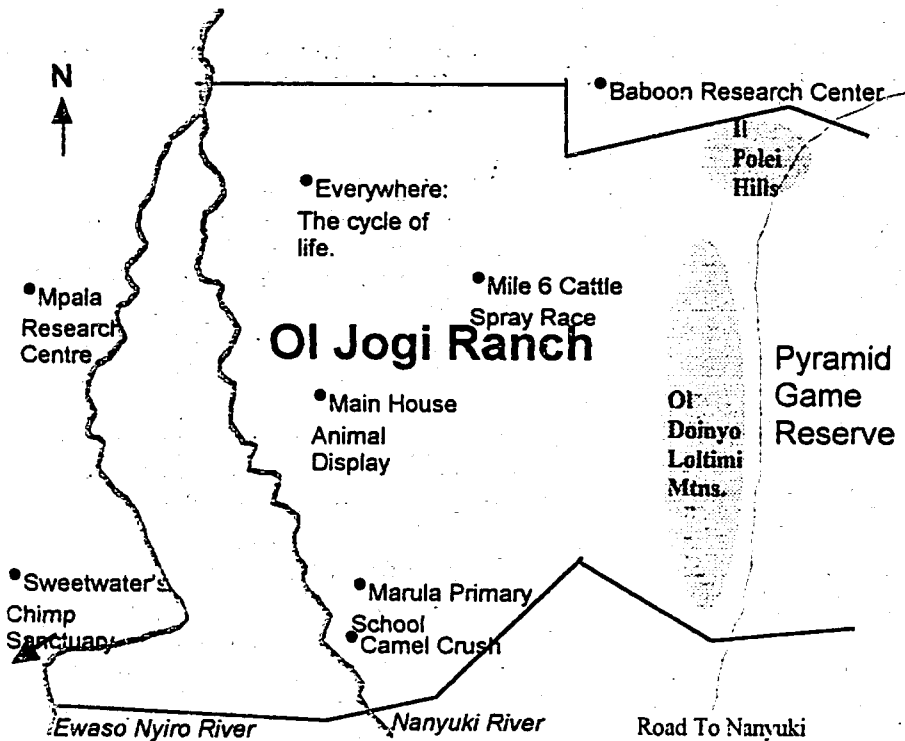
Education programs are a priority and will be aggressively pursued. On Ol Jogi there is a primary school in which ideas can be tested and materials refined. Outside of Ol Jogi we have good relations with a number of schools for further distribution of education materials. Veterinary students are encouraged to apply for an experience that contains elements of wildlife medicine, zoo animal medicine, and tropical veterinary medicine.

Research of all types is of interest. Proposals should be sent to Tom. We can act as a liaison for finding people in Kenya to work with. We are able to assist with acquiring research and export permits.



Our Mission Statement

Ol Jogi is a private initiative focused on contributing to ecosystem conservation. We will accomplish this with programs of conservation education, wildlife research, veterinary science, and endangered species preservation, seeking to use the latest knowledge and appropriate technologies, and maintaining an ever widening communication network with conservation personnel throughout the world. Our goal is to be a center of excellence for the study and practice of ecosystem management. March 1997.



Main House Animal Display

Three pygmy hippos have been added to the collection. Throughout the complex animal enclosures are interspersed among the guest quarters. At every turn animals can be seen in natural type enclosures with hands on proximity. A unique appreciation of animal beauty and cohabitation can be found.

Sweetwater's Chimp Sanctuary

Ol Jogi continues to be the first line of medical support for the 22 chimps located there. This year a closely coordinated veterinary team of three has been formed: Dr. John Wambua, head vet of KWS as the official liaison, Dr. Gerald Muchemi, parasitologist and primate specialist, presently curator of the Nairobi Safari Walk at KWS as the monthly management consultant and Tom as the clinical health provider. All veterinary issues are discussed, agreed and acted upon by the team.

Marula Primary School

Wildlife Technician Michael Ng'ang'a has resurrected the long defunct Wildlife Club at Ol Jogi's Primary School and presently has 40 active children. He leads weekly lectures on trees, birds, Hirola antelope, conservation and other subjects. A series of field trips are

planned nature walks, Pyramid Game Reserve and the William Holden Wildlife Education Center.

Natural History (The cycle of life)

The checklist of birds seen at Ol Jogi has reached a total of 292 species, almost a 1/4 of the 1279 species recorded in Kenya. Kimani Kuria, Wildlife Biologist has kept records for the last 5 years and keeps alert for new species and changes in present species. To complement the birdlist, Michael has composed information sheets about mammal and reptile species for use of guests and staff. Vegetation censusing continues by Kimani and soil testing is about to begin to establish a soil profile to match the vegetation data. In addition, ecosystem life cycle data (births, deaths, flowerings and germinations) is being recorded. This may seem old fashioned but the remarkable fact is that the Laikipia area has been poorly studied and it operates on a different clock from the more known ecosystems of East Africa. With all this data we hope to create an interactive education tool defining the "cycle of savanna life" in the coming year.

Camel restraint chute

As a special treat each visiting vet student, Kenyan or

foreign has an opportunity to castrate a camel. Most have never worked with camels, so they enjoy the challenge. So far over 40 camels have gone before the knife and practically each with a different surgeon. In the meantime I get the opportunity to experiment with different types of anesthetics. A brief preview of an upcoming paper: medetomidine works like magic in dromedaries at 50 ug/kg when followed by IV ketamine and reversed with atipamezole.

Clinical Medicine

Veterinary practice runs the gamut from cross country buffalo immobilizations to the occasional dog spay and everything in between. We have done many immobilizations this year: cheetah, hyena, leopard, elephant, zebra, eland, baboon, chimpanzee and other primates. In surgery we had a run of orthopedics in the last two months including a fractured femur in a llama (Yes, someone, not us, actually has llamas out here). The most interesting medical case has been a cheetah with Addison's disease, pancreatitis and renal dysfunction. Sadly he just passed away from renal failure, but we kept him going for 8 months on medication. He was one of our best education animals and he will be missed.

I am still doing cow medicine once a week which is perfect so to not lose the bovine sense and provides continued diagnostic challenges. There are some horses to do lameness exams and even the occasional colic. Last January I returned to the feeling of vet school with an all night colic treatment complete with IV fluids, etc. It was a bad memory, particularly since it ended poorly. Camel medicine continues to be a frontier. I find these grunting, groaning, gangly animals fascinating.

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Pyramid Animal Center

This is the major animal display. It now houses over 200 individuals: hand raised orphans, unreleasable wildlife, education animals and pets. Joys of this year have included the successful hand rearing of a white rhino, a reticulated giraffe, a kori bustard and a white bellied bustard. The new animal managers, Dan and Judy Subatis are having a ball. Our newest acquisitions are two beautiful East African Hunting Dogs, perhaps the beginning of a breeding group.

Endangered Species Boma

This 400 acre piece of land has recently been enclosed with a predator proof fence: 12 feet high with 4 strands of electric wire on outside and a 3 foot wide buried apron around the outside. We intend to use this area as a breeding ground for indigenous endangered hoof stock. Two species under discussion with Kenya Wildlife Service are the Hirola and Roan antelopes. In the meantime the only resident is Smokey, a hand raised adult male Greater Kudu. I have had to immobilize him several times and after seeing carfentanil and etorphine effects in kudu, I highly recommend medetomidine/ketamine. A really sweet knockdown.

A place in the reserve

One of our young male black rhinos got into a scrape with a colleague and received some lacerations. With a KWS vet we immobilized him and pulled him into our rhino boma, cleaned up his wounds and treated him for 21 days with oral antibiotics (a novel idea here in Kenya). After getting a clean bill of health he was transferred to Tsavo National Park to join another population of rhinos. Now he is running truly wild. This rhino is a perfect example of the direction in which the Kenyan rhino program is heading. His father was Ol Jogi stock, his mother from Solio Ranch and he headed off to mix with a third population.

The Rhino Story

Ol Jogi's part in rhino conservation began in 1982 when the reserve was created and stocked with 1 male and 2 female black

rhinos. This was before the government declared that all black rhino were property of Kenya and these 3 were purchased by Ol Jogi from an animal dealer. Breeding has been very successful with a regular inter calf interval of 2.5 years. With the addition of a cow from Solio Ranch the population in the reserve now numbers 14. So far 6 animals have been transferred out to increase the herds of Tsavo National Park and the Lewa Conservancy.

Hyrax Cottage

The guest house of the vet complex. At times as many as 15 University of Nairobi veterinary students with their professors are spending the night. International

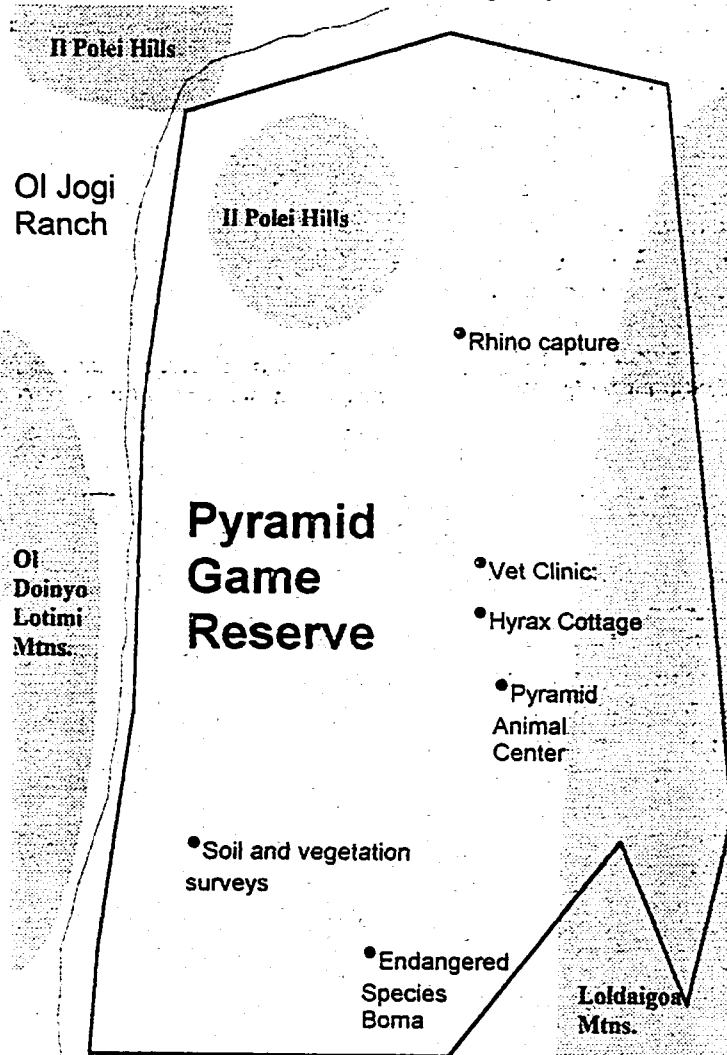
London, National Museums of Kenya and KWS have all spent a night or more here.

Publications

Five publications have been produced and all should be in print before the end of the 1997. These include articles for *Swara* and *The Farmer* magazines, 2 book reviews, one for *Pachyderm* and one for *Re-introduction News* and a poster presentation on warthog dentition for the upcoming American Association of Zoo Veterinarians meeting.

Post mortem specimens

Ranger and security staff report any deceased animals found providing they do not smell to strong



students have included Yvonne Kuiper and Hester van Bolhuis from the University of Utrecht, and Nina Deibel and Christy Peterson from Cornell University. Visitors from the Smithsonian Institute, Ewaso Nyiro Baboon Research Center, Henry Doorley Zoo, Mpala Research Centre, The Zoological Society of

Whenever possible post mortem examinations are done and tissues collected. Histopathology is being performed by the University of Nairobi Veterinary School and The Nairobi Hospital. A bank of all cases is being stored so any requests for challenging material can be accommodated.