

Baby Pigmy Sperm Whale Succumbs

A month-long vigil ended at the New York Aquarium at 1 AM, October 26, when the baby pigmy sperm whale that had captured the attention of the world with its fight for survival died quietly in its tank.

The baby, a female, and its mother had been found on a beach near Coney Island, September 25, and were taken to the Aquarium. The mother died the next morning, but the 53-inch-long baby lived and although force-fed, it gained weight, a hopeful sign, reaching a maximum weight of 120 pounds.

But no baby whale of this species had ever survived in captivity for so long, and without its mother, this youngster had little chance. The knowledge gained during this trial, however, may enable future whale stories to have happier endings.

(Animal Kingdom)

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Black Rhinos Established in Rhodesian Reserve

Black rhinoceros threatened by poachers in the Zambesi Valley have been successfully translocated to a special reserve in Rhodesia according to a report received by the World Wildlife Fund.

During 1970 and 1971 a total of 81 Black rhinoceros were drugged with darts and then transported by truck over 1000 kilometres to the Gona re Zhou reserve in the south of Rhodesia. The project was aided by the World Wildlife Fund. "The whole exercise has been an outstanding success and it is now felt that there is an established viable population of black rhino in the Gona re Zhou", the Rhodesian Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management reports.

"The majority of the rhino have not ventured further than 16-18 kilometres from the release point. Excellent sightings have been noted of family groups. Six animals are known to have died shortly after translocation, but seven births have been recorded and it is believed that other births have taken place".

The operation was undertaken after a survey had shown that the once-numerous rhinoceros had dwindled to about 600 in all, most of them in the Zambesi river valley complex, where they were being poached for their horn which fetches high prices in the Far East because of its reputation as an aphrodisiac. The report just received said carcasses are still being found in the Zambesi area and poaching was still a threat unless animals could be translocated.

WHAT IS THE Tapir Research Institute?

At this time, we are primarily attempting to function as an information bank for the genus *Tapirus*.

In other words, we are collecting, compiling AND DISTRIBUTING all information which might be useful or interesting to anyone—zoo-affiliated or not.

- Historical—individual and general history
- Practical—diets, health, etc.
- Conservation/field work
- Graphic
- Taxonomic
- Material—photographs and specimens
- Current captivity statistics/surpluses and deficiencies—trading availability

Our efforts in this regard hinge on contact and transfer of information. We feel that there is a wealth of knowledge in the hands of individuals who may never consider publishing it. We therefore depend on and encourage both offers of and requests for the above mentioned material.

Secondly, we are actively engaged in translating available literature into English and in publication of our own material. We hope to organize previously published material and to incorporate it with new data that is becoming available.

In the near future, we hope to be equipped to conduct research and filming in the field and to be able to assist field researchers by supplying information and maintaining a communication network.

Our long-term goal is to further the study and ensure the survival of the four tapir species by establishing breeding stations in zoo-type situations and/or in the animals' native habitat.

Robert A. and Sheryl Wilson
TAPIR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
P.O. Box 382
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA 91711
U.S.A.