

# ON THE HORN

## RHINO FACTS & MYTHS

The African rhinoceros leaves messages with its smelly feet. It doesn't have scent glands in its feet. Instead, this animal walks backward through one of the heaps of dung in its home range. Sometimes two or three rhinos use the same dung heaps.

After its feet are covered with dung, the rhino rambles around its home range, leaving a smelly trail behind. The rhino sniffs the ground often. Scientists think it is following one of its old scent trails. The rhino has poor eyesight, so it may be using its nose to help find its way around its range.

The dung heap is more than perfume for the rhino's feet. It is also a newspaper. The rhino "reads" the dung for news about other rhinos.

For example, how does a rhino know when a strange rhino has come into its home range? Simple. It just sniffs the dung heap. If there is a new odor, there is an intruder. The rhino can follow the stranger's smelly trail if it wants to. Or it can stay away from the other rhino by taking a different path.

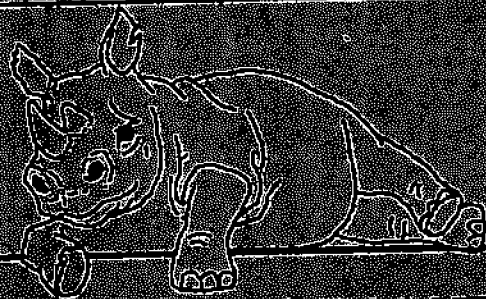
Sinky feet are important to the wildebeest, the wolf and the rhinoceros. Strong odors help them to warn off intruders, to find their way, and to know when other animals have come around. These animals would have a problem if their feet didn't sink - just as you would if yours did.

LARGE poster of a white rhino available from: Art Studio, PO Box 11204, Johannesburg 2000 RSA.

Wildlife tee shirts available from Jim Morris, PO Box 2908, ck 6, Boulder, CO 80306 (free catalogue, and 10% of the profits go to environmental groups)

Wildlife tee shirts & graphics from: Aerie Design, 141 Blackberry Inn, Weaverville, NC 28787.

Get your Rhino tee shirts, caps & knapsacks from the Nature Company. Write for a free catalogue: POB 7137, Berkeley, CA 94707.



## ADS & INFORMATION

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