

# "SAVING THE RARE RHINOS OF BOHEMIA"

[ by Karen Breslau, *Newsweek*, June 10, 1991, p.58]

"Vychodoceska Zoo in Dvur Kralove, Czechoslovakia, has acquired one of the most diverse and prolific collections of African hooved animals and other rare species in the world. Virtually isolated from the international scientific community following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, zookeepers improvised their own breeding techniques. Assistant director Kristina Tomasova worries that Dvur Kralove might succumb to nascent capitalism. Only a fraction of the \$1.3 million the zoo needs to operate each year will be made available by the fledgling Environmental Ministry. Already the zoo has laid off 105 of its 250 employees and in May it closed its research institute for gene-pool preservation. To raise money, the zoo has introduced an "adoption" program, asking donors to contribute the cost of a year's worth of food. A northern white rhino costing 12,000 crowns (about \$400) would cost a Czechoslovak about four months' salary.



Petr Spala  
Head of Research Institute

"The health and diversity of the original African stock of rhino has spawned a strong, disease-resistant generation. The survival rate for newborns ranges from 70 - 95 percent for most species, extraordinary by international standards. Dvur Kralove curators have resisted the obvious temptation of selling a few of their rare animals to the highest bidder in order to endow perpetual care for the others.

Miroslav Svitalsky, rhino curator, said that despite the offer of \$300,000 by a private dealer for an infant white rhino, he sold the calf to a German zoo for a fraction of the price, so that the animal will remain in a registered international breeding program."

## 'POP' GOES THE RHINO!

If you work with or have children, you might wish to purchase this set of whimsical holiday posters which includes, ahem... a Father's Day poster which has a papa rhino and two offspring. Cost: \$9.95+ from Upstart, 32 East Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Call them toll-free for the exact amount (800-448-4887). NOTE: this poster is not for those obsessed with anatomical correctness!

Save the Rhino Day  
February 29, 1992

## UNICORNIS: THE GREAT INDIAN ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS

[by Arup Kumar Dutta, Konark Publishers, 1991, approx. \$40]

With so much attention given to the African rhino, it is refreshing to see a coffee table book devoted exclusively to the Asian species. Dutta presents copious facts written in a flowing style with many anecdotes. History, generic characteristics, habitat, reproduction, food, diseases, future are all presented with beautiful photographs and clear maps. Assam and Kaziranga reserves are heavily researched. If your local bookstore cannot provide it, write to the gift shop at the San Diego Zoo. *Namastay.*

Col. Sprgs-Denver	July 16-23
St. Louis	July 26-27
Indianapolis	July 28-29
OHIO	Aug 3-14
New Orleans	Aug 15-17
Atlanta	Aug 18-21
Boston	Aug 22-24
Philadelphia	Aug 25-27
Baltimore	Aug 31 - Sept. 3

