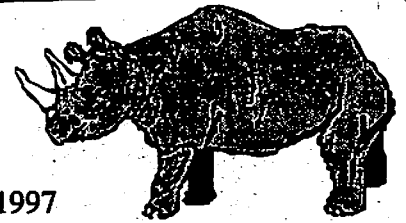


REALLY, RHINOS!



Volume 11, no 4, 1997

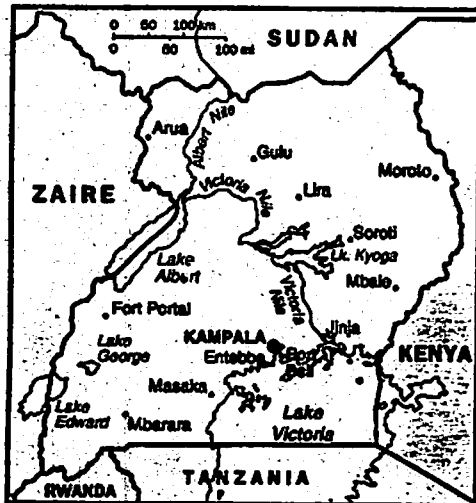
...and rhinos too?

July/August, 1997, p.13

Two East African Wild Life Society Uganda branch members, Dr. Eve Abe and Ray Victorine, have recently established the Rhino Fund Uganda (RFU), to reintroduce rhinos to Uganda. Rhino fund Uganda aims to establish breeding populations which will ultimately repopulate Uganda's protected areas with rhinoceroses.

There are no rhinos in Uganda today. As recently as the late 1970s both black rhinos and the endangered northern white rhino were found in Uganda. However, political instability, civil war and harsh economic conditions led to their extermination. Black rhinos were last reported in 19080 while northern whites disappeared during the 1970s.

With the help of local organizations like the Wildlife Clubs of Uganda, whose emblem is the rhinoceros, and EAWLS, Rhino Fund Uganda expects to gain both national and international support for its efforts to reintroduce rhinos. Already local supporters have provided sufficient start-up capital to allow Rhino Fund Uganda to begin its operations. The Sheraton Hotel, Kampala, provided a grant of \$510,000 at the official launch of Rhino Fund Uganda on May 29, 1997, leading the way for other local pledges of support.



In September, London Zoo provided RFU with technical assistance to complete a feasibility study to determine where, and how best, to establish the re-introduction programme and to discuss which species of rhino should be introduced. In this process, RFU will work closely with the Rhino Specialist Group and with Uganda's wildlife authorities.

RFU's had a fund raising event in September, a Raft Race for Rhinos down the Nile from Jinja. The rafting company Adrift provided the rafts and equipment. The race featured five rafts and corporate sponsors were sought to sponsor a team of rafters for the race. Each raft cost \$1,000 to sponsor.

For more information, contact Rhino Fund Uganda at PO Box 20128, Kampala, Uganda. Dr. Eve Abe (phone: 256-41-233-562; email: abe@imul.com) or Ray Victorine (phone: 256-41-257-803), email: rayvic@imul.com/

Bowling for Rhinos Update

[submitted by Patty Pearthree, National BFR Coordinator]

AAZK's Bowling for Rhinos (BFR) fund raiser has raised over \$970,000 since 1990, entirely through volunteer efforts. One hundred percent of all funds go directly to three areas of conservation. The first is Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) in Kenya which has grown to 65,000 acres protected with a two meter tall electric fence that is home to 20 black and 33 white rhinos along with their ecosystems. Starting in 1994, AAZK expanded its funding efforts to include Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia which is home to the last 47 Javan rhinos on earth (with a few recently discovered in Vietnam). AAZK again expanded its efforts in 1997 to include Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia where one of the largest populations of Sumatran rhinos now live. These efforts protect ecosystems enabling the protection of hundreds of endangered plants and animals.

The following is a portion of a fax received from Dr. Tim O'Brien of the Wildlife Conservation Society stationed at Bukit Barisan:

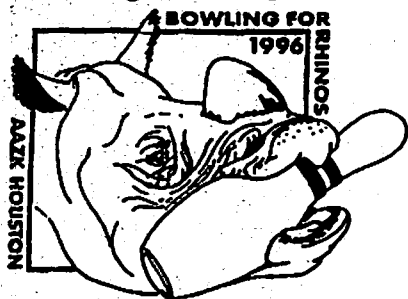
"The Sumatran rhino is believed to be the most endangered of all rhinos according to the Asian Rhino Specialist Group (Newsletter January 1995). Currently, the Sumatran rhino strongholds on Sumatra are Gunung Leuser National Park and Bukit Barisan National Park. The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary at Way Kambas is a captive breeding/ecotourism project. Fortunately, recent camera trapping efforts by Ron Tilson at Way Kambas has demonstrated that the Sumatran rhino is present there. Kerinci Seblat National Park formerly was thought to have the second largest population of Sumatran rhinos but recent surveys found little evidence of rhino and a lot of poaching activity.

Current needs of Bukit Barisan include funds for establishing guard patrol stations in the park, camping equipment and hiking shoes, some office equipment and funds to support forest patrols. Total estimated budget: US\$ 25,000.00

BFR 1997 Top Individual Money Raisers
(top 2 win trip to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya)

1. Janet Wiard, Oklahoma City Zoo (Oklahoma City, OK) \$6,256.00 (most individual money raised in BFR history!)
2. Mary Wykstra-Ross, Hogle Zoo (Salt Lake City, UT) \$5,240.00
3. *Judyth Lessee*, "Really, Rhinos!" \$2020.57

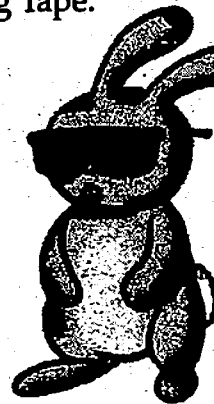
The Greater Houston Chapter of AAZK still has 1996 Bowling for Rhino T-shirts for sale. They are grey shirts with a red, white and black design. Available in children's medium (10-12), adult L, XL and XXL and adult Large tank tops. All shirts are \$12.00.



Contact: Connie Dieringer, Houston Zoological Gardens, 1513 N. MacGregor, Houston, TX 77030. Phone: (713) 520-3212.

RHINO TAPE

This 19-minute video chronicles the operant conditioning training techniques used at the Rolling Hills Refuge in Salina, KS. The training program allowed animal care staff and veterinary staff to work with these rhinos for medical procedures and daily husbandry protocols without the use of anesthesia. This video demonstrates the training techniques used. Copies of this video are available for \$12.00 by sending your request to: Steven C. Kaup at Sunset Zoological Park, 2333 Oak St., Manhattan, KS 66502. Please make checks/money orders payable to: Sunset Zoological Park Education Fund/Rhino Training Tape.



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Amazing Adventures of Bromwyn Bunny in a Rhino Hunt

I, King Randolph IV, of the beautiful kingdom of Bahili-hala have spotted Bromwyn Bunny resident within my royal boundaries. It was first reported to me by my royal huntmaster, one Ali-Alababiala, that a rabbit had asked to join my royal rhino hunting party. I granted permission to her after she demonstrated her expertise with a rhino gun and the efficiency with which she could track and trap these creatures. So she went hunting yesterday morning with my royal hunting party and I, and we came across a whole herd of wild rhinos. So, we decided what we would do and launched the attack on the herd. (Don't panic, this is only a story!!)

(I participated in CyberSurfari '97 and found this interesting page. For the entire text, go to:
<http://bronte.cs.utas.edu.au/bromwyn/maybe/Rhino.html>

As you can see, this is the University of Tasmania in Australia.

RHINO BUY \$ RHINO BUY \$

Rhino horn is illegal to own but you can still have a carved horn. Here's an artist who can carve you a rhino from recycled beef horn. Contact: Environmental Creations, 2995 timberline Drive, Eugene, OR 97405. (503) 484-6212. Reasonably priced. Custom made.

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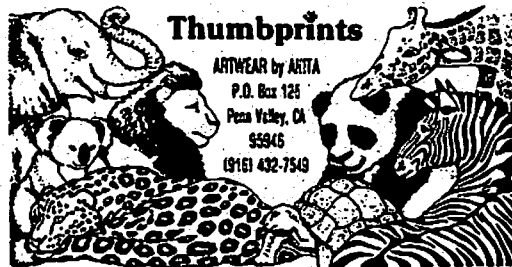
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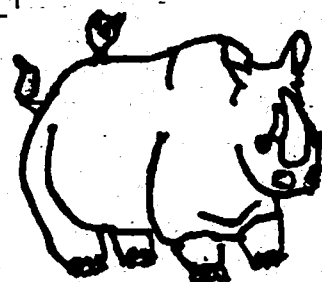
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www.endangeredwildlife.com

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IMARA

[from the Quarterly Publication for Friends of the Washington Park Zoo, v.19:4, Winter, 1997]

Named for a Swahili word meaning "firm" or "strong", the rhino calf quickly lived up to its billing.

"She was up on her feet and nursing within 30 minutes of the birth," says senior Africa Keeper Michael Illig. "Since then, she's been putting on weight at the rate of about 10 pounds a day. The baby looks incredibly strong, and you couldn't ask for a better mom than Miadi. Miadi has done everything right and been very attentive to her new baby from the moment she saw it."

On October 2, Imara (ee-MAH-ah), then only 5 days old, ventured out onto the yard with Miadi for the first time. The rhino birth September 26th, the first at the Washington Park Zoo and likely the first in the Northwest, may well be the most celebrated birth at the zoo since Packy's more than 30 years ago. For Illig, who's presided over births at the zoo of hippos, impalas, giraffes, and otters, this was "certainly the most significant."

Captive rhinos, which total only 98 in North America, have not reproduced well. Conception has been problematic and infant mortality rates high. Imara is only the eleventh rhino born in captivity in the past four years.

Miadi, born nine years ago at Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, moved to Portland in 1990. She joined Pete, born at the Denver Zoo and now 10 years old, to form what keepers hoped would become an important new breeding pair for the species. Miadi became pregnant in June 1996.

That her new calf is female is further reason to celebrate, since female rhinos of breeding age are rare, and since the vast majority of recent births have been males.

Without question, this was the most thoroughly documented rhino birth in history was due in part to the cooperative mother. More than four years ago, keepers trained Miadi to let them take blood samples from her ear in exchange for an apple or other treat. Since then, zoo staff have collected and analyzed blood samples for hormone levels on a weekly, often daily basis, and correlated those readings with extensive data on Miadi's behavior and estrus cycle. These tests confirmed Miadi's pregnancy within

weeks of conception.

"More blood had been collected and analyzed from Miadi than from any other female black rhino," notes curator Mike Keele. "Our experience and data will be useful to other zoos' efforts to breed this endangered species."

Since late last spring, keepers had also been "monitoring" the expectant rhino, then analyzing the secretions for hormone levels to help pinpoint a birth date. Miadi's progesterone levels suddenly dropped on Tuesday, September 23, Illig knew the birth was imminent.

At 1 am, Friday, September 26, the baby's back first appeared. "Miadi really started to bear down," says Illig. "At one point she went down on her front legs with her rear end still in the air." The 2,500-pound rhino then stood, spun around several times, and at 1:37 am, backed into the wall as the baby popped onto the floor. During birth, Imara's right rear leg received a hairline fracture, but it is healing rapidly. "She's trotting," says Illig. "She doesn't appear to have any ill effects from the injury."

Keepers briefly separated mother and calf to weigh the calf and cleanse the umbilical. Imara weighed 97 pounds on Saturday, 113 pounds on Sunday, and was gaining, Illig figures, "about 10 pounds a day and all from rhino milk." Imara won't eat solid food for a couple of months, and may continue to nurse for well over a year.

As Miadi entered the final weeks of her 15-month pregnancy, zoo staff made every effort to insure that rhino's first birth was a successful one. Keepers transformed a room into a nursery, "baby proofing" the stall by layering in wood chips and straw to keep the floor from getting slippery, boarding over bathtub sized openings, and making sure water troughs were high enough so an infant wouldn't fall in and drown. Two video cameras were installed to document the birth - a first for black rhinos - and provide a live feed to a television monitor at a viewing station outside for zoo visitors.

How soon mother and baby meet papa Pete is another question. Keepers separated Miadi and Pete early in the pregnancy as a precaution, though Pete hasn't seen the youngster, he's certainly heard Imara's birdlike squeaks from inside the barn. And with his keen sense of smell, he's no doubt picked up her scent. When they do meet, Miadi, like

black rhino mothers, is expected to be intensely protective of her calf.

"She obviously will react sharply in the beginning toward Pete," said the male rhino's former keeper, Farshid Mehrdadfar. "We don't have any idea how he'll react to the baby. He has been very loving toward Miadi and we hope this behavior will carry over to the baby."

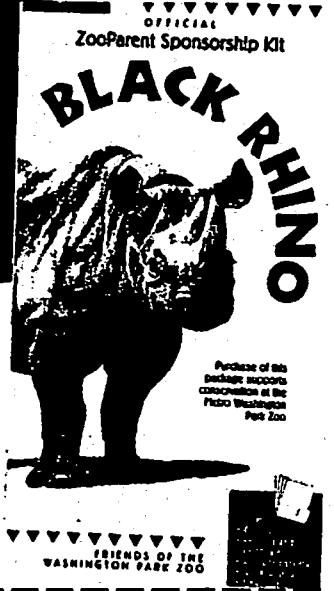
It will likely be next spring before Pete meets Miadi and Imara face-to-face on exhibit. "The calf has to be big and strong enough to take Pete's abuse, his nudging and prodding," says Illig. "By then, she should have learned about all that sparring and rough rhino play from her mother."

[Ed Note: If you wish to purchase black rhinobilia from the Washington Park Zoo or purchase a Black Rhino Sponsorship Kit, call the Friends of the Washington Park Zoo at (503) 220-2493. Only \$29.95. Telephone orders will include a \$3 handling fee.

The Black Rhino Sponsorship Kit includes:

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- invitation to zoo event

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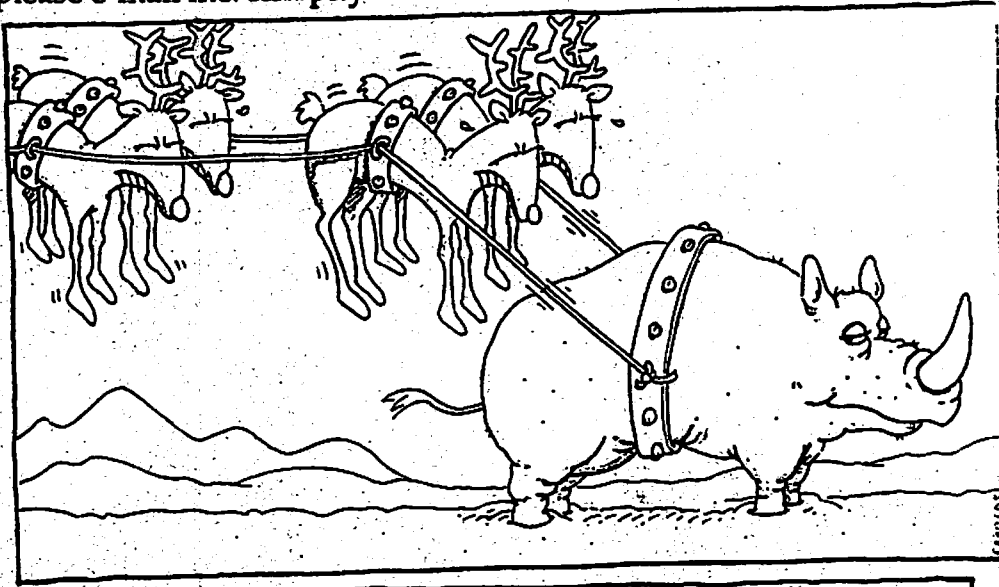
\$

FLASH! Really, Rhinos! has webbed feet at last!

Of course, it's still "under construction" but I've finally got a web page going. I will be adding to it during Christmas vacation when I actually have a moment to breathe. If you want to check it out and bookmark it for future reference, here it is. www.rtd.com/~rinophyl

Here I plan to have information on all 5 rhino species, rhino conservation, rhino-of-the-month, rhinobilia and excerpts from *Really, Rhinos!* Plus new rhino books. Rhino questions. E-mail to write to other rhinophiles. Businesses that use rhinos in their logo. Games. Contests. Whatever else I can think of. It's also the place where I am going to constantly advertise my fund raising efforts to be #1 or #2 for BFR '98.

If you have any suggestions (constructive and kind please) about the site, or you want to be linked to it, please e-mail me: rinophyl@rtd.com



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If you find errors, please know they are printed for those who always look for them. We try to print something for everybody.

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