

Animal Health Care

Northern White Rhino Receives Veterinary Care at San Diego Zoo Safari Park

Critically Endangered Female One of Five Remaining of Her Species



Nola, a 40-year-old northern white rhino, underwent a veterinary exam at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park near Escondido, Calif., allowing associate veterinarian Meredith Clancy to swab her nostrils to collect mucus samples. The elderly Nola was placed under veterinary care after her keepers noticed she had reduced appetite and activity levels and had a thick nasal discharge. The Safari Park's veterinary team examined Nola, giving her an injection of antibiotics to ward off any possible infection, and was awaiting results from blood work and the nasal samples.

"We collected samples of Nola's nasal discharge to submit for culture to see if there is any fungus or bacteria growing, and also allowing us to look at cells to see what might be causing Nola's illness," stated Meredith Clancy, associate veterinarian, San Diego Zoo Safari Park. "One of our main concerns is Nola's comfort level. We will continue to monitor her round-the-clock and hope her health improves."

Nola has been moved to a heated enclosure inside her *Asian Plains* field exhibit to provide her comfort and allow the animal care team to keep close watch over her. Keep-

ers report she appears to be improving slightly, eating again and gaining some mobility.

Nola is one of just five northern white rhinos left in the world. Recently, Angalifu, a 44-year-old male northern white rhino who also lived at the Safari Park, died of age-related causes. Three other northern white rhinos are in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya and one is in the Dvůr Králové Zoo in the Czech Republic. The five remaining rhinos are all of an advanced age and have not been able to breed. Poaching for its horn has brought the northern white rhino to such critically low numbers.