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International Zoo News

Domestic Animals
in Zoos

Visits to Some Zoos
in Peru and Colombia

Elephants in Berlin,
Gorillas in Tenerife
and Tundra Species
in Dresden



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Cover Illustration: Male saki (*Pithecia* sp.) at Lima Zoo, Peru (see below, pp. 486–487). (Photo: Richard Weigl)

MISCELLANY

Rhinoceros library established

As part of the Rhino Museum at Melkriver, South Africa, the Rhino and Elephant Foundation is establishing a library of publications concerning the rhinoceros. This will be a unique place where all old and new work done on rhinos will be available. Already over 5,200 references are immediately accessible. The material covers all five living species, both Asian and African, and has no limits in date, language or subject matter. There are books written only about the rhinoceros, many articles in specialist as well as popular journals, and also several smaller chapters, sections or even sentences in publications of a more varied nature. A collection like this can never be complete, because new papers appear continuously, and some older papers were overlooked or are very rare and hard to find. However, if one is interested in a certain topic of rhinoceros biology, maintenance, hunting, history, veterinary care, parasites, or art and culture, this should be your first place to come and look. There is no area which is intentionally left out. About 80 references were written in Roman times, 500 before 1800, 700 in the 19th century, while over 1,200 were produced during the last fifteen years.

All works mentioned in my *Bibliography of the Rhinoceros* published in 1983 are available. Visitors are welcome to study in the library itself, but we will attempt to help scholars, field workers, journalists and others throughout the world who want specific publications, using fax and the internet. We also welcome contributions to the library, any book or

paper on the rhinoceros itself, but also more general works on nature, especially on elephants and on the natural and cultural history of the Waterberg Mountains where the museum is located. All contributions will be acknowledged.

Connected with the library we will establish a database on all aspects of rhinoceros biology, including classification, distribution and status through the years, behaviour and social structure of the five rhinoceros species. This database will be continuously updated, and we hope that we can make the information available through the internet. For further information, contact Dr Kees Rookmaaker, Curator, The Rhino Museum, P.O. Box 157, Vaalwater 0530, South Africa (Fax: ++14-765-0116; E-mail: chw@ref.org.za).

Dr Kees Rookmaaker in *The Rhino and Elephant Journal* Vol. 12 (December 1998), the journal of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation (P.O. Box 381, Bedfordview 2008, South Africa)

Talking to elephants

Research at Pittsburgh Zoo in the 1980s revealed that three-quarters of elephant language is subsonic. A British zoology student is now following up this knowledge by developing a method of communicating with elephants using a didgeridoo (a hollow wooden wind instrument invented by Australian aborigines). James Gordon of Leeds University believes that the low-frequency sounds from his specially enlarged version of the instrument, which produces frequencies that are inaudible