

SAMMY *from* OS



*For Sammy, the cover boy
Chester Zoo from his home in
He was accompanied on the j
Manager, Stephanie San
introductions – with a b*

'Hello everybody,
As I am the new boy here I thought that it
was probably time that I made my
introductions and told you a little about
myself. My name is *Sammy* and I am a Black
Rhino. I was born in Osaka, Japan on 11th
November 2000 and lived there with my
mother very happily until January this year
when my life changed dramatically! The
first surprise was being separated from my
mother. She was due to give birth to my
little sister *Sally* and I was told that I was a
big boy now and needed to leave her.
Luckily my keepers were very kind and
fed me all my favourite foods to
comfort me. Another
change in my life was

◀ *English carrots are tasty.*
Photo by Pat Cade



SAKA!

on this magazine, coming to Japan was a huge adventure. Journey by the Zoo's Veterinary person. Here he makes his bit of help from Stephanie!



▲ Sammy's mother and sister in the enclosure where he lived in Osaka.

being fed in a big box rather than in my house. Every day the keepers would move my food a little bit further into the box so that eventually I had to walk all the way inside. I was not sure at the time why they wanted me to do this but hey, it was a small price to pay for my favourite treats of rice crackers and bananas!

One morning whilst I was eating my breakfast in the box, the keepers shut the door behind me. I got very worried. This had never happened before. I struggled to get out and then

suddenly, to add insult to injury, I felt a sting in my bottom. After that I started feeling very woozy and stopped caring that I couldn't get out of the box any more. I was aware of people around me and flying through the air and landing on a truck, then a long drive to the airport. I slept a lot for the next day. Every few hours I would wake up and start worrying about what was happening to me. I could hear voices and engine noise. Then I would fall asleep again.

I have since learnt that I was on what you humans call an aeroplane and that I travelled first to Tokyo, then to

Anchorage in Alaska and finally to London Heathrow. After another 5 hours journey I arrived at my new home here at Chester Zoo.

The whole journey took almost 2 days!

My new home is very exciting. It is very different from Japan. The keepers speak in a funny language but are very kind. The food is different too. I am fed carrots, acacia pellets, bread and pony food and lots and lots of leafy branches. The branches taste different from the ones I was used to back home but they are still very tasty. Sometimes the keepers also give me my favourite treat, bananas. Yummy! The strangest thing about my new home however was the green stuff on my paddock. They tell me

it is called grass! I had never seen it in Osaka and at first was not sure if it was safe to step on! Now I know it won't hurt me I don't mind it any more.

There are five other rhinos here. The adult bull Katakata and the two adult cows Rosie and Pangani seem friendly but as they live on the other side of the path from me I haven't been able to get close enough to get to know them yet. But let me tell you about the girls next door! They seem very nice. One is called Manyara, aged 3 years, and the other is four year old Kitani. They were both born here and are inseparable. They sleep together, eat together and run around their paddock having lots of fun. I haven't had much of a chance to speak to them yet as I have been in quarantine until recently, but I can hear them on the other side of the door and I can see them over the fence. I cannot wait to get to know them better and my keepers tell me that if they like me I can live together with them the whole time. Wish me luck!

Well that's all for now. I hope you will all come and visit me. I stayed in the small rhino house near the elephant paddock for the first few months, but now I am in the wonderful, brand new, Tsavo Experience.

I hope to see you soon.'

Sammy.

P.S. Since writing this, I have moved in with the neighbours!

Photo by
Stephen
McKeown

