

birds, and in addition the feet of the medium-sized birds. Blood values from wild Black-footed cats ($n=12$), now available for the first time, show that creatinine and urea values can average higher in healthy Black-footed cats than in domestic cats. However, very high values indicate kidney problems and poor overall condition in captive as well as in wild Black-footed cats. Only young animals were found to have *Babesia* sp. blood parasites.

Within the Zoo community this project has been supported in part by Wuppertal Zoo, Germany and the Zoological Society of San Diego, USA. In 1997, the project aims to disclose inter- and intrasexual home range overlap for vital density estimates needed for conservation planning as well as information about mating behaviour. This project is rated as being of high priority in the 1996 IUCN Cat Action Plan. The required funds for 1997 are US\$ 7,500. Any financial contribution to this project will be highly appreciated.



Black-footed cat with radio-collar

Contact person:
Dr. Alexander Sliwa,
Hubertusallee 30,
D-42117 Wuppertal,
Germany.
Fax: +49 202741888.
e-mail: ASLIWA@T-ONLINE.DE

5813

Photo: Wuppertal Zoo

Eaza News - 1997

23

April - May - June

Reintroduction of a rhino

'Akura' is the name of a Southern black rhino (Diceros bicornis minor) which will be remembered in rhino history. Not only because she continued the long tradition of rhino breeding at Frankfurt Zoo after an interruption of many years, but above all because she is the first Black rhino to be brought back from Europe to Africa. 'Akura' was sent to Africa because Frankfurt is the only zoo in the EAZA region with the Southern black rhino subspecies (Diceros bicornis minor); the other European zoos all have the subspecies D.b.michaeli from East Africa.

In 1989, the government of Zimbabwe donated a pair of Black rhinos to the Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt. 'Kalusho' and 'Tsororo' were three years old when they arrived at Frankfurt Zoo. On 13 February 1994, their first offspring, 'Akura', was born. After it had been decided that 'Akura' would be returned to Southern Africa, preparations for the transport were started several weeks before departure: the transport crate was installed in the rhino enclosure and a tape recorder was used to simulate the noise of planes. On 4 October 1996, 'Akura' left for South Africa, accompanied by her keeper Karl-Heinz Jahnel and

rhino specialist Pete Morkel from the South African National Parks Board. The first step on her way back to nature was a quarantine period of one month at the Sable Ranch. The presence of her keeper considerably facilitated this period for 'Akura'. Afterwards, she will stay in a 10-hectares-enclosure together with a male of her age for about two or three years before being released into Marakele National Park. This National Park, which currently covers an area of approximately 600 km (and which will be enlarged to 4000 km), houses only a very small population of about 20 Black rhinos.