

REALLY, RHINOS!

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Please accept my apologies for sending this issue soooooooooo late. During the past few months some personal setbacks almost made me an extinct rhinophile! I believe I am back on track, albeit a slower one, and I promise too have the Summer issue out on time! Thank you for your understanding and patience. Rhinosincerely, Judyth Lessee, editor.

D.B.A. RHINO



There is a company called *Rhino Replacement Parts* and guess what they sell? Are you ready - gun repair parts, specialty ammunition and various other gun related items! But wait! Before you get the tar and feathers - Tom Davis, International Sales Manager, assured me in his letter that the company collects rhinobilia too; that their cartoon rhinos are not depicted as ugly or evil (they shoot back at poachers!) and they are very interested in rhino conservation. If you are a gun toter and would like a catalogue, send \$3 to Rhino Replacement Parts, PO Box 669, Seneca, SC 29679. (803) 882-0788.

A Battle We Dare Not Lose

[excerpts from *Our Living World*, third quarter, 1989, courtesy of Margie Matters, African Arts, Ltd., Tucson, Arizona]

A major ivory and rhino horn smuggling ring has ben cracked by the SA (South African) police. Conservationists believe that police swoop confirms fears that South Africa is being used as an export zone to legitimize or smuggle through illegal wildlife trade, particularly elephant ivory and rhino horn. New penalties of R100,000 fine and/or 10 years' jail Are due to come into force soon. This cracking of the smuggling ring coincides with mounting public concern for the future survival of the rhino and elephant in Africa, in the face of a devastating wave of poaching.

The poaching menace has moved south into Namibia and Swaziland and at least 20 rhinos have been killed for their horns in the past few months. Southern Africa is the last stand of the black rhino. Where thirty years ago there were more than 100,000 rhinos and even ten years ago their numbers reached 15,000, today's estimates place the rhino population at fewer than 3,000. The SA Nature Foundation is

funding rhino conservation and anti-poaching work in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

- In Natal, researcher Richard Emslie is studying black rhino in an SA Nature Foundation/Endangered Wildlife Trust/Natal Parks Board project to develop the best methods for managing these animals and increasing SA's population.

- The new Sam Knott Nature Reserve near Grahamstown has ideal habitat for black rhino and will support a new population.

- A helicopter was made available to Zimbabwe Parks board to assist in tracking poachers and boosting morale among game rangers.

- In Namibia, the Foundation is funding rhino conservation work by Garth Owen Smith and Blythe Loutit.

Through your donation, small or large, the Foundation can strengthen anti-poaching forces, study the rhino's habitat requirements, transfer rhino to safe ares, fence new sanctuaries, and continue action against the cruel and illegal international trade in rhino horn. Every donation of R50 (\$131) or more will receive a Zakkie Eloff print featuring white rhino. All donations will receive a certificate expressing the thanks of the Foundation on behalf of the black rhino. Send your contributions to: Save the Rhino, SA Nature Foundation, PO Box 456, Stellenbosch 7600, South Africa.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



Welcome "Harry", a black rhino born at the Fort Worth Zoological Park on August 18, 1989. May you have a healthy, long life!

