

Zoo Animals



Rhinoceroses and Hippopotamuses

Michael and Jane Pelusey

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Glossary words
When a word is **bold**, you can learn its meaning in the **glossary** on page **10**. **bold** **they have**

Zoos

Zoos are places where animals that are usually wild are kept in **enclosures**. Some zoos have a lot of space for animals to move about. They are called open-range zoos.



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Cover photograph: White rhinoceros

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Animals sometimes live in one large enclosure in a zoo.

Zoo animals

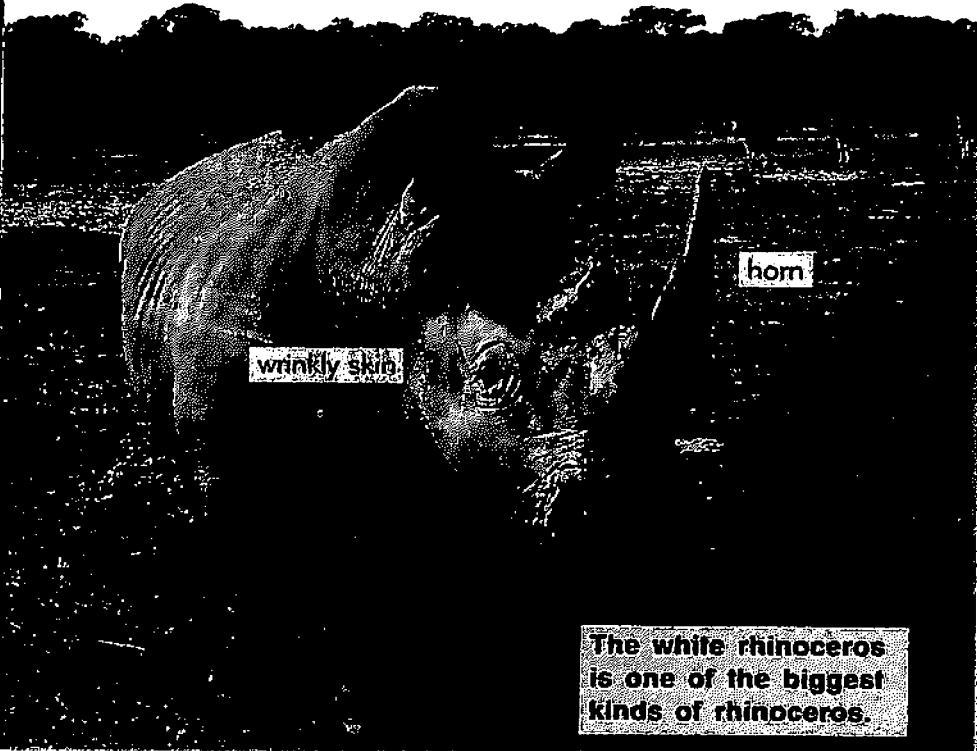
Zoos keep all kinds of animals. People go to zoos to learn about animals. Some animals may become extinct if left to live in the wild.



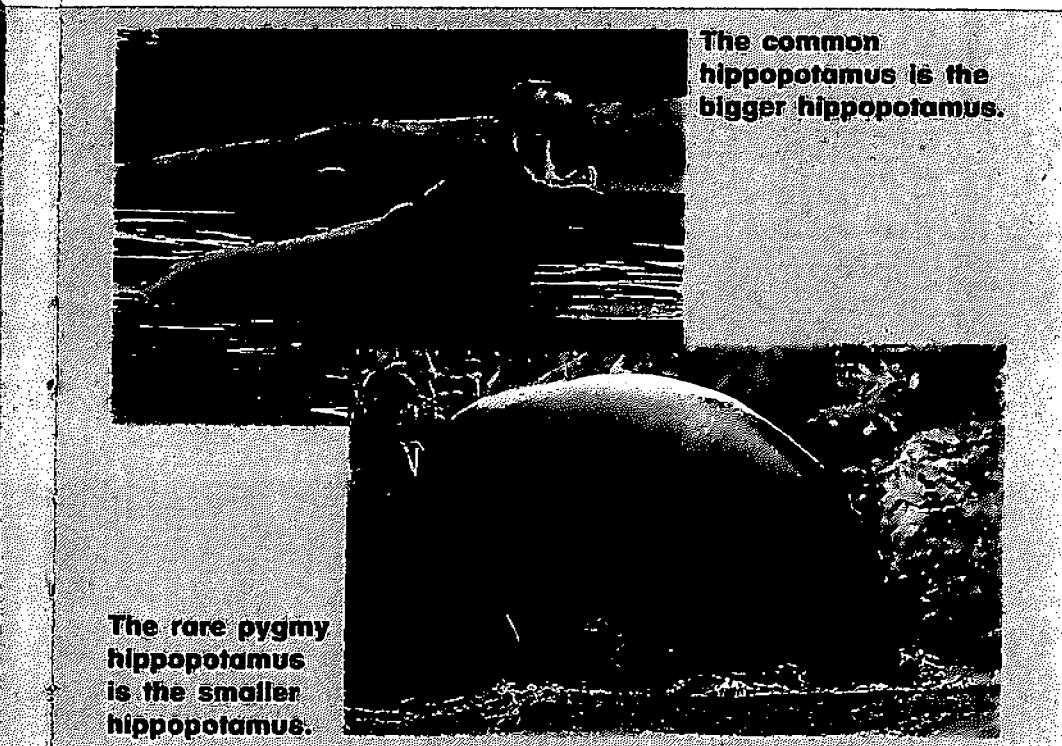
Some people visit zoos to learn about animals they have never seen before.

Rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses

Rhinoceroses are very big with tough wrinkly skin. They have one or two horns at the front of their heads. There are five different kinds of rhinoceroses.

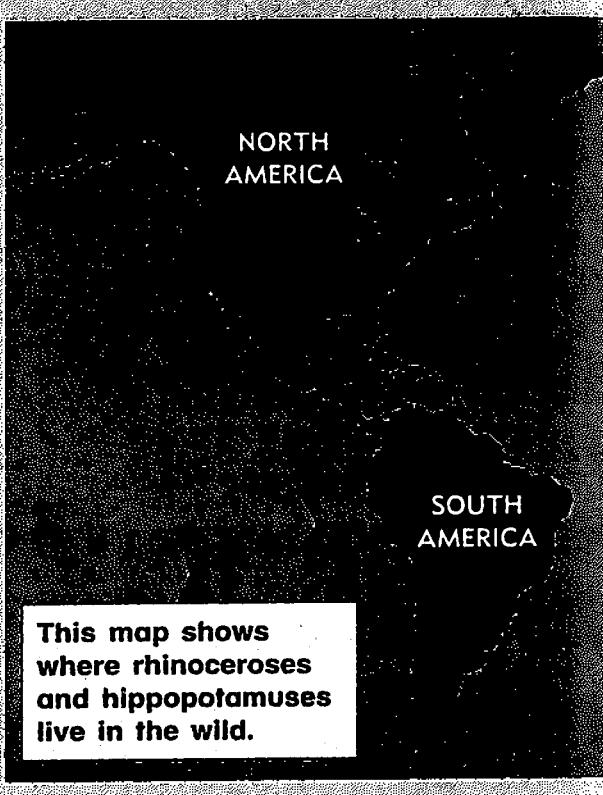
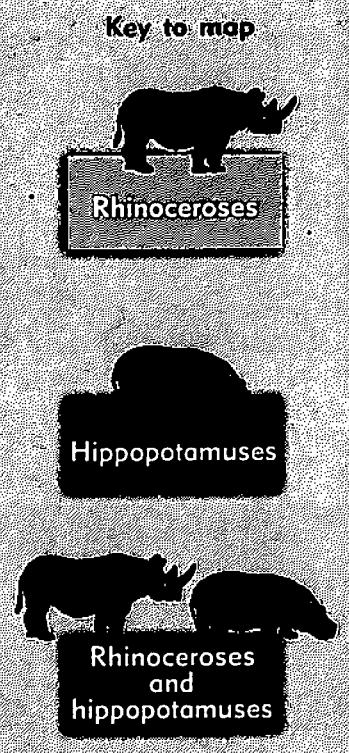


Hippopotamuses are also big animals, but they are smaller than rhinoceroses. Hippopotamuses spend some of their time in water. There are two different kinds of hippopotamuses.

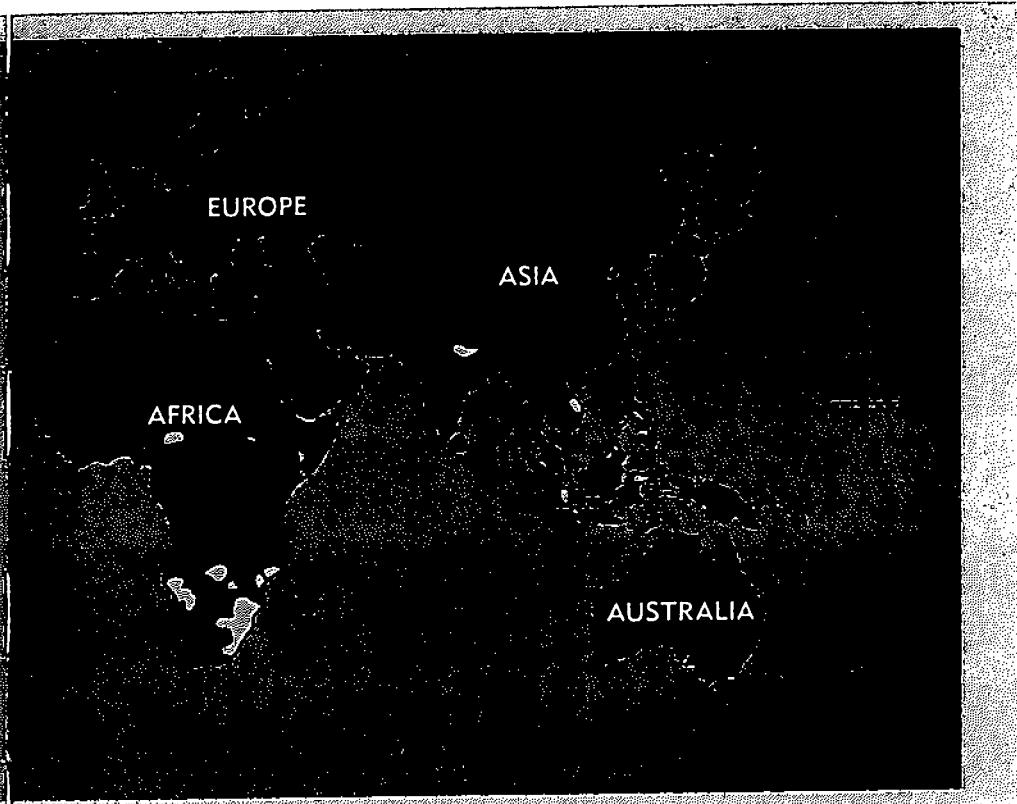


In the wild

In the wild, rhinoceroses live in Asia and Africa. Most rhinoceroses live in woodlands, but white rhinoceroses are found on open grasslands.

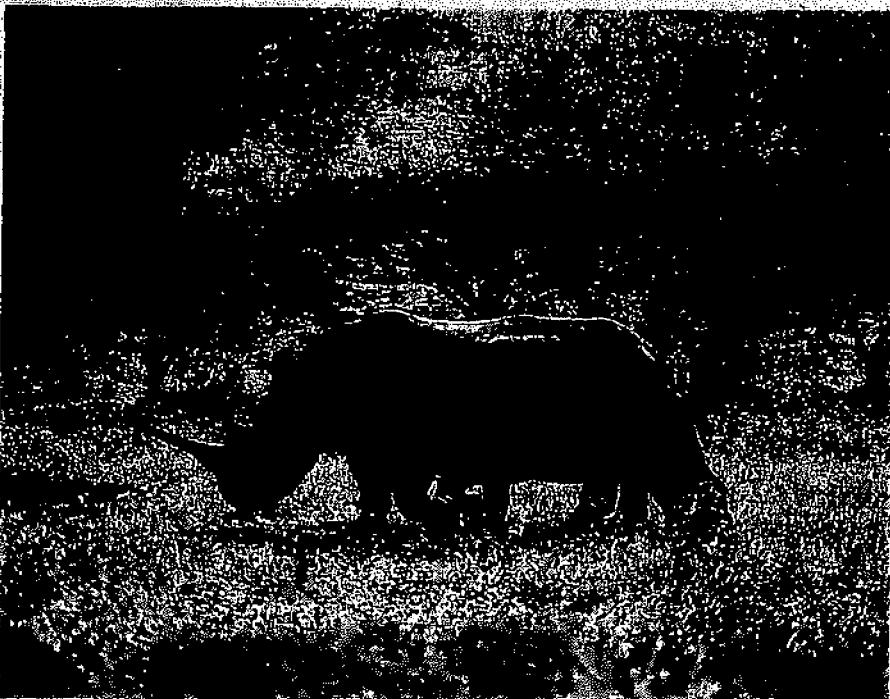


Wild hippopotamuses live only in Africa. They live near lakes or rivers.



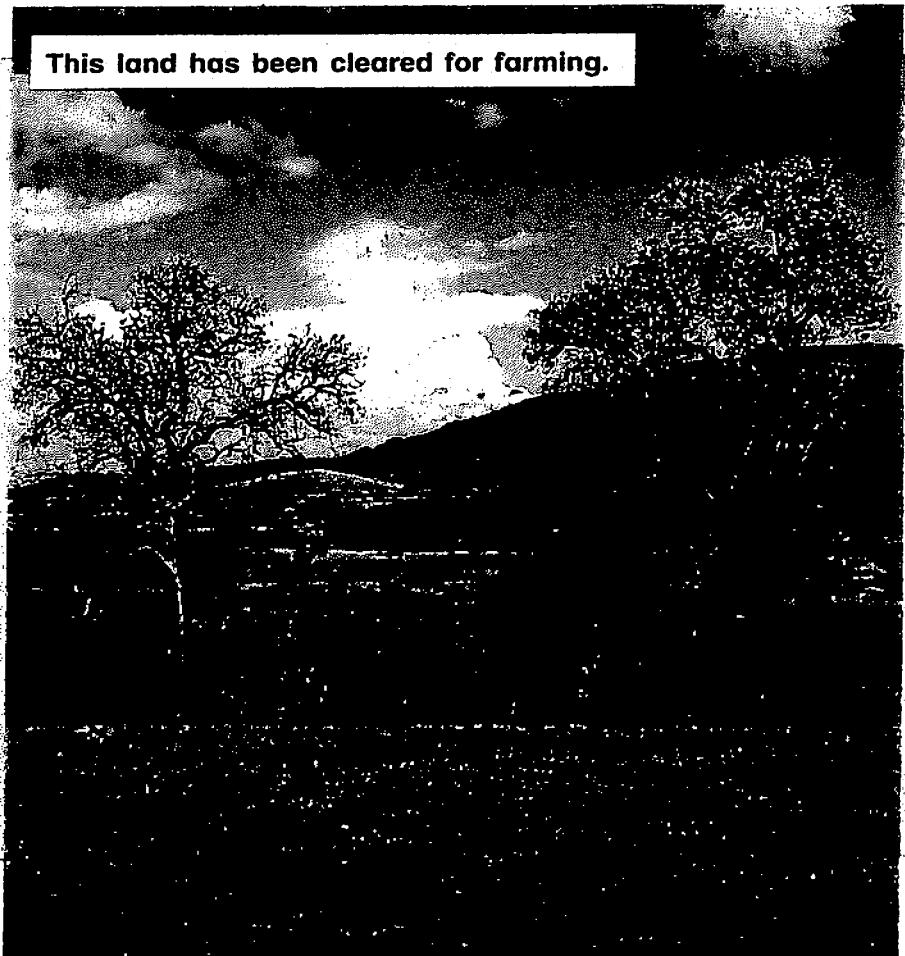
Threats to survival

The biggest threat to survival for rhinoceroses is **poaching**. Poachers sell rhinoceros horns for use in traditional Chinese medicine.



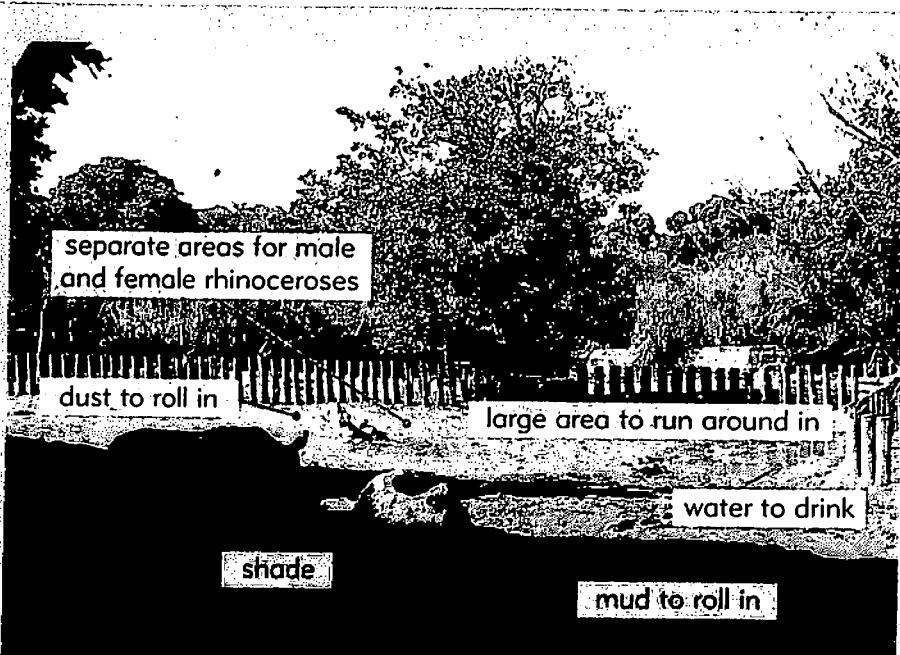
Wild rhinoceroses are hunted for their horns.

Hippopotamuses are threatened by the clearing of land for farms.



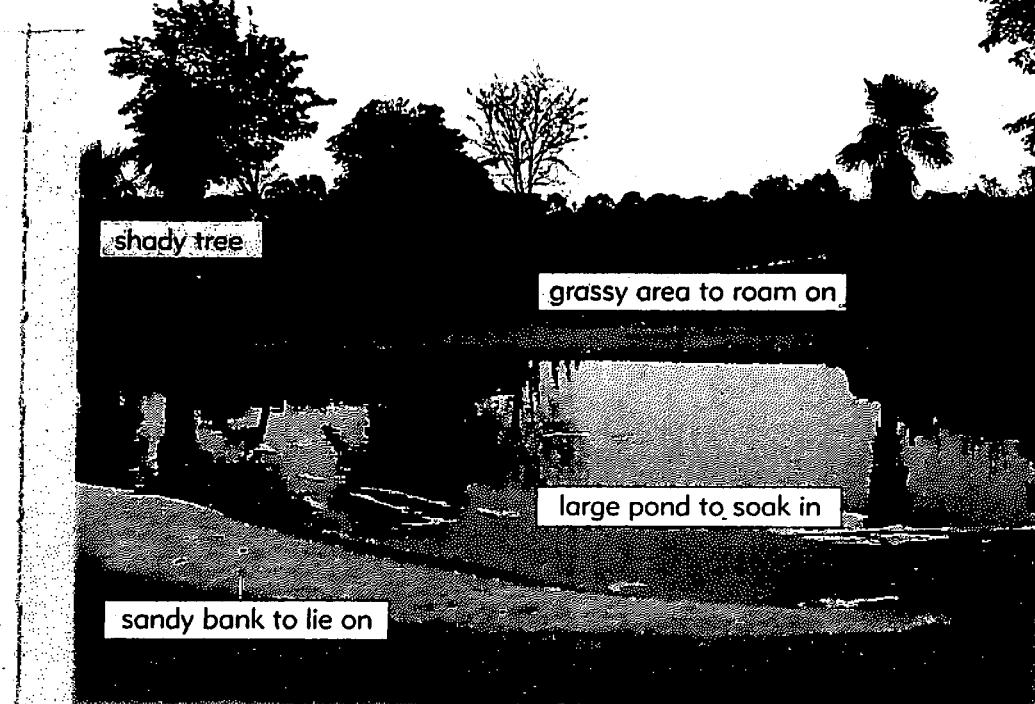
Zoo homes

In many zoos, rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses live in enclosures. These are often built so they are like the rhinoceroses' and hippopotamuses' homes in the wild.



This enclosure has mud and water, like the rhinoceroses' home in the wild.

Hippopotamuses spend most of their day in water. They need large ponds to soak in.



A hippopotamus enclosure always has plenty of water.

Zoo food

Rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses need to eat different types of food to stay healthy.

A rhinoceros' zoo food

20 kilograms hay
2-3 carrots
2-3 oranges
2-3 apples

A hippopotamus' zoo food

20 kilograms lucerne hay



A zoo keeper prepares hay for the hippopotamuses.

Feeding

Rhinoceroses have two meals of hay each day and a snack of hay at lunchtime. They eat fruit and vegetables as a treat. Hippopotamuses eat several meals of hay each day.



At this open-range zoo, the keeper feeds the rhinoceroses from a truck.

Zoo health

Zoo keepers make sure the rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses are healthy. The keepers check the hippopotamuses' teeth. They check that there are no grass seeds stuck in the hippopotamuses' cheeks.



A zoo keeper looks at the hippopotamus' teeth.

Every morning the zoo keepers look carefully at the rhinoceroses' skin. They check to make sure there are no cuts or diseases.



A keeper checks the rhinoceros' skin for any injuries or changes.

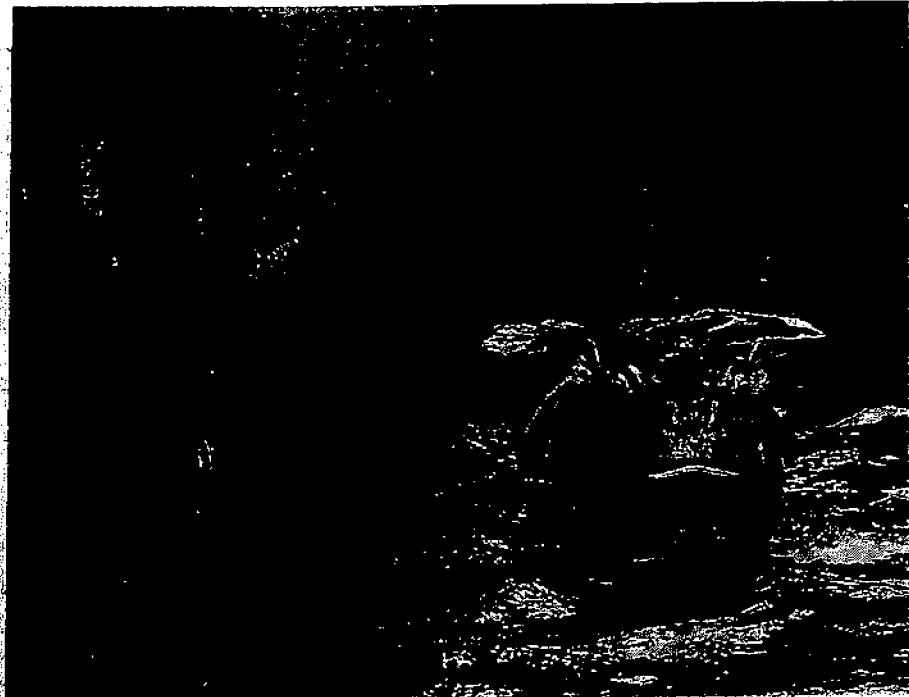
Baby rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses

Rhinoceroses have one baby at a time. The **calves** weigh up to 70 kilograms when they are born. They stay with their mother for three years.



A baby rhinoceros stays close to its mother.

Hippopotamuses also have one baby at a time. The calf weighs up to 45 kilograms when it is born. The hippopotamus leaves its mother after four years.



Baby hippopotamuses like the water.

How zoos are saving rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses

Many kinds of rhinoceros are **endangered**. Some wild rhinoceroses are rescued and taken away from places where they are hunted. They are sent to safe places, such as zoos or national parks.



Some zoos donate money to organisations that protect animals in the wild. Save the Rhino and the International Rhino Foundation help save rhinoceroses. They try to prevent poaching.



School students learn about protecting rhinoceroses from zoo noticeboards.

Zoos work together by **exchanging** rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses for **breeding**. Pygmy hippopotamuses are very rare in the wild but breed well in zoos. Most pygmy hippopotamuses are now born in zoos.



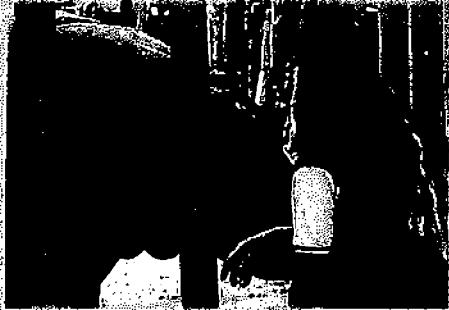
These rhinoceroses will be moved to other zoos to breed.

Zoos help save rare rhinoceroses, too. The southern white rhinoceros was once very rare. Zoos helped increase their numbers by breeding them. They are now the most common rhinoceroses.



Zoos have helped save the southern white rhinoceros.

Meet Lance, a hippopotamus keeper



Lance checks on the hippopotamus.

Question How did you become a zoo keeper?

Answer I got a job as a tour guide on a game reserve in South Africa.

Question How long have you been a keeper?

Answer I have worked with animals for five years.



Lance hoses the hippopotamus in its night enclosure.

Question What animals have you worked with?

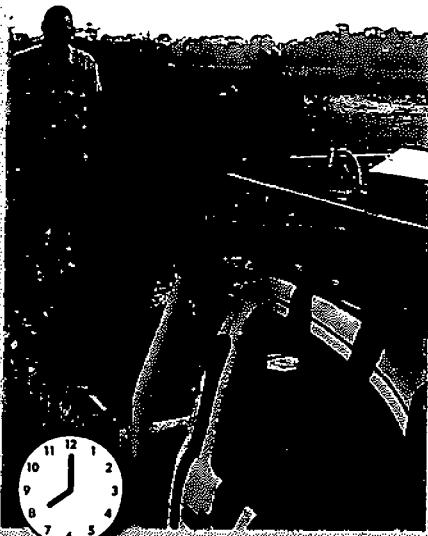
Answer I work with African animals because those are the ones I know best.

Question What do you like about your job?

Answer I get to know the animals and they get to know me. I also like working outdoors.

A day in the life of a zoo keeper

Zoo keepers have certain jobs to do each day. Rhinoceroses are sometimes looked after by a team of zoo keepers.



8.00 a.m.

Collect the food for the rhinoceroses and put it on the back of the truck.



9.00 a.m.

Feed the rhinoceroses from the back of the truck.



9.30 a.m.

Check the rhinoceroses' ears and skin to make sure they are healthy.

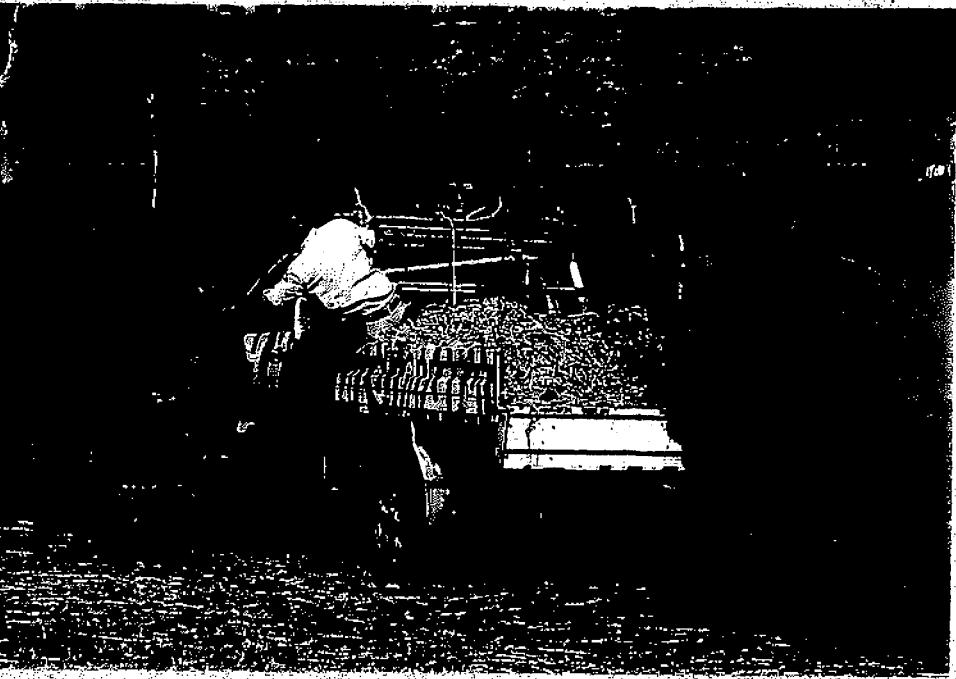


2.00 p.m.

Check on the young rhinoceroses in the smaller enclosure.

Zoos around the world

There are many zoos around the world. Werribee Open Range Zoo is near Melbourne, in Australia. Werribee Zoo keeps nine rhinoceroses in a large, open-range area.



Rhinoceroses are fed hay at Werribee Zoo.

Werribee Zoo has four female rhinoceroses and five male rhinoceroses. These rhinoceroses have had two calves. Werribee Zoo plans to breed more rhinoceroses and send them to other zoos.



Southern white rhinoceroses share an enclosure with zebras at Werribee Zoo.

The importance of zoos

Zoos do very important work. They:

- help people learn about animals.
- save endangered animals and animals that are treated badly.



Southern white rhinoceroses have been saved with the help of zoos.

Glossary

breeding	keeping animals so that they can produce babies
calves	baby rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses
enclosures	the fenced areas where animals are kept in zoos
endangered	at a high risk of becoming extinct
exchanging	swapping
extinct	no longer living on Earth
game reserve	an area of land where wild animals can live safely
poaching	the illegal hunting of animals
wild	living in its natural environment and not cared for by humans

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