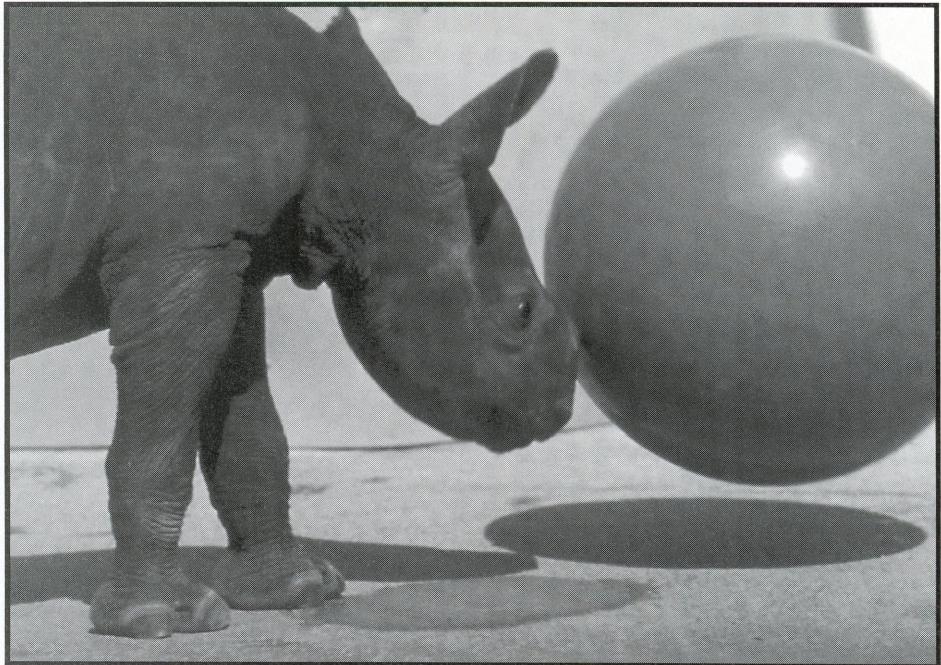


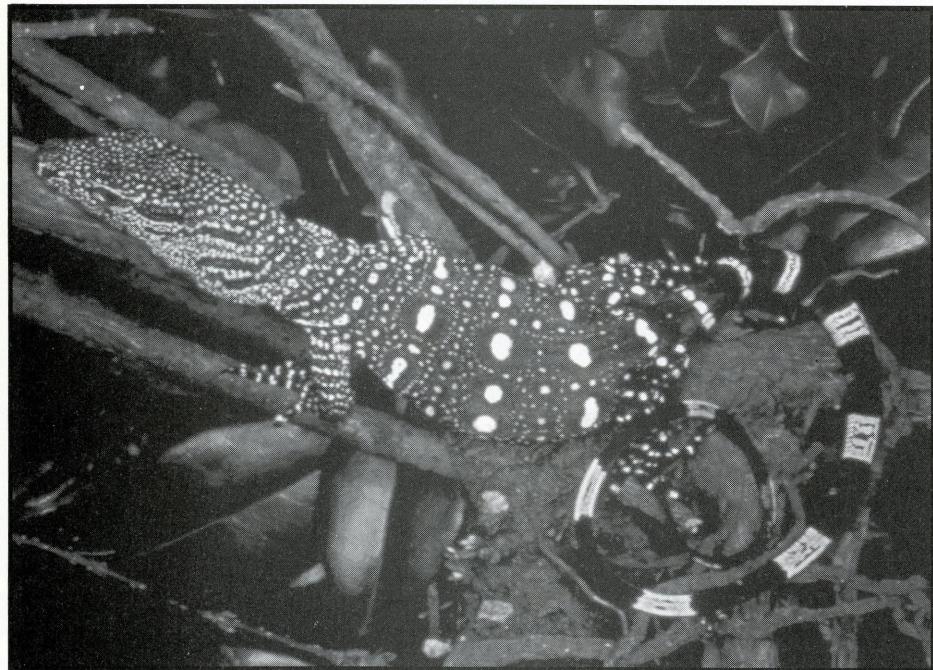
Black Rhino Born at San Diego WAP

An East African black rhinoceros born at the San Diego Wild Animal Park on 24 February is the ninth birth of the species ever at the park. Despite a relatively easy birth, the baby was weak and unable to nurse. Therefore, 6½ hours postpartum, he was taken to the park's animal care center in an effort to stabilize his condition and get him strong enough to be reintroduced to his mother. Although park veterinarians and keepers were able to save him, the baby did not gain enough strength in the relatively short reintroduction period, typically 24-48 hours, to go back with his mother. He is being hand raised in the animal care center and is on exhibit. *D. Dunbar*



Black Rhino Baby at San Diego WAP

Fort Worth Zoo Announces Hatching



New Guinea Crocodile Monitors
Photo by R. Reed

Between 27 February and 11 March, six New Guinea crocodile monitors (*Varanus salvadorii*) hatched at the Fort Worth Zoo after a 219-231 day incubation period at 82°-84° F. The clutch was laid on 24 July 1996 and represents a 100% hatch rate, a first for this rarely bred monitor. Captive reproduction has occurred only once previously in the U.S. when a single offspring hatched at the Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas, in 1992. The Fort Worth breeding group is maintained in an off-exhibit facility with UV-transmitting skylights (Cyro; OP-4) and outdoor access during the warm months. Courtship and copulation were observed in May and June 1996.

Crocodile monitors are prone to a variety of management problems in captivity. Targeted by the AZA Lizard Advisory Group for captive management in 1991, crocodile monitors have steadily increased in number in captivity, and currently there are 45 (21.14.10) located in 14 U.S. zoos. The Fort Worth Zoo began working with crocodile monitors in 1992, and this is the fifth taxa of monitor lizard to reproduce there since 1985.

R. Hudson