

RHINOCEROS BREEDING AT THE SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK

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In the 20 years that we have been breeding rhinos at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, we have had 94 calves born. This is a very brief history of births at the Park:

SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS :

Ceratotherium simum simum were first exhibited at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in a 90-acre enclosure when a group of 6.14 animals were received from the Natal Parks Board on the 17th of February, 1971. After delivery of the initial group, 1.1 were moved from the San Diego Zoo to the Wild Animal Park. The male, who had never bred at the San Diego Zoo, became the new herd sire, and the first calf was born at the Wild Animal Park on the 11th of October, 1972, approximately 20 months after receiving the initial group.

Since that time, we have had 75 southern white rhinoceros born, weighing from 97 to 168 pounds at birth. Of those 75 births, one thing of note is that several were posterior presentations, and although the posterior presentations usually took longer to deliver, the calves had a good survival rate.

Currently we are evaluating the reproductive status of the new male rhinoceros, studbook #188, received from the Fresno Zoo on May 30, 1990. We have recorded four females cycling on a regular basis, with observed breeding by this male, with no obvious pregnancy resulting.

The current population is 1.9 at the Wild Animal Park. The most prolific southern white rhinoceros cow at the Park has been Umfolozi, studbook #159. She had had 10 calves.

Female Umfolozi went approximately 19 months between her 2nd and 3rd calf, 20 months between her 3rd and 4th calf, 21 months between her 4th and 5th calf, 19 months between her 5th and 6th calf, 21 months between her 6th and 7th calf, 19 months between her 7th and 8th calf, and 23 months between her 9th and 10th calf.

NORTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS:

Ceratotherium simum cottoni were first exhibited at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in a 125-acre enclosure when a pair was received from the National Zoological Park on the 22nd of April, 1972. On the 7th of August, 1972 an additional 1.1 were received from St. Louis Zoo. No offspring were produced from either of these pairings, although breedings were observed on numerous occasions..

On the 14th of October, 1989, 1.2 animals were received from Dvur Kralove, Czechoslovakia to start a breeding project of northern white rhinoceros at the Park. No cycling was seen in the females, and little interest from this male, so another younger male was brought to the Park from Khartoum Zoo, Sudan on the 12th of August, 1990. (This male was received due to the fact that he was housed by himself and should have been in a breeding situation).

Currently, we have 2.2 animals being held at the Park, with 1.2 being held in a breeding situation in the East Africa complex. There has been little or no cycling observed in the females, with little interest shown by the male. We are currently using prostaglandin on a

female southern white rhinoceros to determine dosages to use on the northern white rhinoceros cows to prompt them to cycle.

INDIAN RHINOCEROS:

Rhinoceros unicornis were first exhibited at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in a 53-acre enclosure on April 26th, 1972, when a female was received from Gauhati, Assam, and a male from Basel, Switzerland. Their first calf was born on the 25th of March, 1975. There have been 14 Indian Rhinoceros born at the Park, with weights varying from 93 pounds, to an astounding 200 pounds. With several births on video tape, it has been recorded that posterior presentations are not that abnormal for this or other rhinoceros species.

With the vocalizations and urine spraying during estrous in Indians being more obvious than in African rhinoceros, it is easier to observe and record estrous cycles, and prepare for impending breeding situations in Indian rhinoceros than in other of the exhibited rhinoceros, as the breeding of Indians tends to be much more aggressive. Currently, estrous cycles are tracked by urinary hormone analysis, which is also used to determine pregnancy.

We currently hold a population of 4.5 animals, of which two females are pregnant.

Recorded gestations of calves born at the Park:

SDWAP 2	-	439 days
SDWAP 3	-	482 days
SDWAP 4	-	483 days
SDWAP 5	-	484 days
SDWAP 6	-	482 days
SDWAP 7	-	482 days
SDWAP 9	-	487 days

Female Jaypuri was 29 months between her first two live calves, and 20 months between her next two calves. Female Gainda was 39 months between her first and second calves, and 23 months between her next two calves.

Birth weights with some weight gain records are as follows:

Male Jaunpur, SDWAP 12 was born on January 27, 1990, with a birth weight of 157 pounds.

On January 29, he weighed 173 pounds
On February 6, his weight was 236 pounds.
On February 13th, which was 45 days of age, he weighed 265 pounds.

Female Jhansi, SDWAP 13 who was born on July 20th, 1990, weighed 142 pounds at birth.

On July 21st she weighed 150 pounds.
On July 22nd she weighed 157 pounds.
On July 23rd she weighed 159 pounds
On July 24th she weighed 160.5 pounds.
On July 26th she weighed 164 pounds
On July 29th she weighed 173.5 pounds.
On July 30th she weighed 175.5 pounds.
And Aug. 8, at 18 days of age, she weighed 206.5 pounds.

Estrous cycles in Indian rhinoceros at the Wild Animal Park are recorded as follows:

Female Jaypuri, studbook #29, varies slightly. She usually runs 45 days between cycles. By outward visual signs, she stays in estrous for approximately two days. As of April 1991, 8 calves were born, and two aborted fetuses.

Female Gaimda, Studbook #99, is somewhat more sporadic, as she has run from 33 to 54 days between cycles. By outward signs, she stays in estrous 1 to 1-1/2 days. As of April 1991, 4 calves born and one stillborn calf.

Female Jumia, studbook #130, was born on January 18, 1986. She first cycled on May 15, 1988. Jumia runs from 34 to 77 days between cycles, and is usually in estrous for no more than 24 hours. As of April 1991, 1 calf has been born.

Female Goalpara, studbook #143, was born on May 28, 1987. Her first cycle on January 5, 1990. Goalpara exhibits extreme variation in her estrous cycles. The time between two cycles has been 6 months, 13 days. Her estrous cycle lasts approximately 48 hours. As of April 1991, no calves born. She is now pregnant with her first calf.