

Facility Focus: The Buffalo Zoo - by Melissa King

The Buffalo Zoo houses 1.2 Greater One Horned Indian Rhinoceros. The male Dhaulagiri, also known as Henry, was born in Philadelphia July 24, 1991. Henry's father, Billy, was one of the oldest living Indian rhinos in captivity, documented to be at least 44 years old. Tashi, our breeding female, was born in Oklahoma City December 6, 1996. Tashi recently had our second calf born at the Buffalo Zoo. Her first female calf, Ashakiran, was born September 15, 2004. She was shipped to the Toronto Zoo in October of 2006. Clover, also female, was born March 1, 2008. Both pregnancies were a result of natural breeding between Henry and Tashi. To Prepare for their introduction they first had a visual intro through a howdy gate inside of their barn. Both occasions of breeding were monitored by staff and they were separated after.



Female Tashi and Clover out in yard the 1st day



Outside yard that is used alternately and shared

We currently weigh our calf Clover about once a week so that we can monitor her growth. We are able to separate her from Tashi which will also help to prepare them both for her departure in the future. When Asha was shipped to Toronto we had done crate training with both her and Tashi, and will probably do the same with Clover in the near future. Inside the rhino barn there is a stationary chute where we are able to do hand injections and foot soaks with Henry. We are currently also working on blood draws with him. Tashi is accustomed to walking through the chute as well.

We are currently performing surgery on Henry every 6-8 months to alleviate his pododermatitis on his rear feet. He is hand injected in the chute and then shifted into another stall where the surgery is performed. Any excess tissue is surgically removed from between his pads and nails. We also trim his nails and check his teeth while he is anesthetized.

For enrichment they get different items such as browse, barrels, hanging toys and also have mud wallows. In the winter we make snowmen with produce hidden in them. We also celebrate each of their birthdays to try to involve and educate the public. We have even had baby showers for each of our calves.

We look forward to the long lives of Henry and Tashi. And hope to continue their successful breeding to further ensure the future of the species.



Male Henry in pool where he spends most of his time

2009 Rhino Keeper Workshop

First Call for Papers

Beginning September 1st, persons interested in presenting a paper at the 2009 Rhino Keeper Workshop, can submit their abstract electronically to wendy.shaffstall@cininnatizoo.org. Abstracts should be in Word and no more than 500 words. After abstracts are reviewed by the workshop presentation committee, presenters will be contacted. Thank you for your interest in the International Rhino Keeper Association.

