



CREW ReView



Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife • Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

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Roth's Remarks – CREW in the News



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The role of modern day zoos is always evolving, and in today's world of impoverished wildlife populations and habitats, there is more pressure and need than ever before for zoos to step up their involvement in research and conservation. The goal of every CREW scientist is to conduct research that ultimately helps save endangered species. However, progress

often is slow in science, and many researchers wait a lifetime to realize major breakthroughs. Through their hard work, dedication, intelligence and relentless perseverance, CREW scientists have achieved an admirable list of notable accomplishments over the past decade. We rejoice over each and every one of these triumphs for the beneficial impact they will have on the plants and animals about which we care so passionately, but there is another byproduct of CREW's success that greatly benefits the entire greater Cincinnati region. CREW's scientific advances often

make headlines locally, nationally and internationally. This kind of recognition for CREW's substantive work conserving wildlife is exactly what draws attention to the Queen City and keeps the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden at the top of the list as a world leader among zoos. After all, new exhibits will eventually age, plants and animals will move in and out of the collection and events become memories, the species we save will become the lasting legacy of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.



Rhino Signature Project Updates

Contents

Roth's Remarks.....	1
Rhino Signature Project Updates	
Indian Rhino Pregnancy.....	2
Sumatran Rhino Three-peat.....	2
Y's and Y Not's Rhino Babies.....	3
Emi & Rhino Scientist Debut.....	3
Small Cat Signature Project Updates	
Seasonality of Wild Felid.....	4
Saving Pallas' Cat Kittens.....	4
Brazilian Ocelot Conservation.....	5
Cat Organ Donation.....	5
Conservation/Project List.....	6&7
Plant Signature Project Updates	
Flora Finder.....	8
Autumn Buttercup Thriving.....	8
Todsens' Pennyroyal Genetics.....	9
Plant Blindness Survey Results.....	9
Scientific Highlights.....	10
Wish List.....	10
Serving the Community	
Post-doctoral Fellows.....	11
Friends of CREW.....	12

Indian Rhino "Nikki" is Making History

Nikki, the Zoo's 15 year old Indian rhinoceros is about to do what no other endangered rhino has done, give birth to a calf produced through artificial insemination. CREW scientists developed the successful AI technique, and what makes Nikki's pregnancy even more important is the fact it



Ultrasound image of Nikki's pregnancy at Day 88 of gestation

was produced using frozen-thawed Indian rhino spermatozoa. This first time expectant rhino mom is due to give birth in late December 2007. As Nikki's due date approaches, CREW researchers continue to monitor urinary progesterone concentrations and regularly conduct ultrasound exams. In early December, a 24-hour birth watch on Nikki will begin. Zoo staff and dedicated volunteers will observe Nikki around the clock on monitors set up in the CREW public exhibit. Here they will record Nikki's activity and behavior in order to detect the first signs of labor. The milestone event will mark the first ever Indian rhino birth at the Cincinnati Zoo. Most important, it represents a significant birth for the conservation of this endangered rhino species. Poaching in Nepal and Assam, India has intensified over the past several years reducing the wild Indian rhino population to less than 2,000 animals. CREW's monumental scientific achievement with the Indian rhino comes at a critical time and will help facilitate captive gene pool management for the species to ensure a population that is healthy and self-sustaining.

Sumatran Rhino Three-peat Provides Hope for the Species

On April 29, 2007, the Cincinnati Zoo's world famous Sumatran rhino, Emi, delivered a healthy, 86-pound male calf. With this birth, Emi became the first Sumatran rhino in history to produce three calves in captivity. The calf was named "Harapan" by popular vote following a nation-wide naming contest. Harapan means "hope" in Indonesian (and the abbreviated "Harry" is a perfect nickname for the hairy rhinoceros calf).

As the only facility in the world successfully breeding this species, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has the distinction of being the leader of the Sumatran rhino captive breeding effort. This success is the direct result of two efforts: 1) the research conducted at CREW that unraveled the mystery of Sumatran rhino reproduction and, 2) the subsequent integration of that science into the intensive animal management program carried out diligently by the animal keeper staff.

In 2001, Emi gave birth to her first calf, Andalas. This was the first time in 112 years that a Sumatran rhino successfully reproduced in captivity. In February, Andalas made a historical trek back to his ancestral homeland of Sumatra to serve as the catalyst for the captive breeding effort in the species' homeland. In 2004, Emi produced a second healthy female calf, Suci, who still resides at the Cincinnati Zoo. Emi and Harry have been on exhibit most of the summer and have been extremely popular with the visitors.



"Harry", Emi's third calf born at the Cincinnati Zoo