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BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS



FIRST BABY RHINO AT MADRID ZOO

THE WORLD'S THIRD RHINO conceived by artificial insemination (AI) was born at Madrid Zoo on 29 April, a great success for an extensive breeding programme that has been focusing on assisted reproduction technologies (ART).

It was back in 2006 that Parques Reunidos (Madrid Zoo and Selwo in Malaga) started their ART breeding programme for rhino in order to improve the future management of the white rhino population in Parques Reunidos. The group had six individuals at the time, located in three different facilities throughout Spain and, initially, a reproductive assessment of all six animals (3.3) was conducted, following which two animals were relocated into two facilities to

try natural breeding. Due to the lack of natural mating, a 12-year-old wild caught female was artificially inseminated in December 2007 with fresh sperm from a Madrid Zoo wild caught male who is over 45 years old. After 509 days of gestation a male rhino calf was safely delivered. The first-time mother rhino took care of the baby immediately and has proved an excellent mother.

ART are tools that if properly used and researched could be used in future for saving some of the critically endangered rhino species. It could also benefit the Spanish population of white rhinos. Of the 26 individuals in 11 facilities throughout the country, natural breeding has occurred very rarely.

LIONS AND LIZARDS AT ZURICH



FINE NEWS IN FROM ZURICH ZOO earlier this year, where their six year-old Asiatic lion Joy gave birth to three cubs on 3 February. Although she ignored her first born cub (which was very weak and did not survive), she paid great attention to the other two, and they're both doing very well. The cubs' father is the 3½ year-

old male Radja, and this is the first litter for both parents.

Another Zurich success came when three beaded lizards hatched during December 2008 after an incubation time of 198-210 days at 29°C, writes curator *Dr Samuel Furrer*. The weight ranged between 33 and 38g. After being raised for some weeks behind the scenes, they are now on display within the adult's enclosure. IR- and UV-lighting is provided to simulate natural conditions. The mothers hatched in Zoo Zurich in 1996 and 1998. We are happy to contribute again to the EEP of this beautiful lizard.

Furthermore, after an incubation of 135 days at 28°C, were proud to welcome three Fiji iguanas. This is the second successful hatching since 2007 in Zurich. The adults are kept outside during the warm period (June-September). Having a surplus of young males, there will surely be options to start changing the animals within the herp collections within EAZA institutions.

