

Indian rhinoceros

Rhinoceros unicornis

births in captivity

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NO./NAME	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	BIRTH-PLACE	WEIGHT (kg)	CFSTATION (days)	PRESENT LOCATION
1. Rudra	♂	14 Sept 1956	Basle Switz	60.6	474	Milwaukee USA
2. Mohinja	♀	29 Oct 1957	Whipsnade GB		488	Milwaukee USA
3. Moola	♀	17 Aug 1958	Basle Switz	67	478	died 4 Jan 1973
4. Manik	♂	18 Aug 1960	Whipsnade GB		488	died 25 Apr 1975
5. Sneha	♀	12 Mar 1961	Calcutta Ind (born during transit)			
6. Lasai	♂	31 Aug 1962	Basle Switz	68	479	San Diego USA
7. Khunlai	♂	9 Mar 1963	Basle Switz	59	486	Paris PZ Fr
8. Rajkumari	♀	10 Apr 1963	Gauhati Ind			Washington NZP USA
9. Jaypuri	♀	10 Jul 1963	Gauhati Ind		18 months	San Diego USA
10. Miris	♀	12 Jun 1964	Basle Switz	70.5	476	Berlin W Ge
11. Gauhati	♂	11 Aug 1964	Hamburg Ge		462	Berlin W Ge
12. Nanda	♀	25 Aug 1965	Basle Switz	69	475	Stuttgart Ge
13. — died	—	20 Jun 1966	Tokyo Jap			
14. — died	♀	30 Jan 1967	Milwaukee USA	56.6	474	
15. Shita	♀	9 Apr 1967	Hamburg Ge		464	
16. Pandur	♂	7 Jul 1967	Basle Switz	72.5	489	Hamburg Ge
17. Puri	♂	22 Dec 1967	Basle Switz	78	486	Stuttgart Ge
18. Mysore	♂	13 Feb 1968	Mysore Ind		486	Berlin E Ge
19. Ruedi	♂	27 Apr 1969	Basle Switz	79	474	Houston USA (died 9 Feb 1971)
20. Randa	♀	5 Oct 1969	Basle Switz	81	478	Houston/Brownsville/ Los Angeles USA
21. Roopa	♀	27 Jan 1971	Delhi Ind		484	Whipsnade GB
22. —	♂	16 Apr 1971	Mysore Ind		484	
23. — died	♀	16 Jul 1971	Stuttgart Ge	55.7	470	
24. Tutuma	♀	11 Aug 1971	Basle Switz	79	476	Antwerp Bel
25. Tanaya	♀	24 Aug 1971	Basle Switz	69	481	
26. Krishna/ Samber	♂	12 Sep 1971	Gauhati Ind			Nagoya Jap
27. —	♂	25 Nov 1971	Hyderabad Ind			
28. Kumar	♂	4 Apr 1972	Berlin W Ge		477	Amsterdam Ne
29. Saitaro	♂	20 Dec 1973	Tokyo Jap	62.2 (9th day)		
30. — died	♂	3 Jan 1974	Basle Switz	51	473	
31. Patrick	♂	30 Jan 1974	Washington NZP USA	56.6	487	
32. —	♂	23 May 1974	Gauhati Ind	40	477	
33. Nabob	♂	5 Dec 1974	Stuttgart Ge		479	
34. — died	♂	24 Mar 1975	San Diego USA			
35. —	♀	19 Jul 1975	Mysore Ind			
36. Xavira	♀	10 Oct 1975	Basle Switz	69.5	474	

Distribution of births over the year

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
4	1	3	5	1	2	4	7	2	3	1	3

Table 1. Indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* born in captivity since 1956.

The data received in answer to our questionnaires indicate that on 31 December 1975 61 (33.28) Indian rhinos were living in 32 institutions. Some few further animals are believed to be kept elsewhere, but as yet their existence has not been officially confirmed. We would like to express our gratitude to all the zoos that have so readily given us their support without which the studbook could not have been realised.

The first birth recorded in captivity—a still-birth—took place in Calcutta Zoo in 1925. In 1948 a foetus, weighing 29.4 kg, was aborted during transport. It is now in the Brookfield Museum. In 1956 the first record was made of a calf which was conceived, born and reared in captivity. This date marks the beginning of a serious breeding programme. Since then a total of 36 (19.16.1) calves has been born in captivity. Of these 5 (2.2.1) were stillborn or not viable, and 3 (2.1) have died, 2.0 at the ages of 15 and two years respectively, 0.1 at 16 years. On 31 Decem-

ber 1975 28 (15.13) captive-bred animals were registered as being still alive.

Two births in the second zoo generation have been recorded: Milwaukee 1 (1967) born of Basel 1 and Whipsnade 1, and San Diego 1 (1975) born of Basel 3 and Gauhati 2. Neither of the calves survived. The zoo-born cows Basel 2, 5 and 6 and Gauhati 1 have reproduced successfully, but with wild-caught partners.

From the table below it is seen that parturition is not confined to a particular season. An average birth weight of 69.5 kg in six ♂♂ and 68.5 kg in eight ♀♀ was ascertained. The gestation period averaged 478 days.

It is encouraging to note that the number of zoos pooling their animals to enhance the breeding potential has risen to six—Basle, Hamburg, New York, Stuttgart, Washington and West Berlin.

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