

between the two countries when Mei-Mei was sent to Japan in 2000, China has the right to the chicks from odd-numbered hatches, and these three were the first, third and fifth to hatch.

*Xinhua News Agency* (5 March 2002)

### Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, U.K.

Whipsnade's latest rhino arrival, born on 10 December 2001, entered the record books for being the 50th southern white rhinoceros calf born at the park in just 30 years. She is the second calf born to 11-year-old (and youngest breeding female) Mkumi, and is also the second calf to be born at the park in 2001: a male was born on 22 November. Whipsnade holds the white rhino breeding record in Europe, and worldwide it is only surpassed by San Diego Wild Animal Park.

This birth comes at a time when the EEP is showing an encouraging improvement in the breeding record of this species, which has proved difficult in the past. Second-generation births are still rare, and even with our record we have not yet bred a full second-generation calf, all the sires having been wild-caught males. A reasonable number of Whipsnade-born rhinos have bred, and it is hoped that the latest moves to Givskud Zoo, Denmark, and Borås Zoo, Sweden, will result in a boost to the breeding record in Europe.

Abridged from Nick Lindsay in *EAZA News* No. 38 (April-June 2002)

### News in brief

Duke University Primate Center, North Carolina, U.S.A., reports that 2001 was a record year there for aye-aye reproduction. In January Morticia gave birth to her fourth infant conceived in captivity, making her the current champion of the

Center's aye-aye mothers. Three more babies arrived later in the year, including the first at Duke to be born to a captive-born female.

Abridged from David Haring in *From the Forest* (March 2002)

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In May, a female pygmy hippo was confiscated from a private owner in Escondido, California. She is believed to have been living in his backyard for about ten years. Living conditions were inadequate, with no natural shade and no pool big enough for her to bathe. Neighbours had long known she was there, but had never seen her. 'I know he used the hippo manure on his garden,' one commented. 'It can smell pretty dang bad.' The animal, which is thought to be 12 to 15 years old, was taken to a rehabilitation center in Ramona, before being moved in June to Peace River Wildlife Refuge in Arcadia, Florida, which has other pygmy hippos.

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In March, a 24-year-old giraffe at Taiyuan Zoo, Shanxi, China, gave birth to her ninth baby. Although she seemed exhausted after the delivery, Andan, now the mother of 3.6 offspring, was able to feed and groom the infant, who is doing well despite being born three weeks prematurely. Andan was herself bred at Beijing Zoo in 1978.

*Xinhua News Service* (9 March 2002)

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One of the Zoological Society of San Diego's conservation gold medals for 2002 has been awarded to Jeremy J.C. Mallinson, who recently retired as director of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Previous recipients of the honour have included Jane Goodall, Sir David Attenborough, Norman Myers, E.O. Wilson and John Aspinall.