

Ol Jogi, Ltd.

August, 1998

A note from Tom

Africa continues to unfold around me and teach me about how to work, how to live, and how to accomplish things here. Every day I awe at the land's beauty and its diversity of creatures. After 3 years there are still species that I am seeing for the first time while all the others continue to amaze me. How they do they all fit into this complex ecosystem? My family is well. Ana explores the production of Mexican cuisine in the bush. Alejandra is growing, walking, and learning the names of the animals in 3 languages.

In this year the need of a conservation message has become very clear to me. There is an immense need to transfer this message to people, conservation is the wise use and management of resources. It is not a negative, exclusionary process. On the contrary, it ensures the continued availability of resources for future generations of children and animals.

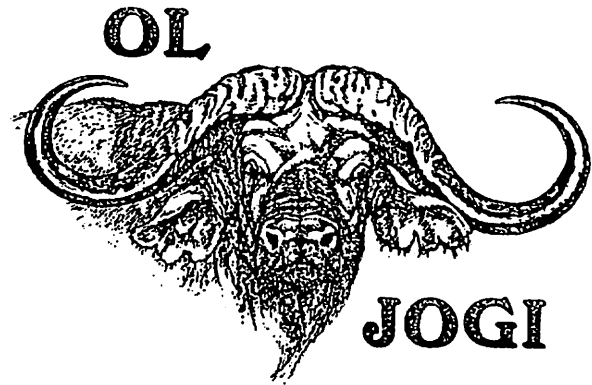
The environmental movement is mainly a concept in developed countries. What started this movement? Many things, but the most shocking was a river catching fire in Ohio thirty years ago. From that point the developed world has been struggling with recuperation and limiting the poisonous effect mankind has upon the environment. Europe has virtually no large wild animals remaining. North America is large animals confined to islands surround by humanity.

How does this concept apply to Africa? Many environmental problems are primary and could be confronted before major environmental disasters occur. There is a chance to prevent the mistakes that the developed world was unable to control. The wide open spaces of Africa are being hemmed in on all sides. Can a method of humanity living in harmony with in the environment and wildlife be found? A role of Ol Jogi is to encourage local people to reflect over environmental issues and find answers.

The Game Reserve

Driven by El Nino rains the reserve has gone through a transformation. 1997 was the wettest year in the recorded history of the reserve, 1074.5 mm of rain, two and a half times the long term average of 400 mm. The rain produced a prolific growth of vegetation and the grass is taller now than in any recent memory. However, *Hibiscus micranthus*, an unpalatable bush has encroached the grassland and other undesirable species, *Solanum incanum* and *Combretum molle* are in abundance.

Animals are showing positive responses to the rain. Malaika, a female black rhino born at Ol Jogi recently gave birth to her 4th calf, Sarajane. This is the 18th calf born on the reserve. We are presently caring for 15 black and 4 white rhinos. The warthog, whose numbers had been declining, has reproduced prolifically and the piglet survival rate is impressive. The eland herd is composed of almost 50% youngsters, young impala and buffalo are common and many of the zebra females are obviously pregnant. The weather certainly affected bird populations as well. A flock of magpie starlings were sighted, far out of their normal range.

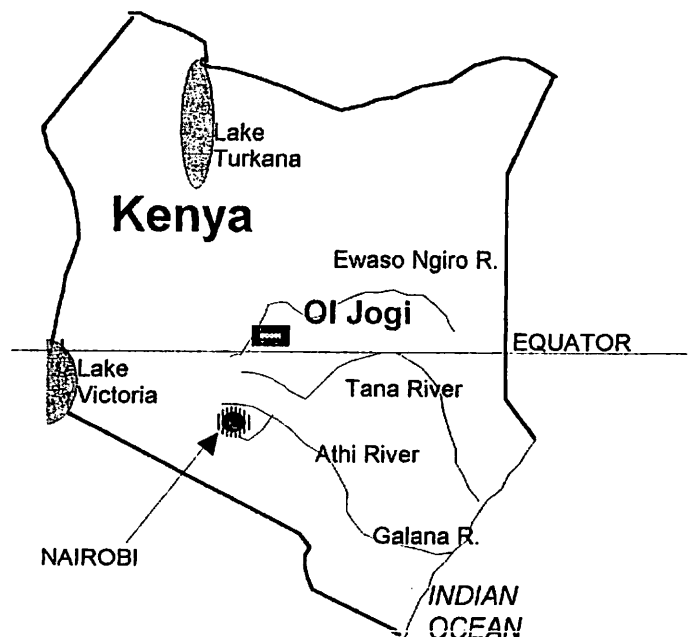


Education

An active schedule of visits by local primary and secondary schools has been held by Michael with assistance from Kimani and Dan. Over 420 students have enjoyed a day of hands-on contact with animals, learning about elephants and leopards, conservation lectures and game drives. The next scholastic year will see an aggressive continuation of this plan. Teaching that wildlife is not an enemy.

Orphanage

An abandoned baby animal is never good news, but when the need arises the Pyramid Captive Animal Staff are able to provide orphans with the proper housing, nutrition and behavioral stimulation necessary for the animal to thrive. The baby white rhino, born in January, 1997 is growing strong and will be weaned in September 1998. We are currently hand raising 3 female animals, a wildebeest, a lion and a dromedary camel.



Research Focus

In house research efforts are focused towards defining differences in veterinary ecology between the fenced reserve and the open ranch. Pyramid Game Reserve has been enclosed for 18 years. What changes are taking place? Many samples have been collected and investigations are looking at disease, nutritional and genetic parameters. Comparisons between bird, plant and insect communities are also needed.

Clinical Medicine

A completely mixed zoo, wildlife and domestic practice continues; avian orthopedics to zebra foot care. Personal horizons have expanded by diagnosis of exotic diseases such as camel pox and Rift Valley Fever; and common diseases in different species: anaplasmosis in eland and bile duct carcinoma in impala. Domestic animal practice ranges from bovine dystocias to splenic torsion in a dog. Of surgical note this year has been the successful repair of a patent ductus arteriosus in a caracal, a fractured metatarsus in a bongo and a diaphragmatic hernia in a leopard. The vet staff continues to provide service to Sweetwater's Chimp Sanctuary, Ewaso Ngiro Baboon Research Project and Mt. Kenya Game Ranch.

New Exhibits

The tawny eagle and auger buzzard are housed in new mews. Both of these animals are handled daily. Two new owl flights have been built onto the existing aviary for the Verreaux's eagle owl and the Scop's owls.

Three 100 by 100 feet enclosures have been built to accommodate our large cats. The enclosures utilize native vegetation and natural rock. Each has its own night quarters and access to a central training area.

Two of the caracals at Main House have a brand new home. A large chain link enclosure has been built, planted with native grasses and includes an African style night house.

Births

A baby eland was born to one of our captive females in January. The young female is being raised by her mother and is a nice addition to our captive herd.

Animal Releases

Three genets, four caracals, one waterbuck and one buffalo have been successfully released from the captive collection and into the reserve. The animal have been spotted frequently are reported to be doing well. For the caracals a soft release pen and feeding station was established in a remote corner of the reserve. Since the caracal release ranger patrols in that area report seeing caracal on several occasions.

Our Mission Statement

OI Jogi is a private initiative focused on contributing to ecosystem conservation. We will accomplish this with programs of conservation education, wildlife research, veterinary science, and endangered species preservation, seeking to use the latest knowledge and appropriate technologies, and maintaining an ever widening communication network with conservation personnel throughout the world. Our goal is to be a center of excellence for the study and practice of ecosystem management. March 1997.

University Students

This season the following students have visited us: Andrea Varela, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, Ivonne Cassaigne, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Hannah Capon, Cambridge University, and Fernando Gual, Zoological Society of London. In addition, groups from Princeton and Georgia Tech Universities have paid visits. Any student who spends more than 4 weeks is requested to perform a

project. Subjects have included: parasite ecology of impala, chimpanzee vaccination protocols, manual restraint of camels, salmonella in reptiles and tick types of OI Jogi.

Ecosystem Health for Veterinarians

An opportunity was seen to present veterinary concern for the environment to Kenyan veterinarians. OI Jogi and Kenya Wildlife Service veterinary staff produced a 6 lecture session on environmental health and wildlife medicine to the 1998 annual meeting of the Kenyan Veterinary Association. Over 100 vets heard lectures on Avian Medicine, Zoonotic Diseases, Wildlife Education, Laboratory Procedures for Wildlife, Anesthesia and most importantly, ***Why vets can and should take an active role in ecosystem health.*** The essential take home message was, "if the ecosystem is not healthy, how can the animal patients within the ecosystem be healthy?"

International Documentaries

As another extension of the education program, 3 documentaries about wildlife conservation have been made. Programs involving OI Jogi can be seen on "Wild Things" by Paramount, "Flying Vets" by GBTV of the Netherlands and "Champions of the Wild" on Discovery Canada.

II Polei Conservancy

Adjacent to OI Jogi is II Polei Group Ranch which has been striving to create the Twala Maasai Cultural Centre to benefit the community. Now they have expanded into the area of wildlife conservation. With the help of their neighbors this group has set aside 5000 acres as a nature conservancy. OI Jogi provided the machinery for creation of a surface dam and almost immediately greater kudu, buffalo and other wildlife have moved into the area. Programs of wildlife walks, tourist camping, baboon watching and Maasai cultural experiences are being developed. With increased publicity the center will attract more visitors. This will aid in calming this area's very strong conflict between wildlife and humans. If the people benefit from wildlife they will be able to live in harmony.

Research Samples

Contacts have led to the opportunity to provide animals samples and facilities for researchers. 1) Buffalo and impala serum for rinderpest investigations of KWS. 2) Blood and serum from 20 animal species for tsetse fly blood meal ID by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology. 3) Over 200 liver and muscle samples for DNA banking by the Henry Doorley Zoo. 4) Analysis of seasonal changes in baboon internal parasites by Dr. Gerald Muchemi and the Ewaso Ngiro Baboon Research Center.

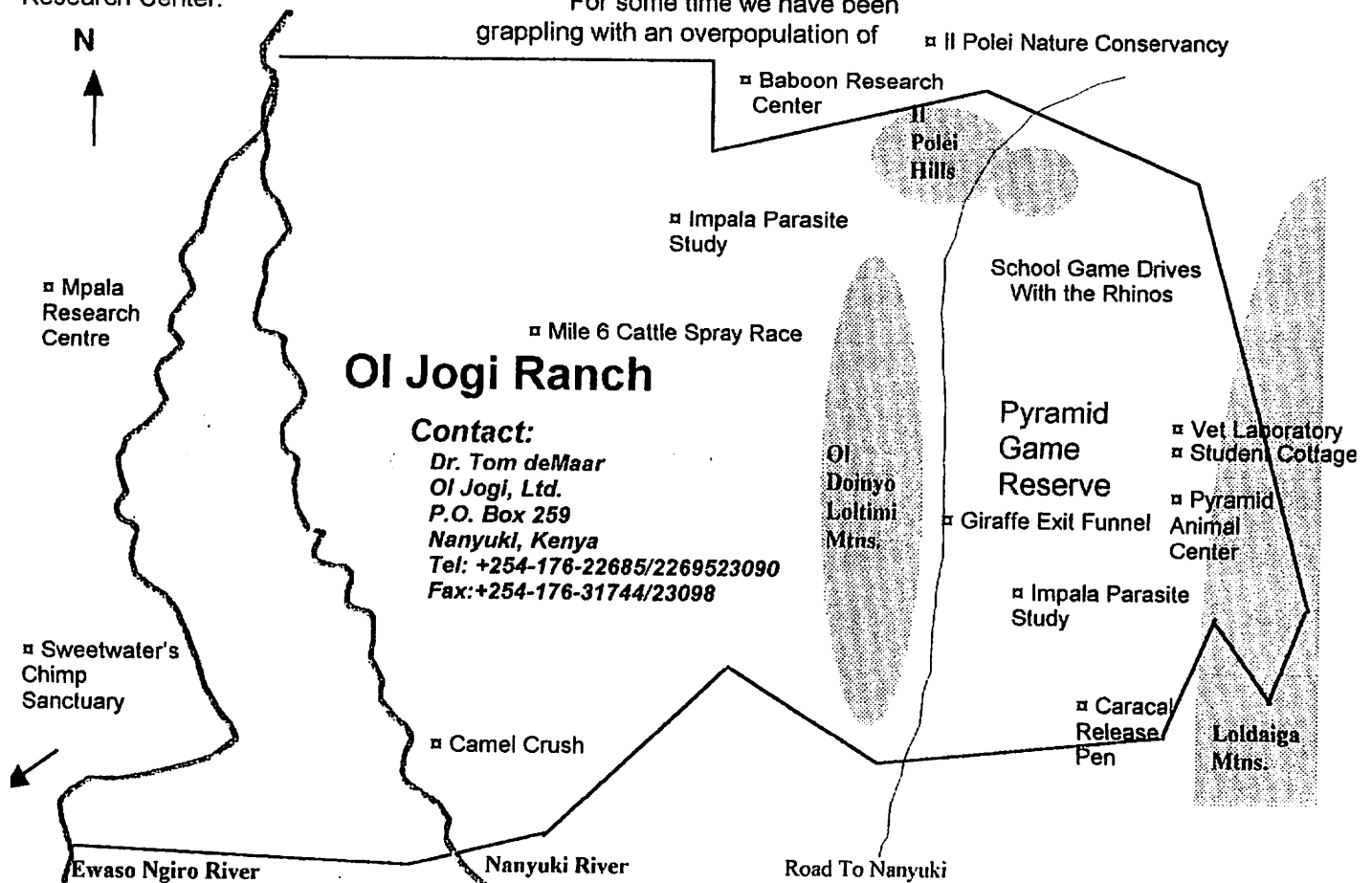
Sanctuaries. Janet is studying animals in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Kenya to determine territoriality and paternity of white rhino groups using behavioral observation, photographic ID, hormone assays, DNA analysis and skin biopsy techniques. The OI Jogi rhinos were the first test subjects in the creation of an effective dart gun skin biopsy needle. The answers provided by Janet's study hope to indicate how many white rhinos are optimum to create effective populations.

Publications

This season has been busy. Four articles related to ecosystem health will be published in the 1998 Annual Kenya Veterinary Associations Proceedings. Two articles are scheduled for presentation at the 1998 zoo and wildlife vets annual conference. These are about anesthesia in camels and practice of education by wildlife vets. Lastly a case report on a white rhino to the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine was completed.

Game Management

For some time we have been grappling with an overpopulation of



5) Collection of blood from 60 camel samples for trypanosome detection by the Kenyan Trypanosomiasis Research Institute. 6) Tissues for a comparison of DNA preservation mediums under field condition for Dr. Ed Louis of the Henry Doorley Zoo.

White Rhino Demographics and Genetics

Dr. Janet Rachlow, post doctoral fellow from the Institute of Zoology, London has extended her study of white rhino to Kenya with the assistance of the Kenyan Association of Private Land Rhino

giraffe. In a week-long operation, a large internal fence was constructed and a group of giraffe trapped. Then with 200 people and 8 horses, plus vehicles the giraffe were pushed in stages towards an exit funnel. When the dust settled 27 giraffe were translocated from the reserve to the adjacent OI Jogi Ranch.

We are regularly called by the local community to assist with problem animal control. Recently we trapped a livestock killing leopard (a 3/4 grown female) in Dol Dol. She was then released into the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Pyramid Game Reserve Staff

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Game Warden
Dan J. Subaitis/Judy A. Subaitis
Animal Trainers/Animal Curators
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Assistant Warden/Wildlife Biologist
Michael Ng'ang'a
Wildlife Technician/Education Officer
Ekai Aule
Head Ranger
Christopher Waitthaka
Lead Animal Keeper
Mugo Josephat Muriithi
Animal Health Technician