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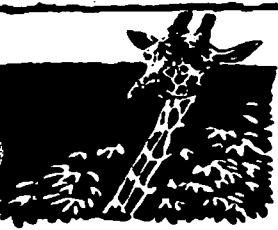
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Nature of the Zoo



DENVER ZOO RHINO HAS A BRUSH WITH FAME!



Call him what you want, a virtual Van Gogh, our resident Renoir, practically a Picasso, but *Mshindi* (ma-shin-dee), is a one-ton artist who's making quite an impression on Denver Zoo staff as the world's only rhinoceros known to paint with a brush. *Mshindi*, a Swahili word for "warrior", is a 5-year-old male black rhino born at the Denver Zoo.

Mshindi's new hobby is not just a stroke of genius. The painting process is part of an extensive behavioral enrichment program developed in part and administered by his primary keeper, Christine Bobko. Bobko has trained him through operant conditioning to conduct a variety of

behaviors, including sitting on command, fetching a stick, standing still, backing up, sitting on a boomer ball, presenting his foot, and even presenting his ear for veterinary and keeper staff to draw blood (drawing blood from a rhino is relatively painless for the animal).

Prior to the development of this variety of training, rhinos have sometimes had to be anaesthetized prior to drawing blood, which can be stressful for the animal.

The purpose of these behaviors is to stimulate him psychologically and acclimate the animal to interaction with his keeper in order to better observe his health. *Mshindi*'s conditioning is also instrumental in a dietary study involving a new pellet-food formulated with aspen leaves. *Mshindi*'s proclivity for presenting his ear has allowed for accurate analysis of his blood.

This behavioral process takes place daily, in a non-public exhibit area.

Mshindi is one of two black rhinoceroses at the Zoo. George, a 15-year-old male is also receiving special attention but has not been as inspired to learn new behaviors as *Mshindi*.

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL

"Help Share The Care"



"Share the Care" of Black Rhinoceros "Mshindi" Denver Zoo's Artist In Residence

Painting was first introduced to Mshindi, the black rhinoceros, as an enrichment activity about a year ago. His keeper says she was amazed at how rapidly he mastered his behavioral training (foot care, etc.) and needed to find something exciting, challenging, and fun for him to do. Painting seemed to be just the thing!

Mshindi "mastered his art" in no time at all. Using brightly colored tempera paints and a big brush he holds in his mouth the unlikely artist now usually paints twice a month.

The Denver Zoo Adopt-An-Animal Program is proud to offer for the first time a full-color poster reproduction of one of Mshindi's works of art.

For \$75 your adoption will include:

- ◆ A personalized adoption certificate
- ◆ An 11"X17" poster reproduction of an original Mshindi painting (suitable for framing)-Available beginning May 15, 1998.
- ◆ A 5"X7" photograph of Mshindi painting one of his masterpieces
- ◆ An black rhinoceros animal information sheet
- ◆ An information sheet about Mshindi
- ◆ Two passes to the Denver Zoo
- ◆ A Zoo Parents lapel pin



Mshindi Adoption Fee: \$75

ADOPTION IS FOR:

Zoo Parent's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

THIS GIFT IS FROM:

Giver's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

SEND GIFT PACKAGE TO:

Giver, for presentation to receiver

Recipient, gift card should read
from _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check enclosed, made payable to Denver Zoological
Foundation

Please charge my MC/Visa

Charge Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Amount \$ _____

Signature _____

To adopt Mshindi, please complete this form and mail with
your payment to: Mshindi Adoption, Denver Zoo, City
Park, 2300 Steele St., Denver, Colorado 80205-4899.

Questions?

Call the Denver Zoo Membership Department at 376-4878.

