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Slaughter in Paradise

Warning: Not for sensitive browsers...

Days after suspected rhino poachers were arrested and charged for killing two rhinos in the Kruger National Park, an incident much closer to home has struck, leaving one rhino dead and another in a critical condition.

Three rhinos were darted and dehorned by poachers on either late Thursday night or early Friday morning last week (1-2 March 2012) in the Kariega Game Farm in the Kenton-on-Sea area.

A female rhino that survived the attack was darted yesterday (Monday) morning so that wounds on her face could be treated and anti-biotics could be administered.

While the female survivor appears to be recuperating quite well, the male survivor is in great distress. His left rear leg was swollen and he was walking with a heavy limp, said Will Fowlds, the vet who has been treating the two surviving rhinos. On Sunday, Fowlds reported that the male rhino had moved off to a position where the terrain makes it very risky to administer safe topup treatment. His leg swelling appears to be deteriorating which is not good news.

He also said that the female rhino had two large holes in her face and that a piece of flesh was hanging from the wounds. The gaping wounds where her horn was removed have been aggravated by swarms of flies. Fowlds did say, however, that she has been recovering well and that she has been spotted eating and drinking at the water hole.

Words by Steven Lang

Photos by Paul Mills



"Her fighting spirit is humbling to witness as her face depicts such utter shame on humanity. The whole team were deeply moved by this horrendous experience and the bravery of this soul." - Will Fowlds, veterinarian





EMERGENCY TREATMENT... Television presenter, Braam Malherbe, looks on while veterinarian, Will Fowlds (with cap) treats the female rhino that was found on Friday morning after her horn had been savagely hacked off. Fowlds treated her wounds that had...

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