Body Condition Scoring of captive white rhinoceros

Ceratoherium simum

Thijs van den Houten

Introduction

- Looking after a very large/heavy female rhino
- Body Condition Scoring
  Domestic hoofstock → rhinos
- Research goals
  - To develop a BCS system and
  - To compare the BCS of the white rhinos within Europe

Methods

- Sent out request for pictures in September 2010
- Scoring systems available
  - Observable criteria for assessing the physical condition of the white rhinoceros in the field, M.E. Keep, 1971
  - Rhino body condition assessment module, AfRSG
- Looking at neck, ribs, spine, pelvic bones and rump with the following scores:
  - 1= very poor
  - 2= poor
  - 3= fair
  - 4= good
  - 5= obese

BCS 1-2

BCS 3

BCS 4

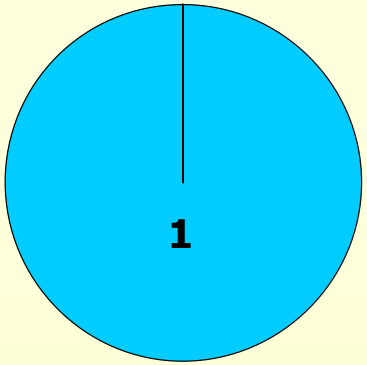
BCS 5

Results

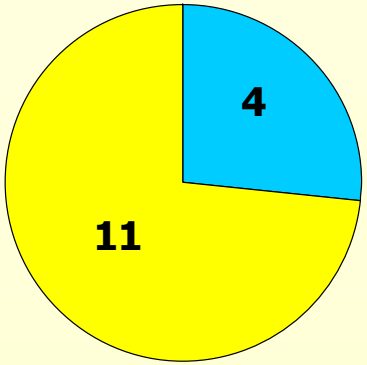
20 collections participated resulting in pictures of 65 (18.47.0) rhinos

Results
(continued)

BCS 2



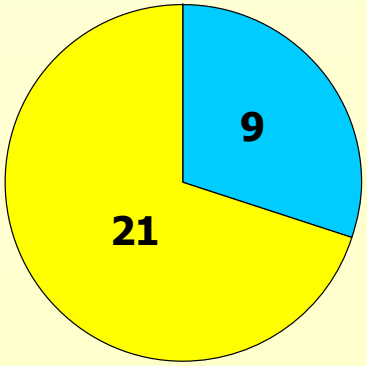
BCS 3



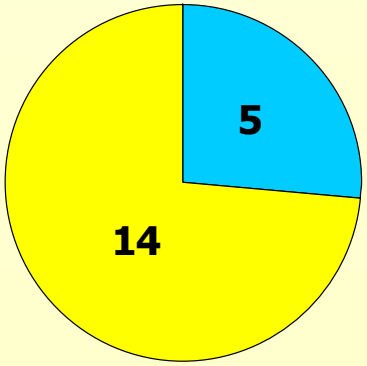
Male

Female

BCS 4



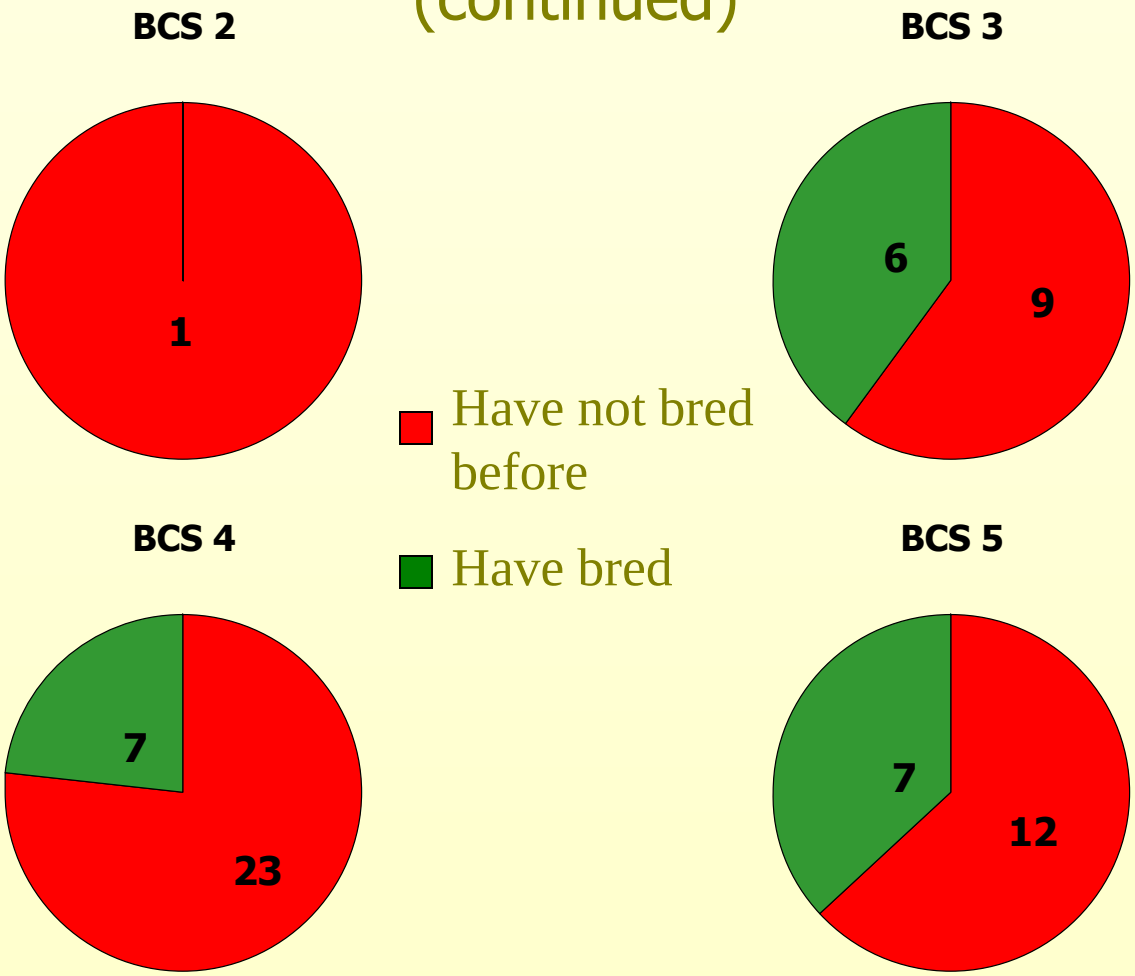
BCS 5



Results
(continued)

Age \ BCS	2	3	4	5
1-10		4	13	4
10-20		5	13	13
20-30		1	2	2
30-40		4	2	
>40	1	1		

Results
(continued)



Conclusion

- The BCS system developed seems to work.

- When comparing all the individual BCSs most rhinos are within BCS 3 or 4.

BCS	1	2	3	4	5
N	0	1	15	30	19

Future

Repeat research next year to keep monitoring the BCS of captive white rhino

Project now includes over 80 rhinos within Europe

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Questions?

td_vdhouten@hotmail.com