

Run little rhino, **run!**

The little rhino galloping round and round like a professional show horse is just having fun and playing with its mate. A wonderful sight and something visitors would probably not expect when visiting a Greater one-horned rhino (aka Indian rhino) exhibit in their nearby zoo.

Friederike von Houwald | Chair, EAZA Rhino Taxon Advisory Group

A adult Greater one-horned (GOH) rhinos are impressive animals. They can weigh over two tonnes, measure 1.8 metres in height and look like they would have difficulties speeding up in their bulky, armour-plated suit. But this look is just protection against possible predators. Deep down in their hearts, GOHs are fast runners and very agile; they can turn and reach high speeds in seconds and love to play. But in general, adult GOHs like to relax.

The zoos that are privileged to have GOHs must have

“Due to their curiosity, Greater one-horned rhinos can be trained to understand many commands”



special knowledge of their needs. Contrary to African rhinos, the Asian GOH rhinos live along riversides, enjoy water and mud, and need soft ground to walk on. They have specialised feet, which do not do well on hard ground; a fact zoos had to learn. When keeping these special water-loving animals, zoos need to provide them with inside and outside pools, mud wallows and soft ground.

In the wild, GOH bulls are solitary, so they are also kept solitarily in zoos. Females do not mind other females, and also do not mind staying alone with their calves. Young calves, especially bulls, start to become a nuisance for the mothers around the age of two to three, when they have to leave her and form loose bachelor groups. This is something zoos also do

when sending young rhinos out to new zoos. Young rhinos love the company of other calves. They are extremely curious and like running together. Seeing two young rhinos play together is probably one of the most memorable sights; they push each other, play fight, and also lick and sleep next to each other when exhausted. The myth that GOHs are slow-moving, bulky and not particularly agile is not true when you meet them.

For the keepers, working with these rhinos is a special challenge. Due to their curiosity, GOHs can easily be trained to understand many commands. They also love to be paid attention; they like to be rubbed, caressed and of course fed with little treats.

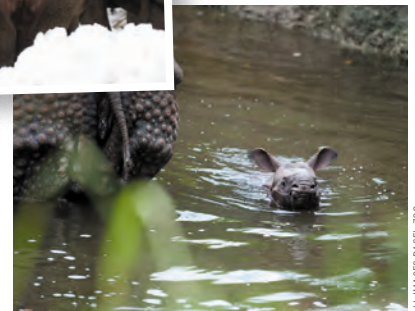
It must be remembered GOHs in zoos remain wild rhinos; there are certain moments when a rhino can suddenly



Greater one-horned rhinos are incredibly curious and young calves love to play

behave totally differently. A lovely bull can suddenly change into a two-tonne train, full of power, unwilling to stop or to respond to commands he has been taught. Especially during mating time, GOH bulls can become very powerful. A bull next to a female in heat will do nearly everything he can to be next to her; doors will be hammered, walls climbed.

It is at this time when a keeper needs to have not only the experience, but also the courage to let them be together and stand back. They will chase each other, bite each other (GOH rhinos do not fight with their horns, but with their teeth) and suddenly they will rest together. This behaviour continues for hours. A lot of zoos are so scared of this behaviour that they hesitate to let them be together, but in the end, the rhinos know what to do. Mating often takes part at night and lasts for about an hour. Sixteen months later, a 60kg calf will be born and will soon start to explore its world of wonders. It will bring huge smiles to everyone who has the wonderful chance to observe such a cute creature.



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Below we would like to thank a few of our top corporate partners.

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Ann & Steve Toon
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Ann & Steve Toon Ann and Steve Toon are wildlife photo-journalists with a specialist interest in African wildlife and conservation. The couple are currently promoting greater awareness of rhino issues and conservation through their Project African Rhino campaign. As great wildlife and rhino supporters, Ann and Steve have donated many valuable photos to SRI to help communicate the plight facing the rhino.

www.africanrhino.org



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The Last Tuesday Society

is 'a "Pataphysical" organisation devoted to exploring and furthering the esoteric, literary and artistic aspects of life in London and beyond'. The Last Tuesday Society runs

events including balls, parties and lectures, donating recent Animal Party profits to SRI.

THE LAST TUESDAY SOCIETY

www.thelasttuesdaysociety.org

Alex Rhind | Design consultant

Alex Rhind is a freelance graphic designer who's been designing *The Horn* and most of our print communications for many years.

When not working with Save the Rhino, Alex works with a number of major businesses and design agencies, creating business communications ranging from holiday catalogues and e-mailers, to brochures and integrated campaigns.

alex@alexrhind.co.uk



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Rory Harding | Michael Hearn Intern

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You are never too young to get involved with fundraising for Save the Rhino, as our recent rhino supporters have shown!

WHY NOT TRY?

- Cake sale
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- Sponsored walk
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- Carol singing
- Art sale
- Swimathon
- Animal quiz
- Concert
- School collections
- Christmas party
- Treasure hunt
- Guess the sweets in a jar
- Skipathon
- Disco
- Book sale
- Battle of the bands event
- Magic show
- Non-uniform day
- Fête
- Talent contest

Getting crafty for rhinos

Mareike (aged 8) from Canada, recently read that there are only around 40 Javan rhinos remaining in the wild, and she decided to do something about it.

For two months, she created works of art to sell at a craft sale in July and had two tables full of her original designs. With help from her younger sister **Rianna**, she raised over \$400 dollars for Javan rhino conservation and spread the word to over 100 people.

Mareike and Rianna also help their Mom deliver newspapers to over 100 homes every week, and are donating every penny towards the Javan rhinos, raising another \$200 so far



You could hold an event at your school, youth club, or even with family and friends. Once you've thought of an idea, get in touch with Katherine at Save the Rhino katherine@savetherhino.org or phone +44 (0)207 7357 7474, or ask an adult to contact us on your behalf

RUNNING FOR RHINOS

Siblings **Faye** and **Kyle** saw a TV report on rhino poaching and decided they wanted to help. So this May, they signed up to the Great Manchester Children's run.



Faye and Kyle are passionate about rhinos; they fundraised by collecting money at school as well as door-to-door in their street. Their parents also helped set up an online Virgin Money Giving page, which they passed on to friends and family around the world. They both had a really exciting experience on race day, with huge numbers of runners and supporters. In total they raised £723!

Rosie gets cycling for rhinos

In early October, **Rosie** decided to help support rhinos by doing a sponsored cycle ride. Rosie cycled 3km around Brockwell Park and has raised £100 so far.



THANKS ALSO TO....

- **Lily** and the **Year 4 pupils at Austhorpe Primary School** who raised £110.22 through a cake sale
- **Serena** and **Phoebe** from **Dragon School Oxford**, for pitching Save the Rhino as the beneficiary charity for Year 7's fundraising activities, raising £400
- **Sean Wyckoff** who collected over \$330 by forgoing birthday presents in turn of donations
- **Milena**, **Lila** and **Clara** from **South Hampstead High School** who raised £38.05 through school fundraising

THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt thanks go to...

We would like to express our warmest thanks to the following individuals, companies and grant-making bodies for their generous support for our work over the last six months. We could not achieve all that we do, without the time, goodwill, and financial and pro-bono support of you all.

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