

The Crash

Newsletter for rhino professionals

October 2014

Inside this issue:

Jane Kennedy

President's Perspective:

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Our new website has finally taken shape and is launched! Much thanks to Jonnie Capiro our new webmaster and to Ray Hren for his dedication over that last few months by keeping our website going. Ray will be taking over our Facebook page while Jonnie focuses on running our website. Feel free to help us by offering articles, information and pictures for Jonnie to keep us updated. We feel the new website is more user-friendly and will be much easier for you to navigate to find the information you need from the IRKA. Pages will slide across and you will easily get to each page for the information on the upcoming workshop, calendar sales, scholarship applications and more. (It's now easier to sign up for Amazon Smile and I-give to help fund the IRKA!)

Speaking of the Conservation Calendar Contest, it is complete and your votes have been tallied! Sara Wunder-Steward and Sean Ramsdell have again done a great job of organizing our calendar and highlighting rhinos worldwide. Sales of calendars will benefit the Ujung Kulon National Park helping protect the remaining Javan rhinos. The funds raised from the sale of the 2015 Rhino Conservation Calendar will go towards the resources needed for the Javan Rhino Conservation Program's Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) and the removal of the invasive Arenga palm in Ujung Kulon National Park.

Our 2015 Rhino Keeper Workshop to be held at the Chester Zoo is coming along. We have abstracts coming in now and hope you too will consider speaking at our upcoming conference. Part of the unique quality of our workshop is its combination of speakers from world renowned researchers, to veterinarians, to managers, and to hands-on keepers. As a team we share our knowledge and bring the rhino conservation community closer, better serving rhinos world-wide. With almost 900 rhinos lost this year, our efforts must be effective in order to save our charges. Attend the workshop and learn more of what you can do to help your rhinos and those in the wild.

Another way to help our organization is for your institution to consider hosting a future Rhino Keeper Workshop. The commitment to sponsor the RKW is both gratifying and empowering. The ability to share your institution's work with rhinoceros and the conservation of this magnificent species can be a highlight for your organization. It can demonstrate your facility's commitment to the preservation of this species by sharing your knowledge of this crucially endangered species. Additionally it can be a way to bring attention to your zoo/park and better connect the public with your efforts to help rhinoceros and all animals under your care. While hosting is a challenge, the IRKA makes the commitment to partially fund the workshop, coordinate speaker selections, and work alongside you to insure a great learning experience. See my article for details on hosting, possibly in 2017!Joe Hauser, our newest board member and Training Committee Chair, has a great article about ultrasound in rhinos. He also shares his background and how he will serve you on the board. World Rhino Day celebrations were held at several zoos and parks, see Jonnie Capiro's article on how we

celebrated rhinos worldwide and in our own San Diego backyard.

As rhino caretakers it is a sad time for the northern white rhino. We lost Suni, the adult bull who was living in the OI Pejeta Reserve, Kenya, to what appears to be natural causes. (He was 34 years old.) This makes what we do all the more important as we all have the same goal in mind, save rhinos worldwide. I now have the sad privilege of caring for the last northern white male in captivity, Angalifu. "Angi" is 42, so every day with him is a blessing. At next year's Rhino Keeper Workshop I hope to share our work at the Safari Park with him using stem cell therapy. Our membership in the International Rhino Keeper Association makes a difference for rhinos across the globe. When you invest in a calendar, attend a workshop, celebrate World Rhino Day or just buy something from Amazon Smile or I-give, you make a difference. Rhinos rely on us....Angi and Suni say thank you!



"Mike Veale training Angi for stem cell therapy."

Jane

Learn. Share. Save.

iGive.com Fundraising Campaign

Join iGive.com for free so that International Rhino Keeper Association can earn money whenever you shop online. We'll also get \$5 for each new supporter in October. Plus, iGive is giving away another special \$2,000 in October to the top three people who get the most friends to join and use the iGive Button. You can support our cause, or your own favorite group. There will be one \$1,000 winner, and two \$500 winners. All you need to do is try the iGive Button through January 15, 2015. No purchase necessary!

iGive is a free service where shopping at any of 1582 stores like Amazon, Travelocity, Overstock, and many more, means a donation to your favorite cause.



I hope you'll give it a try. Here's the link: http://www.igive.com/mTeQcRr

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IRKA Board of Directors Welcomes.....

I am honored to be the newest elected board member of the International Rhino Keeper Association. It is very exciting to have the opportunity to work with many dedicated and passionate people in this professional organization. I had the chance to meet many members of the IRKA, but I hope to meet many more of you while I serve my term on the BOD. As I serve my term, I would like to help every member get as much as possible out of this organization as they would like. There is a great deal of knowledge among the membership to share and learn from each other to benefit the rhinos under our care. The duties I will be working on as a BOD member is continuing the training committee, serving on the scholarship committee, and helping with the Keeper Development Program. I encourage everyone to take advantage of all the opportunities that the IRKA has to offer! I look forward to working with all of you and hope to see you at the Rhino Keeper Workshop in Chester!

Joe Hauser

Buffalo Zoo



Joe and his new little GOH "Monica"!

Transabdominal and Transrectal Ultrasound Training in a Chute

Joe Hauser, Buffalo Zoo

Performing an ultrasound on a rhino has many benefits. By performing an ultrasound on a rhino, one can see reproductive organs, as well as other organs and structures. A transrectal ultrasound on a female rhino allows one to view the uterus, ovaries, follicles, fetus, cysts, bladder, kidneys, and corpus luteal structures on an ovary. Through a transrectal ultrasound on a male rhino, one can view the kidneys and the accessory sex glands, which include the bulbourethral gland, prostate, and seminal vesicles. By performing an ultrasound on the outside of the body, one can view the male's testicles.

At the Buffalo Zoo, we trained our one female Indian rhino to prepare her for both transrectal and transabdominal ultrasounds, so that we could monitor her during pregnancy. To do so, we trained her to be comfortably restrained in a rhino chute system for both types of ultrasounds. We chose to perform the ultrasound in the rhino chute because we had already trained the rhinos in the chute for other veterinary procedures. We chose to train the rhino for the transrectal ultrasound first. We did so because the transrectal ultrasound is the only means in which the fetus is viewable during the first stage of gestation, which lasts approximately 100 to 110 days.

During the process to train the rhino in the chute for the ultrasounds, two keepers were involved in every training session. We kept the first sessions very short (length of approximately 5 minutes) and then gradually increased the time of the sessions. The rhino entered the chute by being targeted by the first keeper, who worked the rhino at its head. Then, the second keeper closed the door behind the rhino and slowly restrained the rhino with the hydraulic gate. The first keeper, at the rhino's head, used continuous reinforcement during the session, while the second keeper stood behind the rhino and touched its tail. We continued these sessions until the rhino had no reaction to its tail being touched. Then, we proceeded to lift the rhino's tail and touch the outside of the rhino's rectum with a gloved hand. For safety reasons, we

opened a bar on the hydraulic gate to gain more access to the rear end of the rhino and placed a diagonal chain on the gate to prevent the rhino from shifting to one side of the chute and injuring the keeper's arm. We had the rhino get used to the sound of a chain and moving bars while in the chute. Once she was trained to be safely positioned in the chute, we started to slowly enter the rectum of the rhino with a lubed and gloved hand. Starting off small, the keeper only inserted his hand in the rhino's rectum with a glove and an all-purpose, non-spermicidal lubricant. Meanwhile, the first keeper, at the rhino's head, continued to use continuous reinforcement. At this point, the training sessions were still approximately 5 minutes. We only proceeded further with the training once the rhino was comfortable at each current step. Very slowly, we increased the depth that we inserted our arm into the rhino's rectum, going all the way up to our shoulder. Once the rhino was consistently comfortable with the keeper inserting their arm all the way up to their shoulder, we started increasing the duration of the session, ultimately reaching approximately 20 minutes long.



Trans rectal training

When the keepers arm was inside the rhino's rectum, he made a fist with his hand and moved it around to mimic the feeling of an ultrasound probe. Then, the last step was to introduce the actual probe. Most rectal ultrasound probes are no bigger than the size of a human fist, so we did not see any reaction from the rhino when we inserted the probe. When the probe was inserted, the keeper placed his hand around the probe and then moved it around inside of the rhino. It is important to note that whoever is doing the ultrasound should always take precautions and be careful to not damage anything on the inside of the rhino's rectum. I recommend consulting with the veterinarian at your institution during the training process.

Once our rhino was further into gestation, we started transabdominal ultrasounds. This process is less invasive and much easier to train. We continued training with the same two keepers involved, one at rhino's head and the other working around the rhino. Since the skin on the rhino is so thick, the only area where the ultrasound beam penetrates deep enough is the mammary gland.

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Our female rhino entered the chute and was targeted by the first keeper. Then, the second keeper knelt on the side of the rhino and touched around the rear legs and the mammary gland. The rhino became used to this process relatively quickly. In the next step, we placed some lubricant on the mammary gland of the rhino and the second keeper moved his hand around on the mammary gland to mimic an ultrasound probe. Finally, we introduced the actual ultrasound probe and started doing the transabdominal ultrasound. As with the transrectal ultrasound, we continued transabdominal ultrasound sessions until the sessions lasted 20 minutes.

During the training process, the same two keepers should be involved in the training to provide the rhino with consistency until the behavior is fully trained. Once the rhino is fully trained, I recommend that the keepers/veterinarians/researchers rotate, so that the rhino gets used to different individuals performing the ultrasounds.



Transabdominal examination



2015 Conservation Calendar Update

In 2014, we sold out of 600 Rhino Conservation Calendars in 12 weeks! The IRKA has produced the Rhino Conservation Calendar for three years now and we have raised close to \$30,000, all of which went directly to rhino conservation projects! The funds raised from the sale of the 2015 Rhino Conservation Calendar will go towards the resources needed for the Javan Rhino Conservation Program's Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) and the removal of the invasive Arenga palm. It is estimated that there are fewer than 50 Javan rhinos remaining in one population in the Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP), Java's largest remaining lowland forest tract. The population is thought to be stable, but unlikely to grow without intervention as the UKNP is probably at carrying capacity.

The RPUs are highly trained anti-poaching teams that intensively patrol key areas within areas containing rhinos. RPUs deactivate traps and snares and apprehend illegal intruders, including poachers, and investigate crime scenes, thus preventing or reducing the loss of wildlife. RPU patrols have proven to be a successful deterrent to rhino poaching as there have been no reported rhino poaching deaths in UKNP for the past 15 years. An invasive palm (Arenga obtusifolia) is rampant in UKNP, and if not controlled, will continue to reduce the growth of Javan rhino food plants and have further serious impacts on plant and animal diversity in the park. An estimated 60% (18,000 hectare) of the Park is covered with Arenga palm. The UKNP currently manages a number of plots, no more than 5 contiguous hectares, to reduce Arenga palm and after the removal is completed, staff closely monitors plant density and distribution in the plots.

The UKNP does not have the resources to adequately fund proactive measures to prevent harm to its diverse, at-peril biodiversity. As human populations increase and threats from illegal activities, such as poaching and encroachment grow, the protection provided by the RPUs and trained locals remain crucial for the survival of Indonesian fauna and their habitat.

Calendars on sale now for \$27 each (free shipping domestic and international)

Go to www.internationalrhinokeeperassociation.org to order yours NOW!

2014 World Rhino Day Events



World Rhino Day was also an opportunity for the San Diego IRKA members and guests to fund raise for rhino conservation. "Winos for Rhinos" was held for the second year at Vinz Wine Bar in Escondido. Members bid on raffle and auction items raising almost \$4,000 for the IRKA. This money will be used to help fund keeper programs and in-situ conservation. Members also bought Rhino Conservation Calendars and as a group "adopted Andatu" raising another \$520 directly for the IRF. Great job!

A few weeks ago, several of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park's exhibits were crashed by herds of rhinos! Nothing to worry about, it was just World Rhino Day, and we wanted to make sure that rhinos had a presence throughout the entire Park. Our dedicated volunteer enrichment committee created about 30 cardboard rhinos that were displayed in exhibits for guests to enjoy and learn about why World Rhino Day is important. We also had a small booth with an art activity for the kids and rhino horn artifact for guests to view up close. Every guest that visited the booth received a solidarity ribbon to show their support for rhinos.









San Diego volunteers in action!



Great signage and rhino information by Columbus Zoo



International Rhino Keeper Association

Chester Zoo

14th to 18th June 2015





CHESTER ZOO UPTON BY CHESTER, CH2 1LH <u>WWW.CHESTERZOO.ORG</u> CHESTER ZOO IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 306007

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REGISTRATION FEES	Professional		Associate		Non-member	
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Early registration before 31 December 2014	£135.00		£145.00	1	£177.00	114
Registration from 1 January – 30 April 2015 Registration from 1 May – 8 June 2015	£170.00 £189.00		£180.00		£226.00 £251.00	
Registration from 1 May – 8 June 2015	1189.00		£200.00	14 - C	1251.00	1
DAY RATES	Professional Member rates		Associate Member rates		Non-member rates	
Sun, 14 June 2015 Icebreaker 19:00	£30	3 - 18	£30	18	£35	10
Mon, 15 June 2015 Workshop	£45	35. 55	£45	1 32 D	£50	1. 1. 1. 1.
Tues, 16 June 2015 Workshop & Rhino May	£45	22	£45	100	£50	
Day Wed, 17 June 2015 Zoo Day & BBQ	£50		£50		£60	
Thurs, 18 June 2015 Workshop & Gala Dinner	£70	- <u>11</u>	£70	a y	£80	the plan
Please note any special dietary requirements: I am interested in participating in the following: Facility focus - a short PowerPoint presentation highlighting your facility Presentation (non-facility focus) Poster presentation Published delegates list: Please include me on the published delegates list and include Image: mean and the mean and the published delegates list and include Image: mean and the mean and t						
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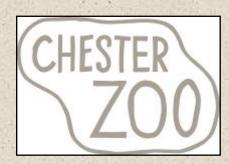


2015 IRKA Rhino Keeper Workshop Update and Information

The Rhino Keeper Workshop is being hosted by Chester Zoo.

The conference venue is the Queen Hotel, City Road, Chester CHI 3AH, UK.

ACCOMMODATION



Queen Hotel, City Road, Chester CHI 3AH, UK. Tel +44(0)1244 305000 / email <u>queenhotel@bestwestern.co.uk</u> / website: http://www.feathers.uk.com/premier-gueen-hotel/

Room rates at the conference venue range from £79.00-£130 per night (plus an extra £20.00 for dual occupancy). An allocation of 80 rooms per night has been placed on hold, please phone the Reservations Team on +44 (0)1244 305000 and **quote group code ZO140615**

Nearby accommodation

Best Western Westminster Hotel, City Road, Chester CH1 3AF (sister hotel to Queen Hotel and 1 min walk), Tel +44(0)1244 317341 / email <u>rooms-westminster@feathers.uk.com</u> Special negotiated room rates single £69 B&B, double occupancy £79.00 B&B. Please **quote CZ0015**

Premier Inn City Road, Chester CHI 3AE. Rooms from £74.00 http://www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/CHEBAR/chester-city-centre

Please note delegates are responsible for making their own bookings for accommodation. For more details of other hotels and guest houses around Chester please go to <u>http://www.visitchester.com/</u>

Pre workshop Trips:

- Thursday II, June Port Lympne Wild Animal Park: http://www.aspinalfoundation.org/port-lympne
- Friday 12, June West Midlands Safari Park: http://www.wmsp.co.uk/visit-stay.php
 - **** All cost TBD, but will be mostly free or minimal, minus cost of lodge & travel.

Post workshop Trips:

- Friday 19, June Knowsley Safari Park: http://www.knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk/
- Saturday 20, June Flamingo Land: http://www.flamingoland.co.uk/
 **** All costs to TBD, but will be mostly be free or minimal, minus cost of lodging and travel.



PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment method:

Enclosed UK sterling cheque £_____ (made payable to Chester Zoo). Please note we are only able to accept cheques in sterling and that are drawn on a UK bank account.

Please quote 'IRKA' followed by delegate's n	name - (eg IRKA – A N Other)	alles and the second second
Bank details: Account Name: Chester Zoo B	ank: Santander Sort Code: 09-02-22	
Account number 10146981 IBAN: GB11ABB	BY09022210146981 BIC/SWIF	T: ABBYGB2LXXX
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Please send completed form to Karen King-Sharp either by email: <u>k.kingsharp@chesterzoo.org</u> or post: Chester Zoo – Cedar House, Caughall Road, Upton by Chester CH2 ILH, UK. For general enquires please email <u>rhinoworkshop@chesterzoo.org</u> or phone +44 (0)1244 650223

Hosting a Future IRKA Workshop: Jane Kennedy, San Diego Zoo Safari Park



Thank you for considering hosting a future Rhino Keeper Workshop. As chairperson for the 2001 and 2013 workshop I am aware of the commitment you are considering to help make the IRKA's dissemination of information for rhinoceros conservation possible. What you do does make a difference for rhinos.

For 2017 and future RKWs we will be instituting a formal application process for hosting. Applicants must be willing to work with the IRKA and sign a Document of Good Faith outlining their commitment to the Workshop. While several zoos have already stepped forward asking to be considered as future hosts we want any facility that has interest to apply. Team hosting is also encouraged as happened in 2005 with the "Ohio RKW" where the Columbus Zoo was the primary host and The Wilds, and the Cincinnati Zoo helped with partial sponsorship.

Things we consider in choosing a host are the facility's rhino program and its conservation efforts, big and small, ability to supplementally fund the workshop, (many facilities are able to pay for all workshop costs through registration fees) and your location. We are committed to shifting where each workshop is held to better allow our membership to attend the RKW. While visiting San Diego again was great, we should reach out to different areas to highlight how others care for their rhinos.

The commitment to sponsor a Rhino Keeper Workshop is both gratifying and empowering. The ability to share your institution's work with rhinoceros and the conservation of this magnificent species can be a highlight for your organization. It can demonstrate your facility's commitment to the preservation of this species by sharing your knowledge of this crucially endangered species. Additionally it can be a way to bring attention to your zoo/ park and better connect the public with your efforts to help rhinoceros and all animals under your care. While the financial burden falls to the hosting institution, the IRKA makes the commitment to partially fund the workshop and work alongside you to insure a great learning experience. We also offer scholarships to each conference which increases our membership attendance.

The key to a great workshop is a great hosting team. The team you build will be what makes your workshop the best workshop ever. Team commitment and institutional support are a must. Choosing your team with the right people will make hosting easier. Finding people willing to dedicate time to their assigned tasks and knowing they will follow through for you is imperative. While some may bring specific talents and organizational skills, don't overlook the novice that may have the enthusiasm and drive to get some of the more mundane jobs done. While the size of RKW hosting teams may vary, (from 3-4 to 20 people) the commitment from each person should not. A small group of talented, dedicated people can do it all, but a larger group can make it easier and a less stressful job.

A signed agreement between your institution and the IRKA president must be completed 18 months before the workshop. In the chance that after signing your institution can no longer host, 12 months notice is required so as to give the IRKA time to find another venue and/or reschedule the workshop. While this would be difficult for the IRKA, it would be preferred to a workshop that lacks the quality of what is expected from Rhino Keeper Workshops.

The plight of rhinos is tenuous at best. The escalation of poaching worldwide has put their future in our hands. What we do over the next 10 years may make the difference of whether rhinos are here for the next generation to care for. Sharing our knowledge of rhinoceros management and the latest in rhino research can lead the way back for rhinos. Hosting a Rhino Keeper Workshop is a rewarding way for your institution to share your efforts in rhino conservation. We hope this information has helped you consider your role as a rhinoceros conservation leader by taking on the responsibility of a future Rhino Keeper Workshop. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Thank you for joining the efforts to help rhinos...

Jane Kennedy President, International Rhino Keeper Association Learn. Share. Save. jkennedy@sandiegozoo.org



IRKA members making new friends!



BOD members at 2013 RKW

"Rhino Buddies"

Sponsor an IRKA Professional Membership for an International Rhino Keeper!

For \$25 a year, you can sponsor a Rhino Keeper from around the World whom may not have the means to pay for

their own IRKA Membership. If you sponsor a Rhino Keeper, you will be connected to the Rhino Keeper you are sponsoring via email so you can keep in touch, share ideas, learn about other countries and cultures,

and in particular, learn about each other's rhinos!

If you are interested in Sponsoring a Rhino Keeper, please email Jennifer Conaghan at jconaghan@zoo.nsw.gov.au with your name, email address, institution, and species of rhino you care for.

*Note: Please be aware that English may not be your sponsored Rhino Keeper's first language! If you do speak a language other than English, please let us know. Otherwise, please be understanding of the language barriers and remember- you are both share a passion for RHINOS!



Correspondence Updates:

The IRKA send our congratulations and celebrate with the following institutions:

- Jacksonville acquisition SW rhino
- Zoo Miami female black birth
- Buffalo Zoo female GOH Al birth
- Audubon Zoo acquisition SW rhino
- Oklahoma City male GOH birth
- Calgary Zoo acquisition GOH
- SDZSP male black birth
- Baton Rouge Zoo acquisition GOH in new exhibit
- Gladys Porter Zoo acquisition white rhino
- The Wilds GOH birth
- SDZSP female GOH birth



2014 New and Renewing Members to IRKA

Jade Tuttle N	Jorth Carolina Zoo, Keeper 2
S. Wiseman	
Tina Olling	
Jennifer Fedesna	
Angela Binney	
Janel Jankowski	
	rican Lion Safari, Hoofstock Supervisor
Mickey Crocker	rical Lion Salah, Hooistock Supervisor
Carol Bresnay	
Leendert Rookmaak	
	er
Amy Rose	
Edward Beyer	
	RZA Zoo & Rhno Orphanage in KwaZulu-Natal
	strict, SA
Ellen Wieczorek	A
-	ney Animal Kingdom
Linda Pastor	
- ,	n Francisco Zoo, Animal Keeper
Jennifer Gruenewald	
Cassandra Kutilek	
Denise Wagner	
Jason Faessler	
	dianapolis Zoo, Senior Keeper
Bonnie Reda	
Sheridan	
Alice Elliott	
Lawrence Sammarco	
Natalia Oviedo	
Wendy Grave	
Kelly Brady	
Steve White	
	okeeper 11 Hoofstock, Albuquerque Bio Park
Robin Smith	
Thijs van den Houte	n
Samantha de Belle	
	Lincoln Park Zoo, Animal keeper
Katie Edwards	
Elizabeth Benecke	
	Keeper I, The Maryland Zoo
Elizabeth Jagenow	
Paige Wiggins	Large Hoofstock keeper, Baton Rouge Zoo

Renewing Institutions:

- Tulsa Zoo
- ♦ Cincinnati Zoo
- Henry Vilas
- The Maryland Zoo
- Tanganyika Wildlife Park
- Cameron Park Zoo
- African Lion Safari
- Buffalo Zoo
- Audubon Zoo
- ♦ Taronga Zoo
- Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- Chicago Zoological Society
- Columbus Zoo
- The Wilds
- Zoological Society of San Diego
- Earth Promise (DBA Fossil Rim)
- Potter Park Zoo
- Lowry Park Zoo

