



# THE CRASH

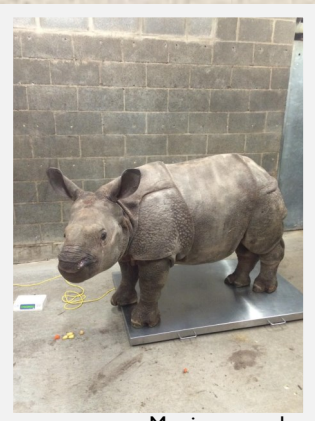
Newsletter for rhino professionals

February 2015

## President's Perspective

Jane Kennedy, President  
International Rhino Keeper Association

As a new year begins we all look back at the year that has passed. For rhinoceros it has been an up and down year. We again had a greater one-horned rhino born through artificial insemination. "Monica" came into the world in June and is now a healthy "little" girl topping 900 pounds! She is the apple of her keeper's eye, Joe Häuser and named for her "Al mom" Dr. Monica Stoops. Dr. Stoops and the Buffalo Zoo team worked together perfecting the technique



Monica on scale

for inseminating "Tasha" with sperm from deceased bull "Jimmy" who died in 2004. It took the first time they tried! Joe will be sharing at our Rhino Keeper Workshop how he and the team were able to have such success the first time out. Joe also leads our training committee and would love to talk to you about how you train your calves for a future article in the Crash. This issue's training article is about crate training, by Mike Connolly. Mike will also be attending the RKW sharing a Facility Focus on the Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum.

The Updated Rhino Husbandry Manual is finally here! Lara Metrione and Adam Eyers have been working on this updated manual for some time. It is a living document and will require correction from time to time. Its electronic format fits the need for updating as information changes. While the entire RHM is available online, we have chosen to share excerpts from it here on the Crash to help better develop keeper skills. Our first segment will cover acknowledgments and the overall crisis facing rhinos. These short segments will tie together topics in an easier to read format. At 327 pages reading the RHM in one sitting can be a daunting task, we hope breaking it up may encourage all of us to read it and use it as a reference for caring for our rhinos. A special thank you to Susie Ellis of IRF and Steve Shurter Chair of the RAG for allowing us to reprint parts of the manual in the Crash. Please note as you are reading that in just a few short months since publication some information is already outdated. Corrected information is noted in parenthesis.

Unfortunately, we have also had set backs in the world of rhino conservation. A record 1215 rhinos were poached last year in South Africa alone. Poaching has reared its ugly head with rhino losses in areas that have been safe for many years. Namibia, which had gone years without poaching, now is trying the extreme of de-horning some of its rhinos in an attempt to save them. Drastic times require drastic measures.

For me personally the passing of Angalifu the northern white rhino (Angi to us) was a difficult time. We all knew Angi's time was coming because he was at least 42! The longevity for NWR is 44, so he was close to the end. As a team we had been using stem cell therapy to help him with his chronic arthritis. I had hoped to share a positive outcome at the RKW this June, but that was not to be. Angi died on Sunday, Dec 14th; we were planning an immobilization Dec. 17th to better evaluate his condition. His passing a

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few days before confirmed our fears that he was much sicker than we thought. On necropsy we found he had metastasized cancer, something stem cell therapy can't help. I will still share Angi's story at the RKW, but from a different perspective. With his death there are now only 5 NWR left in the world. Our lone female NWR Nola is receiving extra pampering because she is age 40 plus! We have now transitioned to a hospice care plan for her knowing her time is coming soon. What we do for this species can make a difference for all rhinos; membership in the IRKA can help us all better learn how to care for our aging rhino population, and how to help ensure all rhinos have a future on our planet.

The RKW is coming along well; the Chester Team is doing a smash up job for us! Speaker abstracts are rolling in and this promises to be another great workshop. Dr. Susie Ellis will again deliver "The State of the Rhino" as our opening keynote speaker. Her European counterpart Cathy Dean, of Save the Rhino International (SRI), will moderate on Tuesday's "Rhino May Day." Some of us may not know the Rhino May Day is hosted by SRI and the London Zoo, and is an annual event. It is a special opportunity for both the IRKA and SRI to meld their rhino meetings, enhancing both.

The scholarship application period is over and we will soon notify you of those who will qualify for financial help. Please remember our policy has been to award either by direct payment of the registration fee by the IRKA, or by receiving a check at the RKW for you to deposit later. Because we are traveling overseas, it will not be feasible to give US dollars at the RKW. Also since the scholarship amount may exceed the registration fee, those who chose to have the IRKA pay their registration fee may receive an additional check at the RKW. Application does not guarantee receiving a scholarship, but we will do our best to accommodate all.

Finally I'd like to encourage all of you to consider hosting the RKW in 2017 or 2019. The next few RKWs should be in North America. We have had several zoos ask about information, but have not received applications to host as of yet. The best way for us to serve you is to know ahead of time who may be interested in hosting in the future. Please feel free to contact me or any board member about hosting a RKW at your facility. Remember, regional RKWs are another way to host without having all of the responsibility fall on one facility.

I look forward to seeing you this June, and pray you and your rhinos have a prosperous new year.

As always: Learn. Share. Save.



Dave Gonzales-retired lead keeper with Angi in 2010