

DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY



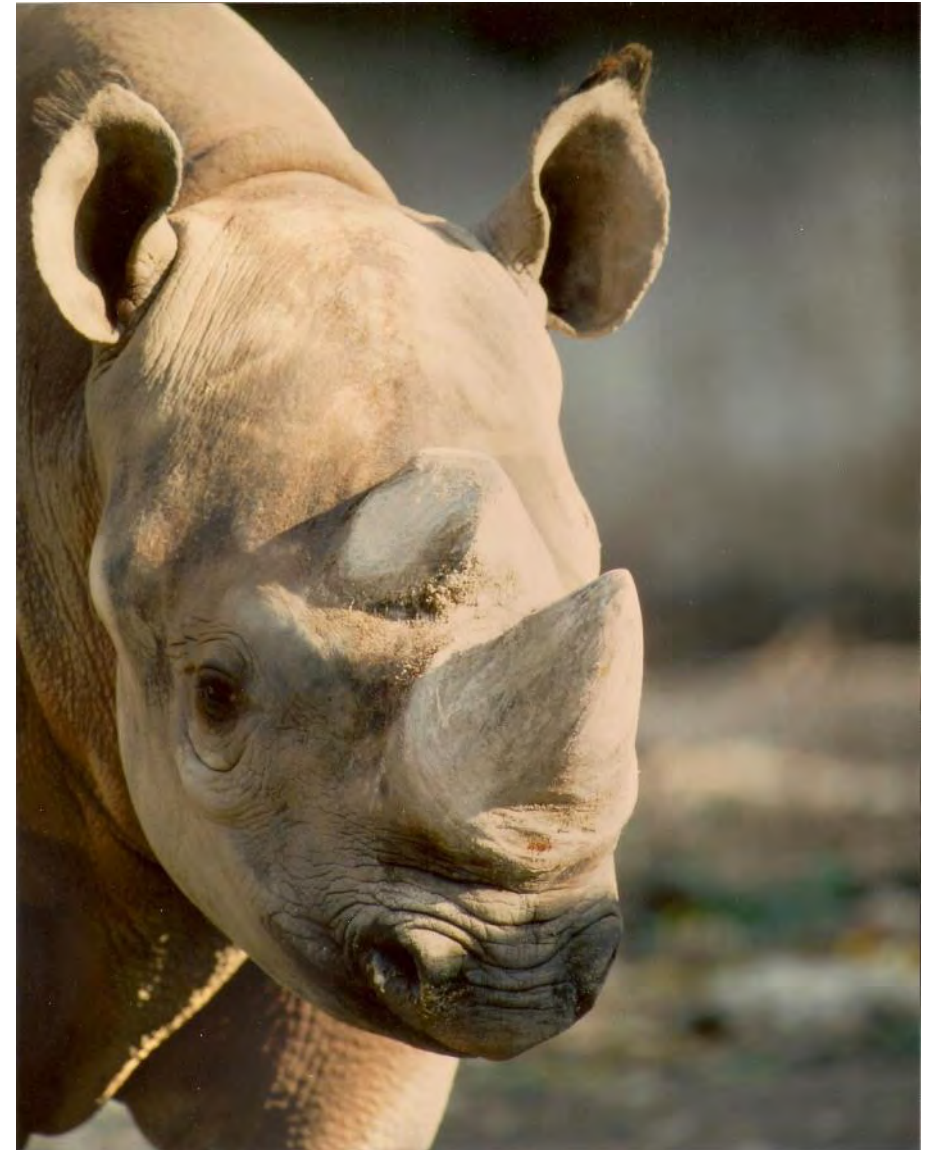
# Rhinoceros Foot Care Education

- Judy Stephens
- Principal Keeper - Mammals
- Detroit Zoo – 21 years
  - 2 ½ years Bird Section
  - Transferred to Mammals



# Rudy

- Black Rhinoceros
- Cared for him from 1998 until his death in 2001
- Brought focus to my career
- Attended all Rhino workshops
- Taken several informal work study trips including three days at Auckland Zoo after the Australian workshop
- Formal three day Keeper development trip at San Diego Zoo Safari Park





# Jasiri & Tamba

- Currently care for two Southern White Rhinoceros bulls
- Arrived June 10, 2005



# Laying Foundation



- Five day barn keeper for two years
- Continued as relief keeper until 2005 when the rhinos arrived
- I worked with equine farrier, Jeff, on his regular, routine visits
- Responsible for day-to-day hoof care on both our donkeys and horses
- Learned preventative care/problem-solving





- Work begins soon after arrival
- Comfortable with basic tools needed
- Desensitize rhinos to being touched
- Translated knowledge of hoof/frog care to nail/pad care





# Utilize In-house Experience

- Moving forward, encountered situations beyond my experience/knowledge
- Used former elephant keepers as both a sounding board and source of knowledge



# Effective Use of Workshops



- Brainstorming and sharing experiences with keepers from around the world
- Expert guest speakers across a variety of fields
- In 2013, presented a “facilities focus” in order to show a room full of rhino keepers a cuticle sore problem
- Presentation resulted in Jane Kennedy issuing an invitation to San Diego Zoo Safari Park

# Keeper Development Trip



Photo courtesy of San Diego Zoo Safari Park

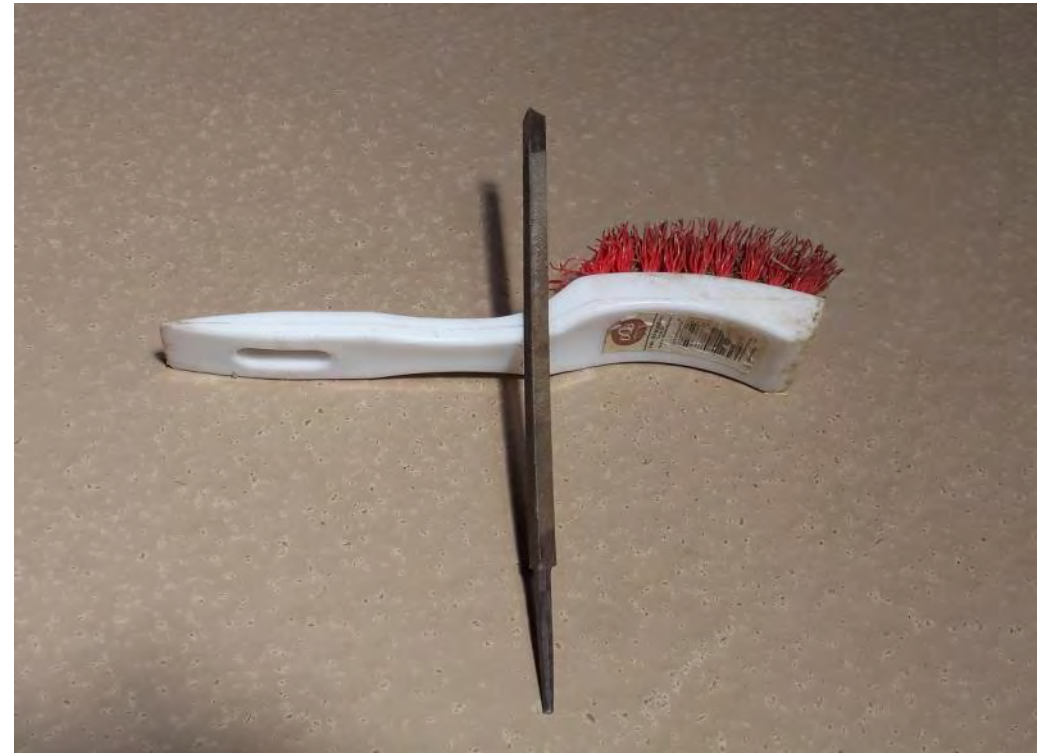
- Hands-on experience with keepers who do foot care as part of normal husbandry
- Gave me the opportunity to ask the keepers questions and explore their thought processes during actual foot care
- Confidence gained by having a “safety net”
- Ability to put all I learned into practice



# Tools



- Self-confidence to incorporate use of knives after keeper development trip



## Magic Tool

- Beth, former elephant keeper, supplied this nail file based on her experience with the elephants
- Effective in addressing nail wall cracks



# Social Media Facebook IRKA Message Board Group

- Safe place to ask questions
- Post pictures
- Learn what other keepers are doing
- Use other keepers questions to find answers for myself
- Thank you, Jonnie Caprio!



# Slow Road To Success

January 2013



May 2013





# Progress Made



# Operant Conditioning

- Behaviors needed
  - Move Up
  - Back
  - Lean in
  - Steady
  - Down



Photo by Tom Roy



# Desensitizing Needed

- Having feet manipulated
- Vibrations from rasp
- Tug of knives





Goal Achieved!



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DETROIT ZOO ♦ BELLE ISLE NATURE ZOO

Thank you!

Any Questions?