

2017 Rhino Calendar



Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship: Roxanne Losey

Life has a funny way of putting you exactly where you are supposed to be sometimes. I am speaking about my trip to Chester Zoo for the 2015 International Rhino Keeper Workshop. Due to a cross country move and change of jobs my original plans to present on Iron Overload in black rhinos were completely scuttled. Anyone that has spoken to me for more than 3 ½ seconds, or should I say listened to me, knows my passion for this issue. To say I was disappointed that I could not attend would be a great understatement. Everything changed in early April with a phone call from IRKA president Jane Kennedy “Congratulations, you have been awarded the Tom Foose Memorial Scholarship”. I sat in disbelief, somewhere between honored, grateful and confused, but then it slowly sunk in. Between the Tom Foose Scholarship and the generous IRKA grant I would in fact be able to attend and present at the conference.

It was my great honor to present this particular topic with Dr. Don Paglia in attendance. His great passion to combat this disorder is unparalleled and to offer him the final piece to the puzzle, the proof to his theory, will be a moment I will not forget in this lifetime. Coming together with Rotterdam’s rhino team and basking in all that they have accomplished in putting together a Large Volume Phlebotomy program was another immeasurable highlight. It is simply undeniable that we were all meant to be at that conference together to make the greatest impact in the community.

Six months have passed and I have had much communication from other keepers that have worked hard to get their pelleted diet changed to Mazuri 5ZIP and even a few that are starting up a Large Volume Phlebotomy Program. I am pleased that I had the opportunity to present usable data and to perhaps be a motivator for other keepers in making a leap with their vet staff and management. I now sit on the board of directors for Mike Veale’s Global Conservation Force, who coincidentally was also nominated for the Tom Foose Award and whom I certainly would not have come into contact with had I not been at that workshop. We are extremely busy fundraising and churning out more gear to the rangers fighting the toughest fight for our beloved wild rhinos.

I am so grateful to Don Paglia for his long term endowment to keep the Tom Foose Scholarship active and to the IRKA Board Members that awarded me the scholarship. They put me in a place I didn’t think possible, speaking about something so important to the browsing rhino community and unbeknownst to any of us, creating my next venture. My passion for helping facilities combat IOD will never waiver but I am so excited to have a new venue for my energies. I hope every board member that reads this is smiling, realizing what an instrumental role you played in once again putting me right where I am supposed to be, helping rhinos.



Roxanne and Dr. Paglia