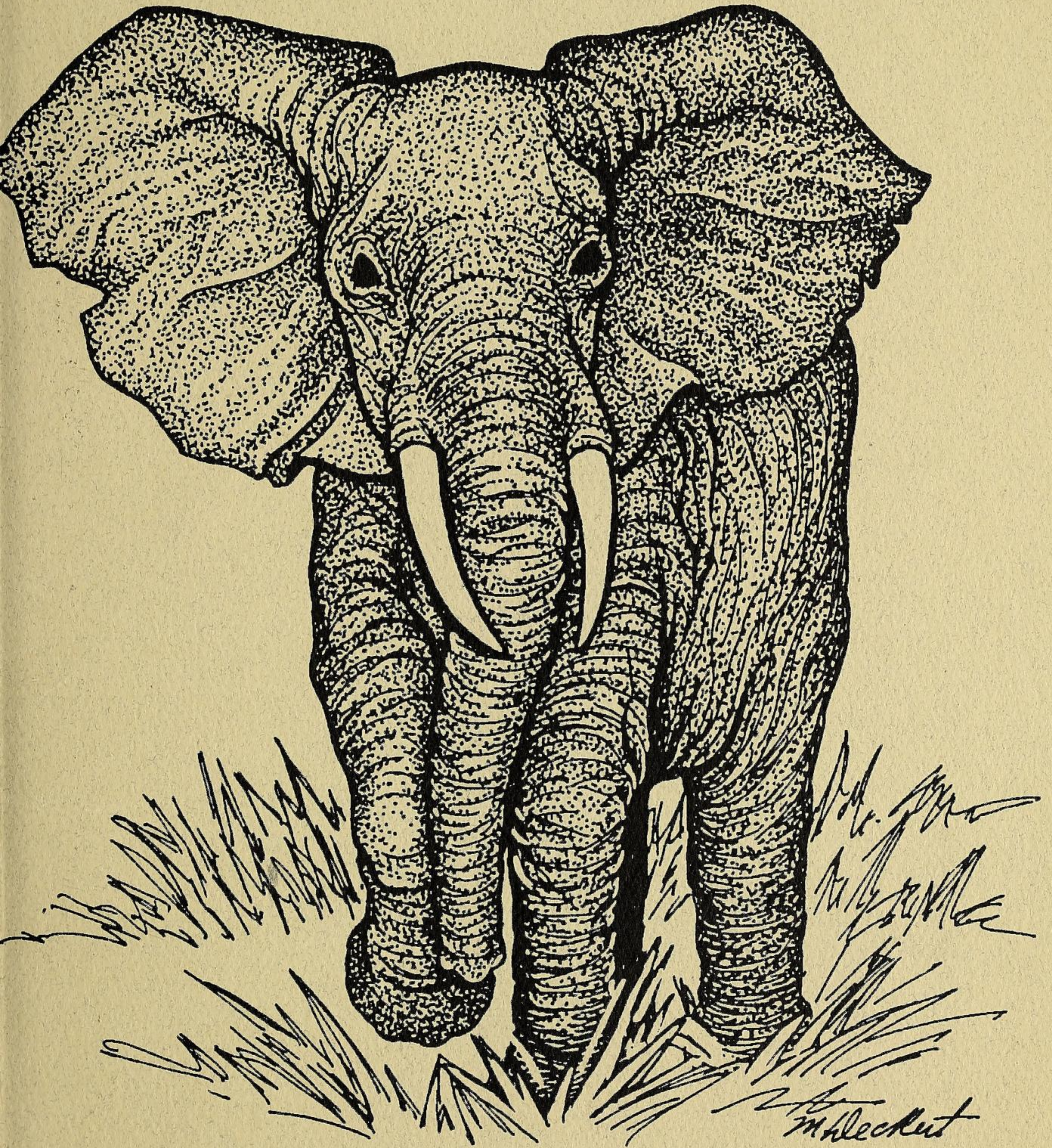


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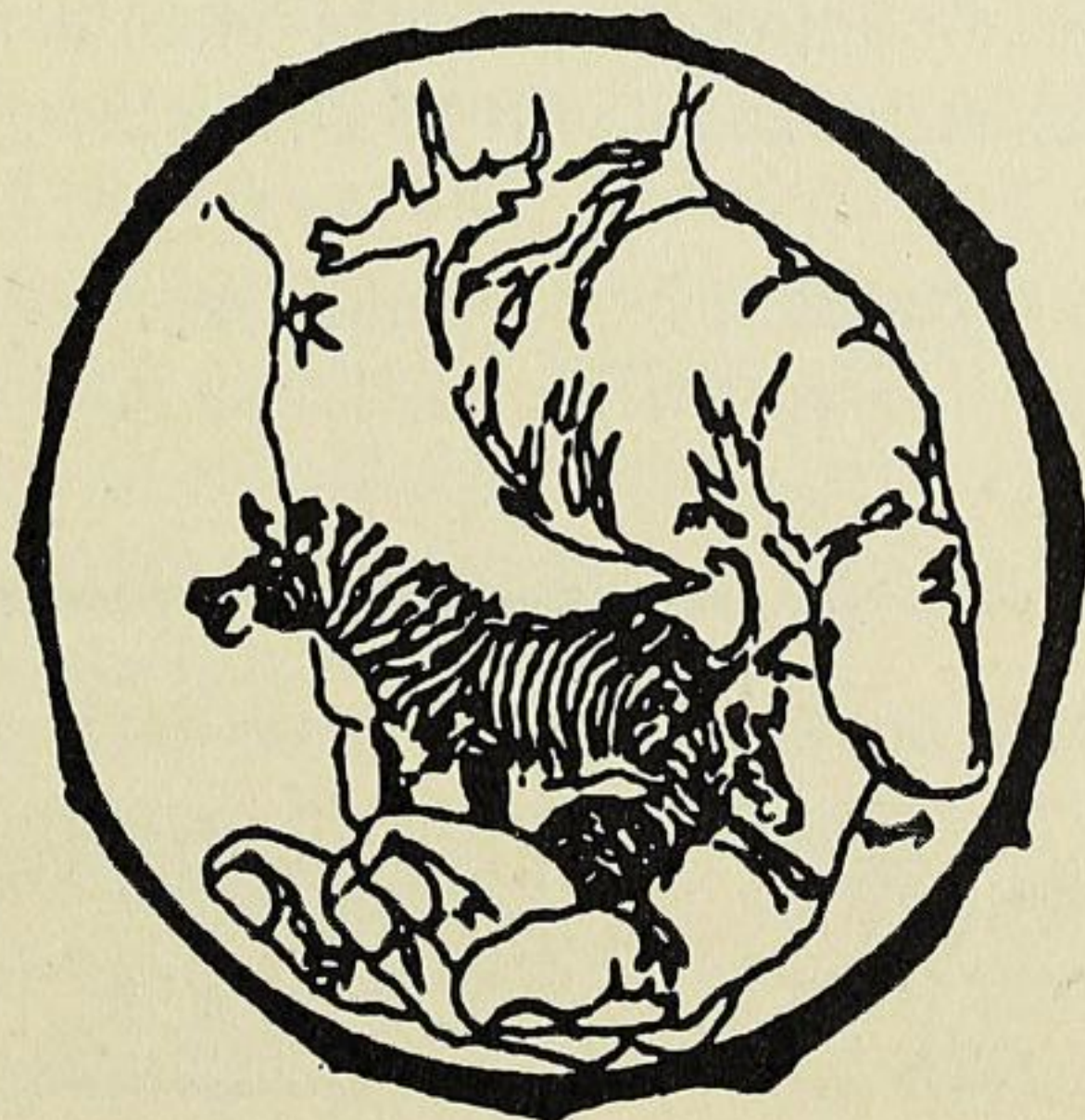


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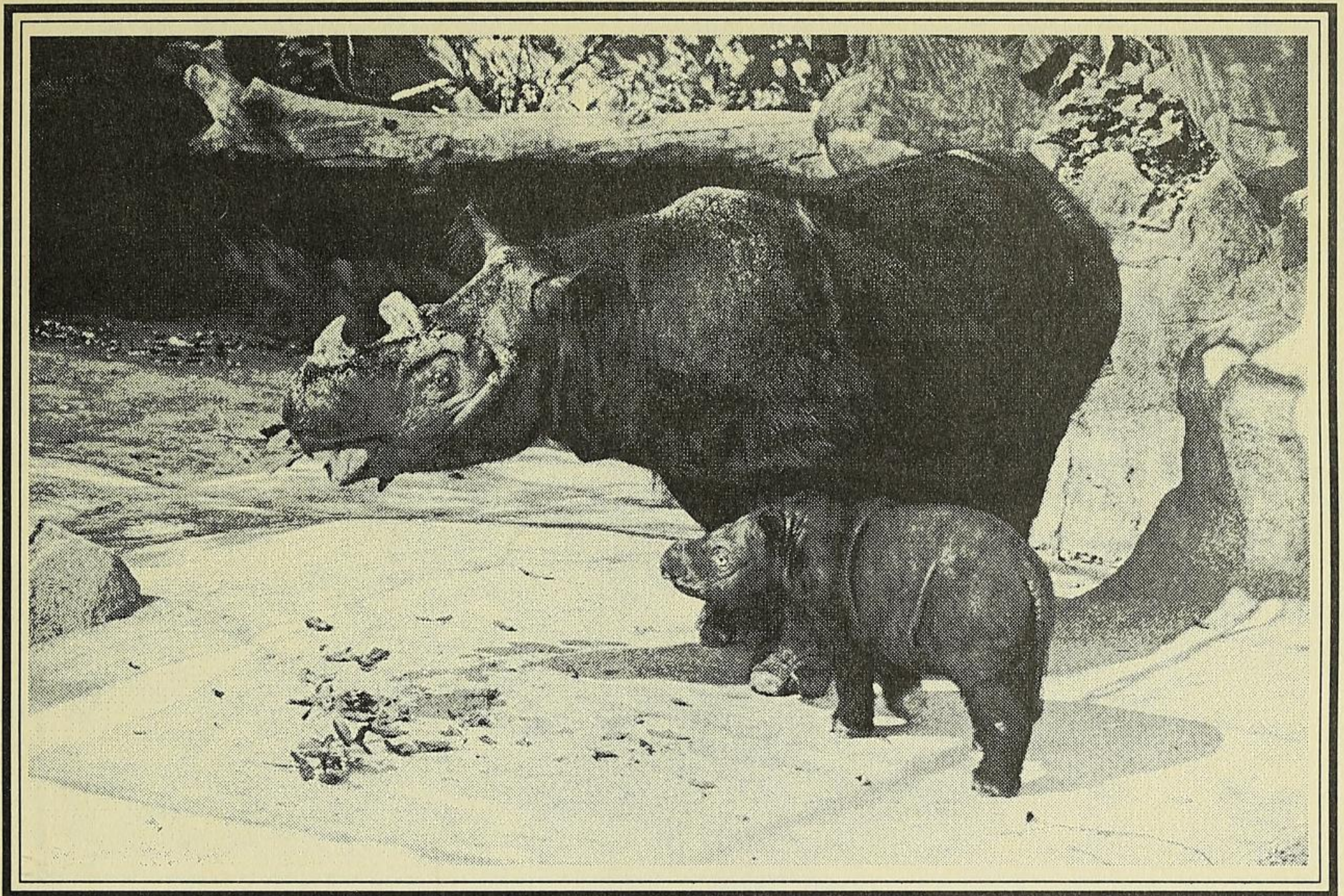
Monumental Birth at the Cincinnati Zoo

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens is proud to be the first zoo in 112 years to announce the birth of a healthy Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) calf. Emi, the eleven-year-old Sumatran rhino on loan from the Los Angeles Zoo, delivered her male calf in the privacy of her stall at the zoo. Gestation was 475 days. Emi had been under a 24-hour pregnancy watch since the beginning of August as anxious staff awaited this most significant zoological event. Prior to this birth, the only other reportedly born and bred in captivity was at the Calcutta Zoo in India in 1889.

The day prior to the 13 September birth, Emi had shown signs of impending labor. She was observed pacing in the barn and although she ate a good bit of her afternoon feed, she did not eat it all, as was her usual custom. As the night progressed, she paced even more and by morning appeared ready to begin serious labor. She did eat her breakfast and then began pacing and getting up and down. She soon began to show signs of contractions and at 0920 hrs. her water broke. The male calf was fully delivered by 1123 hrs. The calf was moving almost immediately and first attempted to stand one hour after birth; and finally stood on his own at 1.5 hours old. At a little over three hours old, he was observed to be successfully nursing. About 24 hours later, the calf was examined and weighed 72.6 lbs.(32.9kg). As of the end of September the calf weighed 113 lbs. (51.3kg)



The as-yet-unnamed male Sumatran calf was born on 13 September 2001 at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. His birth represented the first successful captive birth for this species in 112 years. (Photo by David Jenike Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden)

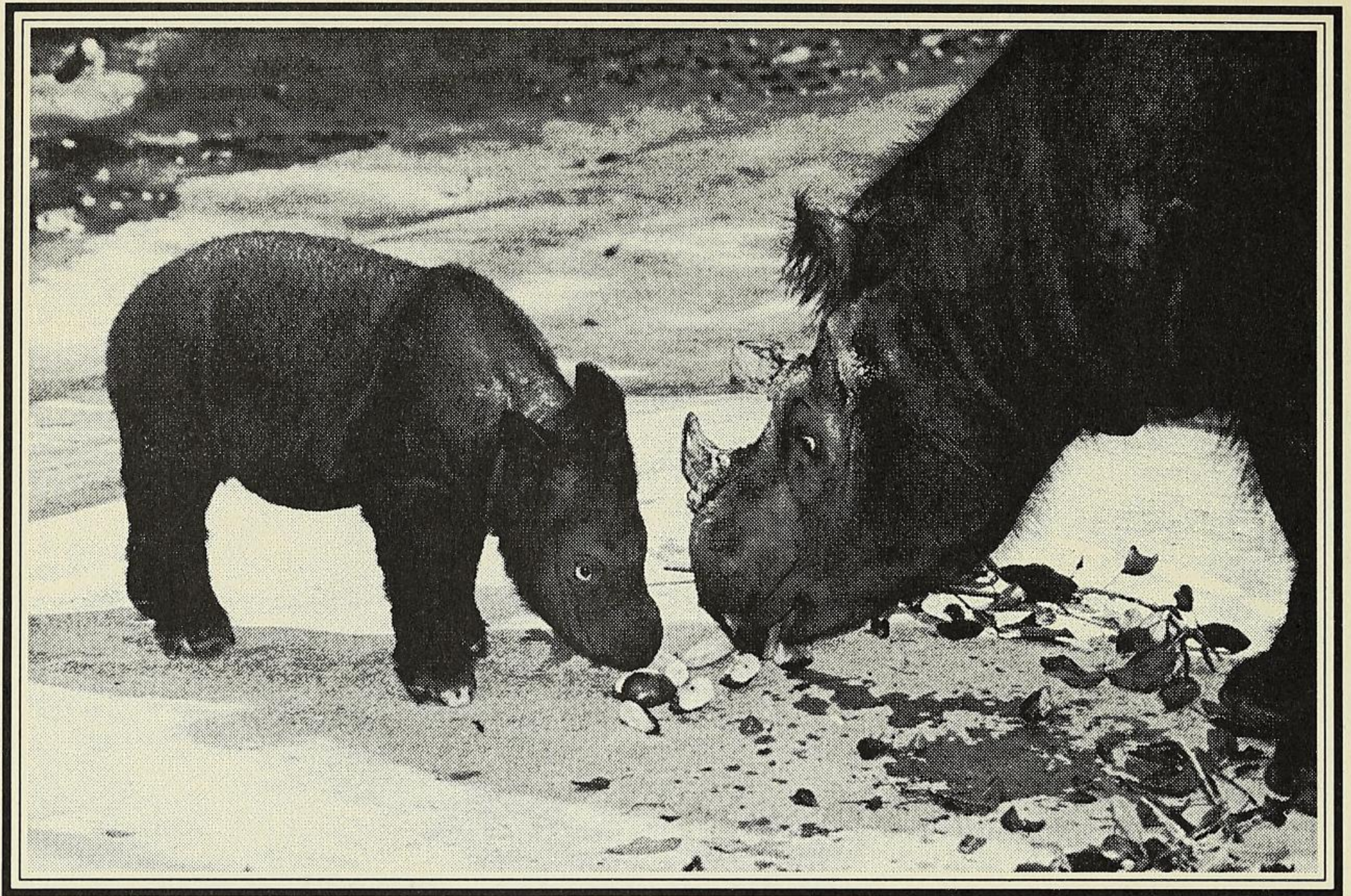


Eleven-year-old Emi is proving an excellent mother to her offspring. Prior to this successful birth, Emi had suffered five failed pregnancies. Research into blood hormone levels helped Emi carry this baby successfully to term. *(Photo by David Jenike Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden)*

Emi is the first Sumatran rhino to breed and carry a calf to term in captivity in 112 years. This achievement required years of research. Dr. Terri Roth, Director of the Zoo's Center for Conservation and Research for Endangered Wildlife (CREW), used ultrasound technology and hormone analysis to understand the estrous cycle of this species and to discover that these rhinos are induced ovulators (meaning eggs are released from the ovary only after mating with a male). This critical finding helped solve the mystery of breeding this species in captivity. In addition another challenge had to be overcome. Emi seemed incapable of carrying a pregnancy to term, having lost five pregnancies within the first three months of gestation.

Since no information about pregnant Sumatran rhino hormone levels existed, it was not known if Emi's hormone levels were adequate for sustaining a pregnancy. Therefore, it was decided to put Emi on a hormone supplement (progesterone) to see if this would solve the problem. Blood samples were analyzed for hormone levels and regular ultrasound exams were conducted to monitor and evaluate the progress of Emi's pregnancy. Emi had been taken off the supplemental hormone and was carrying the pregnancy herself 10 days before delivery.

This is a species on the brink of extinction and the birth of this long-awaited calf is monumental to all conservationists who have been working so hard to save the Sumatran rhino. Dr. Tom Foose, Program Director for the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) and Co-Program Officer for the IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialists Group (AsRSG) notes: "The birth of this Sumatran rhino at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden is nothing less than an epochal event for the conservation of this most endangered of all surviving rhino species."



The young male Sumatran rhino investigates some of his mother's lunch produce at the Cincinnati Zoo where he was born on 13 September, making zoological history in the process. (Photo by David Jenike Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden)

Sumatran Rhino Facts:

Scientific name: *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*

Common Names: Sumatran rhinoceros, Asian two-horned rhinoceros and Hairy rhinoceros

Distribution: Historically from the foothills of the Himalayas in Bhutan throughout S.E. Asia to Sumatra and Borneo. Currently, only known to survive in small populations in Sumatra, Malaysia and Sabah (N. Borneo).

Habitat: Tropical rainforest and mountain moss forest

Characteristics: Smallest, hairiest and one of the rarest of the rhino species; reddish-brown coat, sparsely covered with long hair; two short horns (the only two-horned rhino in the Asian region) and fringed ears. (Hair is only long in captivity. In the wild, it's only short bristles.)

Social Organization: Solitary with the exception of females with calves; males are solitary except to mate.

Gestation: Estimated 15-17 months

Size: 1,300 to 1,800 lbs. 3.5 - 4.5 ft. tall

Life Span: 30-40 years

Nico van Strien, Ph.D., S.E. Asia Coordinator for IRF and also a Co-Program Officer for IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) in the Netherlands said “The birth of this young rhino is one of those happy, hope giving and encouraging moments in the otherwise very sad story of the Sumatran rhino.”

Emi and the Cincinnati Zoo’s male rhino, Ipuh, are both on loan from the Indonesian government as part of a captive breeding program established in 1984 as a cooperative effort among Malaysians, Indonesians and Americans with four U.S. zoos becoming involved (Bronx Zoo, Cincinnati Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo and the San Diego Zoo). Emi and Ipuh are the only Sumatran rhino breeding pair in the U.S. A third rhino, an older female, resides at the Bronx Zoo.

Emi came to Cincinnati from the Los Angeles Zoo in 1995. She weighs approximately 1750 lbs. (794kg) and stands 4-5 Ft. tall (1.2-1.5m). She is wild-caught and was believed to be about a year old when she originally arrived at Los Angeles in November of 1991. CREW Director Dr. Terri Roth describes Emi as winsome. “She is a curious and often playful animal who finds numerous ways to entertain herself. She is very amiable but can display her spoiled side when she is hungry and breakfast is late. Her calm, cool attitude towards most everything leads me to believe she will make a wonderful mother.”

The sire Ipuh, is also wild-caught and of unknown age. He weighs 1550 lbs. (703kg) and came to Cincinnati in October of 1991. He was one of several rhinos that were salvaged from forest areas that were being destroyed by lumber interests. After conservationists were able to trap Ipuh, he was loaded into a wooden crate and transported through the forest, floated across the river on a raft, loaded onto a truck and driven to Bengkulu. Initially he stayed a few months in a special holding facility in Sumatra where he learned to eat hay and grain—important parts of his zoo diet. In the winter of 1990 he began his 9,100-mile trip to Cincinnati. He was housed at the San Diego Wild Animal Park until the Cincinnati Zoo’s new Sumatran Rhino Exhibit was completed in October of 1991.

The Sumatran rhinoceros is considered the most endangered of all rhino species, and one of the most endangered mammals on earth. Fewer than 300 survive in the wild, with only 15 in captivity worldwide. Their numbers have declined by 60% due to poaching over the last 10 years.

The Zoo was hopeful that with mild weather they would be able to have Emi and her calf on exhibit for the public in mid-October. They were also hoping that representatives from Indonesia would be on hand to name the baby. All of the Sumatran rhinos in the U.S. are on loan from the government of Indonesia and it will be their honor to name this incredibly significant young animal.

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden is dedicated to saving endangered wildlife. The Zoo holds the U.S. record for the most lowland gorilla births (47) and the most black rhino births (18). It also ranks as a world leader in breeding Indochinese tigers with 28 births. Now the Cincinnati Zoo holds the distinction of becoming the first to successfully breed and produce a Sumatran rhino calf in captivity in the U.S.

(Editor’s Note: Information for this article was excerpted from news releases provided by the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. My thanks to them for also providing the accompanying photographs.)