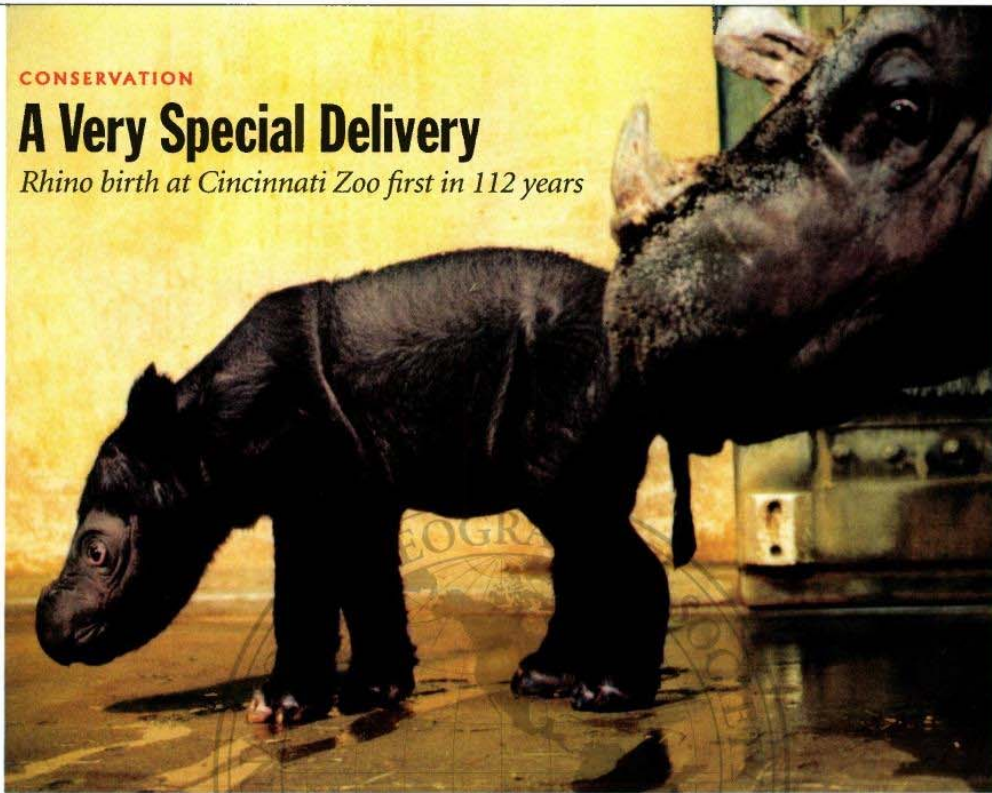


CONSERVATION

A Very Special Delivery

Rhino birth at Cincinnati Zoo first in 112 years



DAVID JENKES, CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Sumatran rhino is among the most endangered mammals on Earth. Only about 300 survive in the wild; just 15 exist in captivity. This hairier cousin of the bigger, armored rhinos is so rare that experts weren't even sure of its

gestation period. Now they are.

On September 13, 2001, after five unsuccessful pregnancies—and 475 days' gestation—the Cincinnati Zoo's 11-year-old Sumatran, Emi, gave birth to Andalus, a 72-pound calf (above). He is the first of his

species conceived and born in captivity since 1889.

Now topping 700 pounds, Andalus may go to a captive-breeding program in Indonesia or Malaysia. Information gained during Emi's closely watched pregnancy will aid such efforts.



ART BY RICHARD DOWNS

HEALTH

Sounds Dangerous

New research shows that loud noise doesn't only interfere with students' ability to hear the teacher. It also may contribute to a state of "learned helplessness," in which young children feel powerless over their environment and give up trying, putting them at greater risk for academic failure.

Tests conducted in schools near noisy airport flight paths show children performing worse

on problem-solving tests than children in quieter areas. In another study, abilities rose after noise-abatement procedures were followed.

Problems with noise can come from within schools too. High ceilings and hard blackboards reverberate loud voices, bells, fire alarms, and even the lower decibel "white noise" of heating and cooling systems. Experts suggest installation of buffers such as carpet and acoustic tiles to help absorb loud noises—and increase learning.