

# ANIMAL KEEPERS' FORUM

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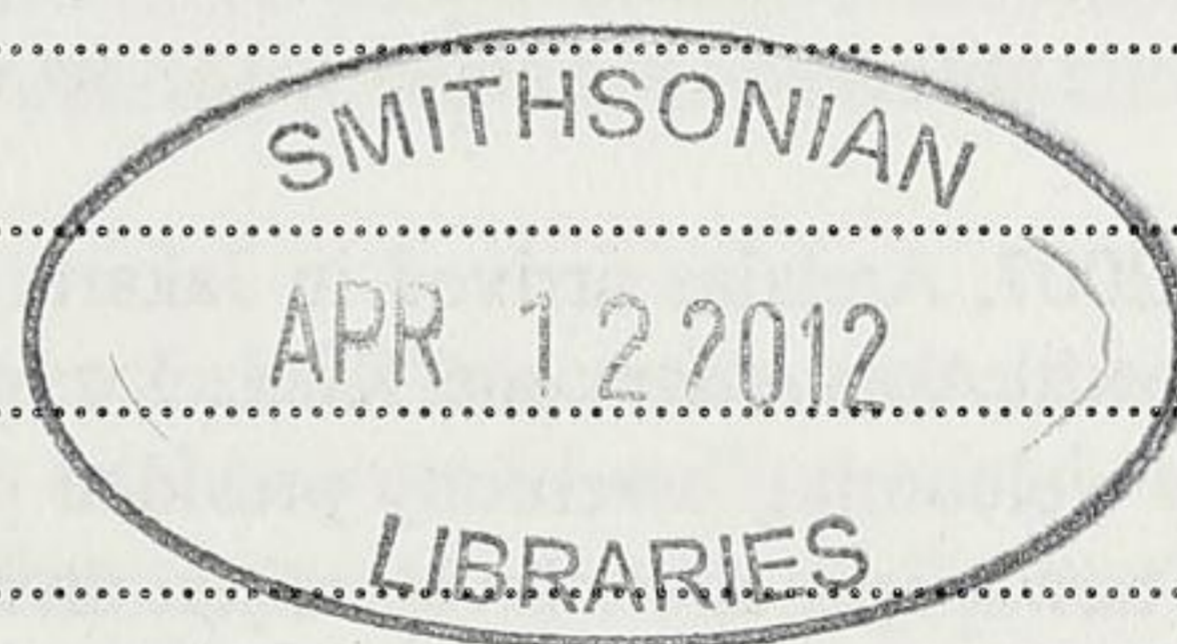
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Articles sent to *Animal Keepers' Forum* will be reviewed by the editorial staff for publication. Articles of a research or technical nature will be submitted to one or more of the zoo professionals who serve as referees for *AKF*. No commitment is made to the author, but an effort will be made to publish articles as soon as possible. Lengthy articles may be separated into monthly installments at the discretion of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit material without consultation unless approval is requested in writing by the author. Materials submitted will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, appropriately-sized envelope. Telephone, fax or e-mail contributions of late-breaking news or last-minute insertions are accepted as space allows. **Phone (330) 483-1104; FAX (330) 483-1444; e-mail is [shane.good@aazk.org](mailto:shane.good@aazk.org)**. If you have questions about submission guidelines, please contact the Editor. Submission guidelines are also found at: [aazk.org/akf-submission-guidelines/](http://aazk.org/akf-submission-guidelines/).

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**About the Cover** – This month’s cover features Andalus, the first Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) born in captivity in more than 112 years. The photo was submitted by Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), a partner of the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). Andalus, whose name is the ancient Indonesian word for the island of Sumatra, was born 13 September 2001, at the Cincinnati Zoo. This little male rhino weighed 70 pounds at birth, and immediately became a worldwide news sensation. Andalus’ parents, Emi and Ipuh, were rescued from southwest Sumatra, where the remaining forest areas are rapidly being cleared to make way for an ever-expanding human population. Emi and Ipuh became part of an international breeding program developed to increase the population of the Critically Endangered Sumatran rhino (now numbering no more than 300 individuals, primarily living on Indonesia’s Sumatra Island.). Andalus is the first in a long line of Sumatran rhinos that hopefully will be bred in captivity and eventually introduced back into the wild to help bolster wild rhino populations.

By his first birthday, Andalus had grown to 940 pounds – as large as a horse but only a little more than half the size of a full-grown Sumatran rhino. When he was nearly 2 years old, Andalus was weaned and was eventually transferred to the Los Angeles Zoo to make room for a new addition – mom Emi had conceived yet again! During his stay in California, Andalus grew to more than 1,600 pounds. By the time he was five, he had reached his full adult size.

The Global Management Propagation Board for Indonesian rhinos recommended that the fully-grown Andalus be moved to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), a 250-acre complex located within Way Kambas National Park in south Sumatra. (The SRS is home to five rhinos that are part of an intensively managed research and breeding program aimed at increasing the Sumatran rhino population. At the sanctuary, the rhinos reside in large, open forest areas where they can experience a natural habitat while still receiving state-of-the-art veterinary care and a healthy diet.)

On 19 February 2007, Andalus arrived in Jakarta from Los Angeles after a round-the-world trip that included stops in Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur. When Andalus’ plane arrived in Jakarta, he was greeted by a welcoming ceremony presided over by the Indonesian Minister of Forestry and covered by every newspaper and television station in the country! After clearing customs in Jakarta, Andalus took a 12-hour road trip to eventually reach the sanctuary in Way Kambas, where a special “boma” – a pasture and paddock area – was waiting for him. During a two-month quarantine period, he was monitored hourly by veterinarians and keepers. Andalus has adjusted well to life in Sumatra. Adapting to the heat and humidity of the Indonesian rainforest, he shed some of the red-brown hair he had grown in the U.S. (Unlike other rhinos, Sumatran, or “hairy” rhinos have patches of short, stiff hair which helps keep mud caked to their bodies, cooling them off and protecting them from insect bites.)

After three months, Andalus was released into a big paddock where he has gradually been introduced to three young females, Rosa, Bina and Ratu, living at the sanctuary. Although he was initially scared of the other rhinos and ran away when he heard them coming, Andalus soon began exhibiting typical rhino behaviors with his peers – kicking up dirt, feigning attack, chasing, and trampling bushes. Andalus is now six years old, and his keepers at the SRS have recently announced that Andalus successfully bred Ratu in March of 2011. As this issue of the *AKF* went to press, Ratu was 12 months pregnant with approximately four months remaining in her pregnancy, giving increased hope to the future of the Sumatran rhino population. Source: [rhinos-irf.org/andalas/](http://rhinos-irf.org/andalas/)

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