

Animal Keepers' Forum



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

NOVEMBER 1979

Editor-in-Chief: Ron Kaufman, Topeka Zoological Park
Executive Editor: Mike Coker, Topeka Zoological Park
Managing Editor: Lois Boqia, Topeka Zoological Park
Editorial Assistant: Diana Brey
Art Consultant: Elaine Shea

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BIRTHS HATCHINGS

SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO BIRTH. *Drue Bauer & Houston Winbigler*

On September 5, 1979, Memphis Zoo experienced the birth of a 120 pound, (54.5 kg.), female white rhino, *Ceratotherium simum simum*.

Both wild-caught parents have shared the same quarters since 1976. Breeding has been observed at infrequent intervals. The last breeding was observed in May of 1978. Early this year the female began to exhibit signs of pregnancy. She was separated from the male on September 4 and gave birth sometime during the early morning of September 5.

The calf appeared strong, but was unable to get to her feet. After exhausting herself, she was tubed with dextrose and several hours later she was standing. During the night she was observed standing, but by the morning of the 6th, she was in a weakened condition. She was tubed again with dextrose, but never regained her footing and died shortly thereafter. Three days later the pair were reintroduced in hopes of renewed breeding. Breeding attempts were observed on September 27.

Reproduction in a single pair of white rhino is rare. We would appreciate any information on other occurrences. Please write to us in care of the Memphis Zoo, Memphis, TN 38112

GREATER KUDU BORN AT MEMPHIS. *Michael R. Maybry*

A male Greater Kudu was born at Memphis Zoo and Aquarium on September 30. With this birth a long history of Kudu rearing was renewed at the zoo. A very successful breeding herd during the sixties and early seventies was decimated in 1974 when several individuals died from suspected bad feed and possible lead poisoning from a freshly painted roof. The two remaining herd members were sold when it was decided to use their lot for a different species.

In early 1978, 1.2 Greater Kudu were received from Oklahoma City through an animal dealer. One of the females had frostbitten ears and was returned leaving us hopefully with a compatible pair. The male was barely a year old and the female approximately six months.

No breeding activity had been observed, but early this summer we suspected the female was pregnant. By September, there was no doubt as evidenced by a rapid increase in the size of the abdomen and a swelling udder. After a week of increasing size of the vulva and a huge udder, the calf was delivered during the night in the straw-covered stall. After two days inside, mother and calf were released into the lot, much to the curious pleasure of the male. The calf has spent his first two weeks lying up in the weeds at the rear of the lot, coming down only to nurse.

We are currently attempting to secure another female to fill out our breeding nucleus and are looking forward to more reproduction from this striking large antelope.

What Makes Sammy Run, continued

matter, tends to keep them fat and sassy, but is not near as filling as the fruits, vegetables, nuts and bread they are fed in captivity. One might ask if this is the case, where do they get enough protein in the jungle to attain such size and proportion as they do. Actually, millions of micro-organisms living within the plant life they consume are responsible. This is why zoo gorillas must have controlled diets. Every morning, along with breakfast, the gorillas receive 1/2 pitcher of jello (liquid) in which vitamins, anti-tuberculin pills and oral medication, when necessary, are camouflaged. In fact, our orangutans get a cup of the same. I hold the pitcher up to the bars while they drink its contents from their side of the cage. They love it.

Sammy and I sometimes carry on a conversation. He enjoys my talking whether it is in English or gorilla. He frequently answers--in gorilla, not English. As far as he is concerned, it is not so much what I say but how I say it. When scolding him, if it seems necessary, he reacts like a hurt little child, but if I speak to him in soothing tones, he responds positively.

He enjoys a good game of tug-of-war on occasion. Just as children will do with a simple game, he will egg me on to continue this play until I become bored by it all and stop. He encourages repetitious play by feeding me the end of the rope again and again through the bars after each successful winning of the game. Once in awhile, he lets me win. He's a real good sport that way.

I'd like to end by saying I feel very fortunate in having the opportunity I've had in caring for our three very unique gorillas all these years. Each one is individual in physical characteristics as well as personality and one does become very attached to them. They are my very close friends and I dearly hope that I am theirs.



UNIQUE CHINA-SAN DIEGO ZOO EXCHANGE

The People's Republic of China is sending two Chinese lesser pandas (also called red pandas), two dholes (also called Asiatic red dogs), four Jankowski's swans and 16 Derbyan parrakeets to the San Diego Zoo. The San Diego zoo is sending six Chilean flamingos and two white rhinoceros to the Kwangchow Zoo in Canton. This is the first exchange between American and Chinese zoos since the People's Republic of China was formed in 1949.

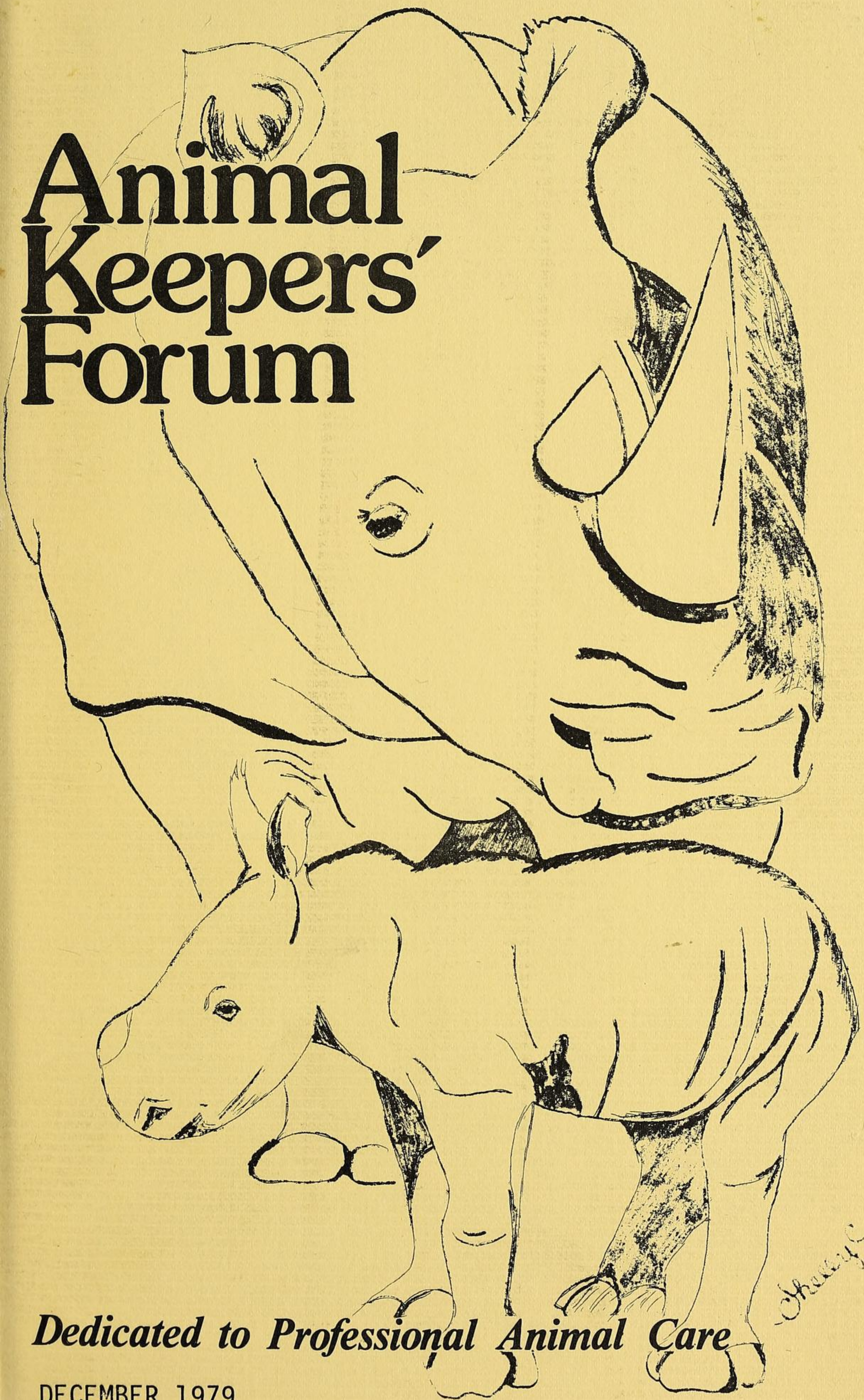
Great Ape $\Delta\sigma\delta\epsilon\mu\omicron\mu\eta\mu$



ZOO TRIANGLE DISSOLVES

The old adage that "three's a crowd" certainly applies to the gorilla threesome at the Philadelphia Zoo--the famous Ramar, and his two female companions, Haloko and Samantha. Ramar finally made the critical decision by selecting Samantha as his mate, and Haloko is on her way out--to the Bronx Zoo.

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Cherry C.

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Shelly Carpenter illustrates the December cover with a one-day old White Rhino and her mother from the Phoenix zoo. The father's name is Khetla and the mother's name is Tambile, so the baby is KT or Katie. Thanks, Shelly!

This is a special issue to finish out the 7th year. Karen Osman from the Rio Grande Zoo combined her interest in animals and in heraldry and her talents as an artist for a special article for our readers. It is on page 228. The proceedings from the 1979 conference are also in this issue, beginning on page 231.

SCOOPS and SCUTTLEBUTT

CORRECTION FOR "HAND-REARING THE SAIGA"

Marcia Rohrer wrote that the paper "Hand-rearing the Saiga" which was in the October issue of AKF contained a serious error. It was stated that "122 cc. of Bovine Anti-bacterial Serum" was given. This should be 12 cc. Our apologies for this, and our appreciation to her for correcting it.

WASHINGTON PARK ZOO RECEIVES ASIAN BULL ELEPHANT... Roger L. Henneous

On Thursday, October 25th, Washington Park Zoo, Portland, became the home of the 13 year old Asian Bull TUNGA; the oldest and largest of the elephants owned by the late H.M. Berry of Woodland, Washington. He comes to Washington Park Zoo as a back-up to Packy, Portland's first-born elephant and present herd sire. Tunga is a promising prospect for increasing the genetic diversity of our already successful breeding herd of Asian elephants.

PHILADELPHIA ZOO GETS RARE INDIAN RHINOS Jeanne Laura Segal

The Philadelphia Zoo has acquired a pair of rare Indian rhinoceroses from the Basel Zoo in Basel, Switzerland. The two animals have a combined weight of about 8,500 pounds (3,860 kg.) Their 400-mile journey was by jetliner, truck and finally, forklift. Fewer than 1200 individuals survive in the rhino's native habitat of Northern India.

TOPEKA ZOO APE HOUSE GROUND BREAKING

Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Discovering Apes Building took place at the Topeka Zoological Park on 7 October 1979. The Discovering Apes Building is a million dollar project. Designed for social family groups of great apes, this innovative facility will present Zoo visitors with an experience unparalleled in Zoo History. After crossing a bridge over a sunken jungle, visitors will step into an Indonesian tree house to view the orangutans at tree-top level. The gorillas will be shown in the world's first walk-thru gorilla exhibit. Visitors will stroll through a glass tunnel down the middle of a simulated jungle clearing complete with live plants. Gorillas will be on all sides and even across the top of the tunnel. How would you like to be nose to nose with a 400 pound gorilla?

BIRTHS HATCHINGS

ELEPHANT BIRTH AT PORTLAND TOO LATE FOR CONFERENCE...Roger L. Henneous

A week and a day after the 1979 AAZK Conference, Rosy Portland's first elephant gave birth for the 5th time. The birth, occurring at 2:19 p.m., October 5th, came exactly 21 months to the day from the last breeding date and produced a male calf weighing approximately 200 pounds (90 kg.) Named Thong Tri (third generation Thonglaw) he was on his feet in less than ten minutes and nursing in less than one hour.

This was Washington Park Zoo's 20th elephant birth in less than 18 years, and Packy's (Portland's first-born) 5th offspring.

Convention hold-overs who observed the birth were Phil Prewett of Memphis and Chris Mercer of the National Zoo.

WHITE RHINO BIRTH IN TORONTO, CANADA Steve Unwin

On Friday, October 12, 1979, at approximately 11:30 p.m. a female White Rhino was born at Metro Toronto Zoo. This is the first captive White Rhino *Ceratotherium simus* birth in Canada. The mother, born and hand-raised in San Diego, has been in our collection since 1974, making this event possibly a first in North America - a second generation White Rhino birth.

At the present time the mother is caring for the calf and both are doing well.

BLUE AND GOLD MACAW HATCHED AT FOLSOM CHILDRENS ZOO

On September 19th, a Blue and Gold Macaw chick hatched after 33 days incubation by the parents. They were allowed to feed the chick for 5 weeks until it just began feathering out, at which time the chick was pulled from the nest and hand-raised. This would allow the parents to recycle.

As of this time, the chick is about 50% feathered out and has begun eating on its own.

SERVAL KITTENS BORN AT FOLSOM CHILDRENS ZOO

September 29th marked a happy day at the Folsom Childrens Zoo. Patches, our female Serval, gave birth to twins. This will be her third litter in three years. The gestation period was 75 days from the first signs of heat.

To date, she is nursing and caring for the kittens extremely well.

HYBRID RATTLESNAKES BORN AND ISLAND CHUCKWALLAS HATCHED AT DESERT MUSEUM

Merritt S. Keasey, III, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

On August 30, 1979, our female black rattlesnake, *Crotalus viridis cerberus* gave birth to four babies sired by her cagemate, a male blacktailed rattlesnake, *Crotalus m. molossus*. This is the first recorded hybridization between these two species.

On September 26, 1979, thirteen baby San Esteban Island Chuckwallas, *Sauromalus varius*, hatched in our outdoor lizard enclosure. The incubation period was 102 days.