



WILD TALK 2018

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Baby Belle

White-knuckle Rhino Calves

2017 was another exciting year in the rhino paddock, as both Nancy and Ruby, our two breeding females, presented dad Monty with calves.

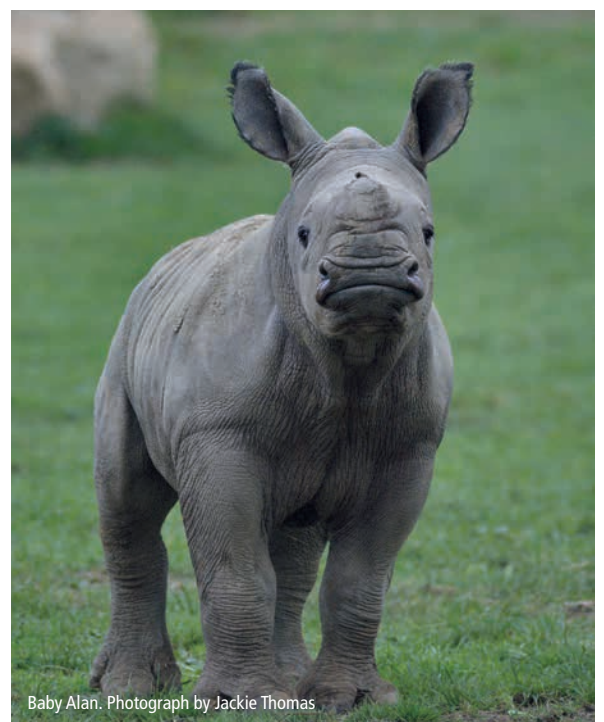
"Alan" was the first to appear, born in September to Ruby, and named after the Park's Electrician Alan Price, who retired in 2017 after 23 years here.

More challenging was the birth of "Tinkerbell" (also known as Belle), born in October to Nancy. Soon after birth she was seen to be struggling to stand without going over on her ankle. The decision was taken to separate her from mum Nancy, in order to put her leg in a cast. 24 hour a day keeper care was needed to hand-rear Belle, and it was a nail-biting few weeks for all of us.

However, at the time of writing,

her leg seems fine and her daily intake of 30 litres of skimmed milk (spiked with bits of mum's poo to help build up anti-bodies) plus extra glucose has seen her treble in weight and become a real handful for her keepers. We are now re-introducing her to the others including mum Nancy and if all goes well she'll be out in the rhino enclosure this summer running around with the rest of the "crash".

So, a huge thank you to our vets, the rhino keepers, Hayley, Mark, Roger and Jack, and to Curator Jamie and Park Vet Emily. Fingers crossed!



Baby Alan. Photograph by Jackie Thomas