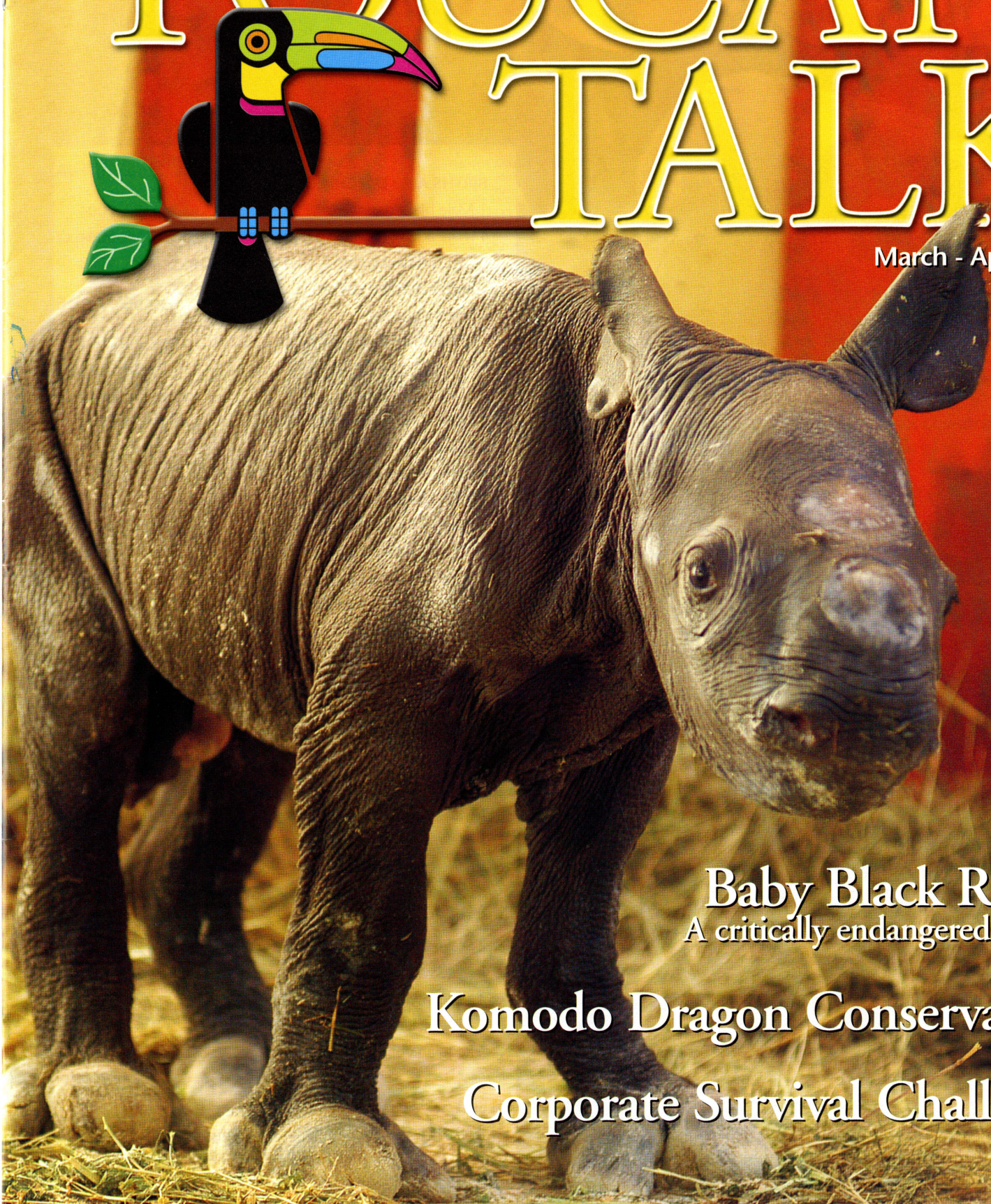


Special Events: Big Cat-Nap Campout, Dino Days, Egg Safari, Spring Camp

# TOUCAN TALK

March - April 2004



**Baby Black Rhino**

*A critically endangered species*

**Komodo Dragon Conservation**

**Corporate Survival Challenge**

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The Red List of Threatened Species, published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), categorizes the black rhinoceros as "critically endangered."

PHOTO: RON MAGILL



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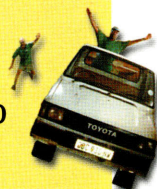


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# TOUCAN TALK



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Our mission is to encourage an appreciation for the world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations.

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Mother rhino, Kibo, makes eye contact with her newborn



# Miracle Birth

PHOTOS: RON MAGILL

At approximately 5:30 on the morning of January 29, 2004, Kibo, an 18-year-old African black rhinoceros, gave birth to a yet unnamed male in the rhinoceros barn in the African lobe at Metrozoo.

This is a very important birth for several reasons. Foremost, the black rhinoceros is one of the most critically endangered large vertebrates of the world. Kibo has had a very difficult reproductive history with her previous five pregnancies, and she has successfully delivered only one live baby. The other four resulted in stillborns or late-term spontaneous abortions.

When we discovered that Kibo was pregnant, she was put on a carefully planned regimen of hormone treatments by the Metrozoo veterinary department in an effort to assist her to reach a full-term pregnancy resulting in a live birth. Each morning for several months, she was given her supplemental hormones in flavored gelatin. The gelatin soon became her favorite food item and was instrumental in her successful treatment.

Although the staff at Metrozoo is elated with the successful birth, the infant is considered to be at a very high risk because it was born severely underweight and compromised by Kibo's reproductive

history. The normal length of pregnancy for a black rhinoceros is between 15 and 16 months with an average birth weight of approximately 80 pounds. Though full-term, this newborn weighed only 51 pounds, measured 69 cm, and was relatively weak and slow to stand following the birth. The vets tube fed him and provided heat lamps in the enclosure for the first few hours. Kibo was very cooperative, allowing the keepers and vets access to the baby, and returned the baby's calls and checked on him.



(L-R) Amy Neill, zookeeper; Stephanie Monnier, veterinarian; Rebecca Mulder, zookeeper; John Mielt, zookeeper; Chriss Miller, veterinarian and Mike Fiuza, zookeeper with baby black rhino.

Later, during the first 24 hours, the baby nursed 11 times and gained 8 pounds! The staff will keep a round-the-clock eye on mother and baby to ensure that everything is being done to provide Metrozoo's newest addition with the strongest and healthiest start in life. Both are doing well.