ZOO REPORTS SIGNIFICANT RHINO BIRTH

The Metropolitan Toronto Zoo recently announced the birth of the first Canadian born Indian (greater one-horned Asian) rhinoceros on 25 December 1991. The dam (SB#79) was acquired from Mysore, India, and the sire (SB#69) is on loan from the National Zoological Park. The birth is the first for both parents and an important addition to the Greater One-Horned Asian Rhino SSP.

(J. Carnio)



ELD'S DEER FAWNS BEING HAND RAISED AT THE NATIONAL ZOO



(Photo by J. Cohen)

National Zoological Park staff are hand raising seven Eld's deer fawns that were born between 28 December and 6 January as a result of an artificial insemination technique which has for the first time been successfully applied to endangered deer. This technique utilizes semen preserved at a very low temperature. The process makes it theoretically possible for the best sires, from geographically isolated herds, to be considered for breeding any place in the world. In this way, the genetic diversity of the endangered deer's population will be preserved without the risks, great expense, and other complications associated with relocating the highly excitable adult animals. The fawns are being kept at the NZP Conservation and Research Center, Front Royal, Virginia, where they will remain until they are sent to the Singapore Zoological Garden. Two of the fawns were born at the Salisbury Zoo, Maryland -- a partner in the

project. Dr. Geoff Asher, from the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, was also a scientific collaborator in this project. The research was organized and funded by the New Opportunities in Animal Health Sciences (NOAHS) Center, headquartered at the National Zoo. The Smithsonian's Scholary Studies program also contributed funds.

(S. Monfort/D. Wildt)