



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

*Location: Jamaa Kwa Africa Exhibit, Blank Park Zoo - Des Moines, IA
 Equipment: Rhino Tamer, Hydraulic Roller Gates, Swing Gates
 Date: 2011*

Jamaa Kwa (meaning “Connection to”) Africa Exhibit was opened in 2012. Among other African species, this area features a pair of critically endangered Eastern Black Rhinoceros. The pair produced a calf; named Tunami; in 2016. This was the first Rhinoceros calf for the zoo and for the entire state of Iowa!



Tunami, born in 2016 at the Blank Park Zoo, IA

The success of the breeding program is in part credited to the state of the art facilities which includes the Fauna Research Rhino TAMER™ Equipment. The keepers work closely with the Rhinos in the TAMER™, training them to participate in x-ray evaluations, as well as other husbandry behaviors. Keepers are able to safely and efficiently train the animals with the use of the TAMER™ elevating the level of care for these animals through excellence in husbandry.

“The TAMER™ is an integral part of our extensive husbandry training program. Delivering excellent animal welfare requires a dedicated keeper and veterinary staff, a culture of continual improvement and the proper equipment - all of which we have here at the Blank Park Zoo.”

Kevin Drees, Director of Animal Care and Conservation



Large mammal supervisor, Lou Keeley, training Tunami in TAMER™.



Training for x-ray presentation.



X-ray session with Lou Keeley and Dr. June Olds.

Photo Credits: Nick Moffit, Blank Park Zoo