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Australia Zoo
Home of The Crocodile Hunter

Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Rhinoceros

Australia Zoo was lucky enough to welcome a gorgeous Southern White Rhino, DJ, on 1 April 2008.

Southern White Rhinoceros

The Southern White Rhino is the second largest land mammal. They are grazers, found on the grassy savannahs of Southern Africa. Despite their name, Southern White Rhino's are actually grey in colour. The name is a misinterpretation of the Afrikaans word "weit" meaning wide. These wide muscular lips are used for grazing grasses. The large nuchal hump found on the top of the shoulder is filled with muscles and ligaments used to pull the head up from the grazing position. It is more noticeable on White Rhinos than in other Rhino species.

Habitat

Southern White Rhinos live in thick bush covered savannahs, woodlands, and grasslands of long and short grasses for grazing. They spend half the day grazing, a third resting, and the rest of the time wallowing, scratching on tree stumps and renovating the landscape. The wallow in the landscape is just as important as the food, water and shelter. The mud is used as sun screen, to keep the biting insects off and a beauty aid to remove dead skin.

Australia Zoo Southern White Rhinoceros profiles

Caballe

Pronounced KA-BARL-EE, she was born in South Africa's Kruger National Park. Caballe moved to New Zealand and became a resident of Hamilton Zoo from 1999 - July 2010. During this time she gave birth to three calves. Caballe made the journey to Australia Zoo in August 2010 and was pregnant when she arrived, later giving birth to a healthy baby girl, Savannah. Caballe is a very patient and protective mother.
Caballe is currently pregnant with her fifth calf and is now beginning to show the first signs of wanting to wean Savannah (who now weighs over 900Kg!).

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