BABY RHINO RESCUE

RHINO FACT SHEET

DID YOU KNOW

- The rhino is a prehistoric animal. They have existed on the planet for 55 million years.
- A CRASH is a group of rhinos who live together. There used to be crashes all through Africa, Asia, Pakistan and Europe. But now there are very few rhinos left in the world.
- Dinosaurs were unable to survive artic winter, but the rhino grew a thick coat, and the "wooly rhino" survived the ice age.
- Sadly they are now close to extinction because of increased poaching and loss of habitat.
- The Northern White rhino, a subspecies, is the most critically endangered animal in the world. Only 2 females remain!
- There are 5 species of rhino in the world and 3 are critically endangered.
- It is estimated that there are roughly 27,000 individual rhinos from all 5 species left on the planet.
- The rhino is a "keystone species". This means that other animals and plants rely on rhinos for their survival.
- South Africa is home to about 80% of the world's white rhinos and 33% of the world's black rhinos. This makes South Africa a hot spot for poaching.
- Most poaching happens around a full moon. This is why the full moon is call "a poacher's moon."
- Rhinos are poached for their horns, which are used in traditional medicines, jewelry and as a status symbol in East Asia.
- Rhinos' horns are made out of keratin, like your hair and fingernails, and cannot cure anything!
- Because of the increase in poaching, rhinos could be extinct – gone forever – in 10 years or less.
- It is mostly the female rhinos that are poached. This is a terrible problem. When a female dies, she usually has a calf with her, and she is also usually pregnant. This means that 3 rhinos may die.
- When a mother dies, her calf is left alone. Baby rhinos need their mothers for 3 years and cannot survive without them.
- Luckily there are organizations that rescue orphaned rhinos and care for them until they are old enough to survive on their own.