



BEAST RELIEF

The Beast Relief committee is taking concrete steps to help animals far and near, while teaching PS107 children about the importance of conservation and the value of civic action for animals. Our efforts focus this year on the rhino, now critically endangered by poaching.

All About Rhinos

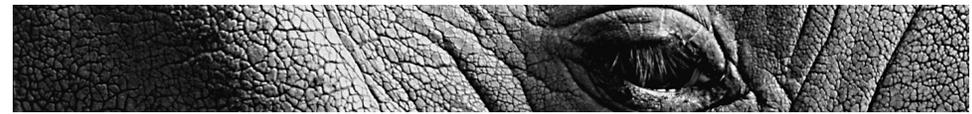
Five species of rhinos remain. The white and black rhinos of Africa have two horns. The Asian rhinos include the one-horned Indian and Javan, and the two-horned Sumatran. The name rhinoceros comes from the Greek words rhino (nose) and ceros (horn). The closest rhino “relatives” are tapirs, horses and zebras. All have three toes, and are odd-toed ungulates.

Next to the elephant, the white rhino is the second largest land mammal. It can grow up to 8,000 lbs and reach six feet tall. Though near-sighted, rhinos have excellent hearing and sense of smell, and can run 40 miles per hour. A group of rhinos is called a “crash.” Solitary and plant-eating, they use their horns in battles for territory, and to defend against lions, tigers and hyenas.

Rhinos rank among the most endangered species on earth, and are poached for their horns. Some cultures believe, falsely, that the powdered rhino horn will cure everything from fever to food poisoning. Rhino horn has no curative power, and is made of keratin, the same material in your hair and fingernails. The African Wildlife Federation estimates that if poaching continues at current rates, the rhino will be extinct in the wild by 2025.

Why the Rhino “Piggy Banks”?

On Friday May 3 – in celebration of Cinco de Rhino day – we will be holding a spare-change drive to raise money for the International Rhino Foundation. Every penny, nickel, dime or dollar your child collects in their rhino bank will go to helping rhinos survive: \$25 will feed an orphaned baby rhino in Zimbabwe for four days; \$50 will employ an Indian rhino monitor for two weeks on anti-poaching patrols; \$100 will provide one week of food and veterinary care at the Sumatran rhino sanctuary; \$500 will purchase two satellite phones for South African rangers to immediately report poaching. So please help collect spare change in the months to come.



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