

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

July 2011



Volunteer Students and Staff Members after darting the wild lioness to test her for TB



Rocky, the White Rhino, our new family member.

Greetings to our friends worldwide,

Winter has finally arrived and so have the unusually cold days.

June was a crazy month with many things happening. We collared a young hyena, to follow his movements, we released a brown hyena—after his heart stopped twice and, we had a baby white rhino brought in. Our snared leopard is looking better every day and we hope we will be able to release him soon.

While our blog comes back to life, you can read our stories on our Facebook's Notes. We will keep you updated on what goes on, who comes in and who gets released. Make sure you log in and get the latest updates!

Should you have any suggestions about what you would like to learn about, please contact us!. Our intention is to add value to you by way of informative, entertaining and uplifting content.

Ecologically yours,

The Moholoholo Clan



Our baby Serval—Emma's Kitten— now 6 weeks old.

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Latest News

July 2011

Meet Rocky.

By the end of June we received a new baby to enlarge our family; Rocky we have named it, a white rhino of 3 months of age.

Rocky came from a nearby game reserve where his mum was shot. Not only was the Mum shot with a high caliber rifle but the poachers removed her horn before she actually died this is the result when money rules the day. Another 3 year old calf was wounded but he was found on time and he's being treated at the moment.

He was brought to the Rehab early evening and 6 of our staff members got him out of the trailer and gently held him, so that Brian could give him his first milk formula which with a struggle managed to get 1 ½ liters down. We are accommodating him in our boma and Jessie, one of our volunteer staff, has been assigned to be the rhino mommy. Jessie will have to sleep in the boma which is very important to avoid stress and see to his feeding which will also be monitored by Brian the first few times. At the moment he's drinking every 3 hours over 24 hours!

By the second day he was happily drinking from the bottle Jessie was offering. Our students also have had the chance to sit by him and read to him out loud, as this helps him to settle in and get used to a 'human' mummy. However not everything is good news, we fear the "little" one's vision is compromised, as he keeps knocking himself against the boma walls and we have noticed a white spot behind his eyes. We are hoping that this will only be temporary as he may have suffered some concussion.



As thrilled as we are to have him here, we know we still have a long way to go. The bigger the baby, the bigger the problems are. Raising a baby rhino is no easy task as they commonly suffer from ulcers due to stress; they also need a special milk formula that prevents this and other complications from happening. For the next couple of months we will have to be very vigilant of his every move so that we can release him back into the game reserve he came from.

We feel most privileged to have these huge 'tanks' –one black, one white- but we are deeply saddened by the reason that brought them here. The recent rise in rhino poaching and the increasing Asian demand and illegal trade, is driving the current crisis and could lead these wonderful animals into extinction.



A new home.

Life in a Rehab Centre is never normal. Anything can happen any day as we are always on call for any animal that may need our assistance. From routine procedures to life and death situations, our days are never normal.

Dr. Hein Muller came with his team to test our wild lioness for TB. She was first brought into the Rehab a year ago with a severe snared wound around her neck (see our past article on the blog). This wound has healed beautifully since then and we've found a suitable home for her. The TB test is the final requirement for her to go back into the wild. Some of the students had the opportunity to assist Dr. Muller; one applied the eye ointment, while he explained what the test consisted of, and how the result would be measured. She was injected with both bovine and avian TB in her neck and her skin thickness was measured.

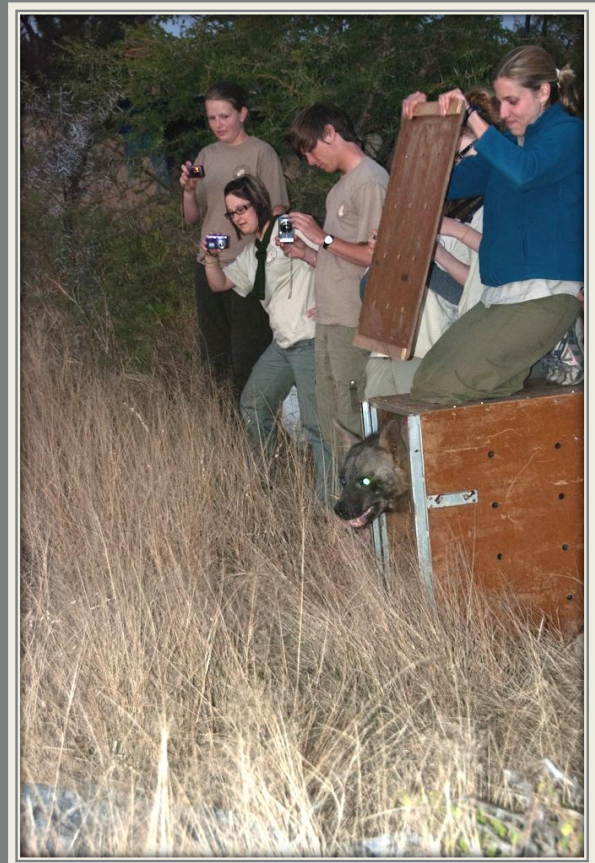
A couple of days later, we darted her again and to our big joy, she's TB free and can be reintroduced to her new home!



Life & Death

While darting a snared Brown Hyena whose wounds we needed to check, things didn't go as planned. To our horror he died in front of our eyes. We couldn't let this just happen and Jessie – one of our volunteer staff members- immediately began giving him CPR. Alternating compressions with Brian doing the mouth-to-nose breathing our brown hyena started responding. After a couple of minutes he started breathing on his own!

The CPR had worked and even though we still had to keep a close eye on him for the next couple of hours, we were just thrilled and relieved our friend came back to life after his heart had stopped twice! After checking he was stable for a couple of hours, we took him then to a private game reserve where we released him.



Donations and Sponsorship

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We are currently trying to buy a new collar to change the one we put on a leopard a couple of years ago. We've been following his movements to learn more about these great animals and we would like to be able to continue to do so. We would especially like to thank the following for donating towards achieving this goal.

- Mr. James Campbell – R5.000.00
- Corelight - Brad Laughlin USA – R6.000.00

We would also like to thank those who have donated and raised money to help us pay for the Vet bill of the snared leopard featuring in this newsletter. Every bit of help is greatly appreciated.

- Reddam House College - Jeremy Thompsons class

We would also like to thank:

- Gerrie Kruger from Soleil Pakkers – Monthly donations of oranges and grapefruits
- Justin Sellers – Monthly donations for the upkeep of our cages

To everyone who has donated in anonymity, we THANK you as well. You've made a difference!!

If you would like to make a donation towards the Rehab Centre to help us to meet the costs of feeding, medical aid and the building of cages, please email us at moholorehab@wol.co.za Donations need not only come in money but blankets, old towels, heating pads and so on, will be most welcome.

