

January 2012

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehab Centre



The male Leopard awakes to his new life in Majete Game Reserve in Malawi



The female Leopard in the boma where she will be kept with the male in an adjoining boma for a time until their release

Greetings friends worldwide!

Apologies for the delay in sending out the newsletter the last three months! It has been hectic and having our “star newsletter writer” leave us to return back home has left us in the deep end, so we will try a new course and include the staff to contribute to giving you news of what is going on.

In the last 3 months much has transpired and we have had many creatures make their way into the Centre. As you all know being a Rehabilitation Centre, one of our objectives is to assist where possible any injured or orphaned animals and birds.

We have had over time a number of Rhinos being brought in either orphaned from their mums who had been shot or their mother is under stress and she ignores the baby.

The first one to mention is a baby female white rhino brought in that was rejected by her mum. We also helped to relocate 2 more Leopards to Malawi. A Sooty Tern was brought in due to the Cyclone off Mozambique. We have a baby Civet which has crept into everyone’s heart and delights of all delights a Honey badger.

So enjoy the news snippets as you scroll on down and we will meet you all by email next month!

Ecologically yours,

The Moholoholo Team.

P.O. Box 1476
Hoedspruit,
Limpopo Province 1380
www.moholoholo.co.za

E: students@moholoholo.co.za
W: (+27) 15 79 55 236
C: (+27) 82 907 5984
F: (+27) 15 795 5333

January 2012



Its weak little legs and torn feet



The foot that looks like a torn rag!



I have found a home and oh! I am so hungry!



Our 'New Years' Gift!

On Friday 6th January we received a call from a game farmer who had discovered an abandoned baby white rhino on his farm an hours' drive away! When it comes to baby rhinos, this journey is definitely worth it! Brian, along with some staff members and students left and we began the adventure to collect the little thing.

On arrival we learnt that her mom had given birth to her just the night before meaning this rhino was under 24 hours old! The little girls' feet had not developed properly which Brian diagnosed as being born premature. We also discovered the rhinos on this farm had only recently been transported to this farm; this became clear that the mother must have been so stressed from the move, gave birth early and rejected the baby.

Now this is a relief as we first thought the mom had just rejected this baby which could mean any number of things that could be wrong that we cannot see visibly, but the mother can sense it somehow, hence her rejecting. However as she gave birth early due to capture stress it gives us hope that there were no physical problems with this baby, except for her weird little feet.

Brian gave her some milk straight away as we were worried she hadn't yet drunk from her mother meaning she was lacking colostrum (mother's first milk which contains lots of anti-bodies and helps improve the baby's immune system). She took this very well considering she must have been wondering what was going on with all these humans around her! She settled in quickly and soon stole the hearts of us all. She is drinking perfectly, and going to the toilet like a star.

As wonderful as it seems looking after a baby rhino, it's no easy task and requires literally 24/7 care around the clock, feeding every 2 hours and always being on alert to catch her pee and making sure she doesn't eat or suck on anything dirty.

Her current weight is 46.1 kg this might sound quite heavy but in comparison to our 2 year old black rhino weighing over 500kg this little girl's still got a long way to go, and we hope we get to see her reach this size. We are still thinking of a name for her. Until next time!

Sooty Tern

A Sooty Tern arrived at the Centre on the 21 January. It could not fly due to being so weak and was in poor condition upon arrival.

It is a rare for a bird such as this to find his way so far inland. Normally they feed by diving for fish in the sea. They live in large flocks and can stay out to sea for 3 – 10 years either in the air or on the water. Normally they only land to breed. The only time they are found inland is after storms and that is how this 'cool' bird made its way to Moholoholo.

Every day he must be force fed fish every 3 - 4 hours and given 10ml water via a tube placed down its throat. Another difficulty we face with this bird is finding fish. A gentleman from Phalaborwa 100kms from us kindly donated us sea fish which the bird of course prefers being a bird from the sea. All said and done he seems to be doing well and we hope to release him near the ocean soon.

We recently received a call stating that another Sooty Tern is on the way in just a few days. This tern was also found exhausted in the Kruger Park. Hopefully they will both make it and can keep each other company until their day of release.

We will update you next month, hopefully on their release!



'Civey' the Cute Civet

One of the little cuties brought is a 6 week old baby Civet which arrived on the 23rd January.

She is the cutest thing and weighs 650grams. The reason for her coming in to us is a little sad. Before she arrived we had severe storms that we have never experienced in this area before causing much damage. We had between 436 – 600mls in the area in 48 hours!! Rivers were overflowing and areas that were previously free of flowing water were now covered. We believe this excess water caused the mother to possibly have been washed away. Luckily 'Civey' as she is now named was found by the locals and brought in to us.

She is bottle fed 6 times a day with the last feed at 12pm!!! When she arrived she was a little feisty but has already tamed down She is still a little nervous around a lot of people and of course loud noises but given time she will be more than comfortable. Right now she is cared for by the one of the staff members and a student Clare.

We will keep you up dated next time with some cute photos!

Donations and Sponsorship

January 2012

We would like to thank those who help us keep our centre going by their donations. They don't go unnoticed, they make a difference in all the animals that come, go and stay for life in our Rehab Centre.

Kobus Neetling – Building of leopard cages
Gill Wright – Building of leopard cages
Justin Sellers - Building of leopard cages and leopard collar
Jackie and Rob Pearson – Building of leopard cages
Sara and Frank Feldman – Building of leopard cages
Clive and Anne Arnold – Building and leopard cages
G. Porter – leopard collar
J. H. Van der Veen – Leopard collar
Paula Warren – Leopard collar

We would also like to thank especially Rieke Wechner -12 years old- who donated money all the way from Germany to our "Animal hospital". A Huge thank you to Michael Johnson & Karen Briggs for the kind donation R190.000.00 for the building of the extension to the Quarantine Quarters

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!!

Towels, heating pads and so on, will be most welcome.



We would also like to thank our sponsors:

Avi-Plus Products
Alzu Feeds