

SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS



Description

The Southern White Rhinoceros has a thick grey hide and two long horns on its snout. They also have a wide, straight upper lip. Their legs are fairly slim, allowing them to run up to speeds of 45 kpm, which is amazing for their size. Rhinoceros have poor eyesight but their sense of smell is very good.

Diet

Rhinoceros are **herbivores** and graze mostly on grass with their flat, wide muzzle like a lawn mower.

In the wild

Although they will charge to intimidate predators, White Rhinoceros are quite placid. Mother-calf pairs stay together for long periods of time. Full-grown males tend to be solitary

Threats

Humans are the main predators of rhinoceros. Rhinoceros are hunted for their horns. The horn is made from keratin, the same as our fingernails and hair. Rangers in Africa have sedated rhinoceros and cut off their horns to stop poachers. Because the horn is made of keratin, it doesn't hurt to have it removed.

At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo is part of an Australasian Breeding Program attempting to increase rhinoceros numbers and has successfully bred two calves – a male and a female. Come for the 'Rhinoceros – an African Heavyweight' presentation at 1.45pm every day in the **African Savannah**.

Scientific Name

Ceratotherium simum simum

Other names

Square or Wide-lipped Rhinoceros

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 3.7–4 m

Weight: Up to 2.4 tonnes

Gestation: 16 months

Number of young: 1 calf



Distribution ■

Distribution: Southern Africa

Habitat: Savannah

Did you know?

White Rhinoceros aren't white at all. The name comes from the Afrikaan word 'weit' which means wide and refers to the lip. This gives the rhinoceros their other names, the Square-lipped Rhinoceros or Wide-lipped Rhinoceros.

The Southern White Rhinoceros is the largest species of rhinoceros. For more information visit www.sosrhino.org.



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