



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Rhinoceros

Australia Zoo was lucky enough to welcome a gorgeous Southern White Rhino, DJ, on 1 April 2008.



Southern White Rhinoceros

The Southern White Rhino is the second largest land mammal. They are grazers, found on the grassy savannahs of Southern Africa. Despite their name, Southern White Rhino's are actually grey in colour. The name is a misinterpretation of the Afrikaans word "weit" meaning wide. These wide muscular lips are used for grazing grasses. The large nuchal hump found on the top of the shoulder is filled with muscles and ligaments used to pull the head up from the grazing position. It is more noticeable on White Rhinos than in other Rhino species.

Habitat

Southern White Rhinos live in thick bush covered savannahs, woodlands, and grasslands of long and short grasses for grazing. They spend half the day grazing, a third resting, and the rest of the time wallowing, scratching on tree stumps and renovating the landscape. The wallow in the landscape is just as important as the food, water and shelter. The mud is used as sun screen, to keep the biting insects off and a beauty aid to remove dead skin.

Australia Zoo Southern White Rhinoceros profiles

Humphrey

Humphrey is the newest and smallest rhino at Australia Zoo and was born in October 2015 to mum Caballe and dad DJ.

Humphrey is a strong little rhino and is quite content being the center of his mums world, ruling the roost completely. He's an active little guy and loves to run around and push the other females around.

After play time, his favourite spot to have a sleep is right in the middle of mum's pile of hay - he'll flop down and fall fast asleep, leaving mum to eat around him!

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