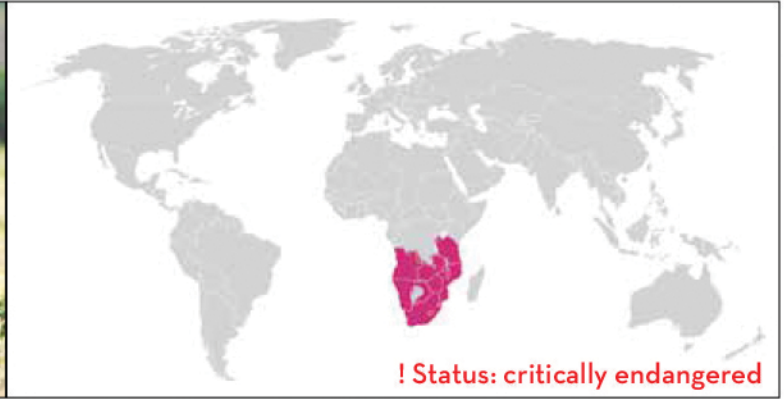


updated March 2017

EASTERN BLACK RHINOCEROS



Range	Eastern African black rhinos once lived throughout all of southeastern Africa; current range: small pockets of ranges in south eastern Africa
Habitat	Mainly found in transitional zones between grassland and forest, in thick thorn bush or acacia scrub; habitats are usually within 15 miles of a permanent water source
Diet (wild)	Variety of vegetation, but mainly succulent plants; show a preference for Acacia species
Diet (captivity)	Wild herbivore pelleted feed plus other things daily: apples, sweet potatoes, carrots, and greens. Their favorite foods by far are the leaves and branches (browse), always eating them before their hay or produce. The branches are also hung up in their stalls at night for them to play with and eat.
Description	Length: 9½–12 feet; weight: 1,750–4,000 pounds. Skin is grayish to brownish in color (often concealed by a coating of mud), thick, scantily haired and wrinkled. The grooves in their skin are furrowed and pleated, giving the appearance of armor. Limbs are short and stout to support weight. The tail has stiff bristles. They have a prehensile upper lip. Black rhinos have two horns which are made from keratin instead of bone. Females tend to have longer and thinner horns than males.
Lifespan	Wild: 35 years. Captivity: 45 years
Reproduction	Gestation is 15 months and females give birth every 2–5 years. Calves weigh close to 90 pounds at birth. The baby is hidden by its mother for first week after birth. After that, the mother and calf use specific vocalizations to find one another: the mother pants and the calf squeals. Calves are weaned at around 18 months but remain dependent on their mothers for up to four years. Females undergo their first estrus cycle at age five.
Behavior	Adult black rhinos are typically solitary creatures. Black rhinos rely most on their hearing and especially their sense of smell to assess their environment. They have poor vision, with the ability to see only 80 to 100 feet away. They eat an average of 50 pounds of food each day. Black rhinos use their characteristic prehensile upper lip to grab plants and guide them into their mouths, where their cheek teeth can do the rest of the work. In addition, black rhinos use their horns to gain access to higher branches by breaking or knocking down plants. Rhinos will make noises such as squealing or grunting when excited. They often wallow in mud holes, covering themselves with mud to counteract heat and protect them from flies, and often sleep in the mud holes as well. Water holes and mineral licks are visited daily. Rhinos sleep both standing and laying down.
Our animals	1 female (Dopsee). Born: 07/06/2007, at Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black rhinos are very agile for such a large animal. They can run up to 28 miles per hour for short distances. • Lions prey on young rhinos, but adults don't have any natural enemies. • Black rhinos have a sedentary lifestyle and remain in one general area. They are less active during the middle of the day, using mornings and evenings to eat, drink, and move around. • When startled, rhinos tend to run away from the source. While fleeing, rhinos issue a series of snorts and curl their tails until they calm down. Once the initial scare has passed, the rhino's curiosity kicks in and it will examine the source with inquisitive charges. • Black rhinos and oxpeckers are involved in a mutualistic relationship: the oxpeckers eat parasites taken from the rhino's skin. Additionally, oxpeckers are able to warn rhinos of approaching predators because their vision is much better than that of the rhino's. • Black rhinos are distinguished from white rhinos by their the pointed, prehensile upper lip, as opposed to the square lips found on white rhinos. Additionally, black rhinos have smaller heads and shorter ears and horns than white rhinos. • The population of black rhinos has declined by 98 percent since 1960, mainly as a result of poaching. There are less than 1,000 eastern black rhinos in the world, both in the wild and in zoos. There are two other sub-species of black rhino that are more numerous, bringing the total estimated population in 2010 to just under 5,000. There have been alarming increases in poaching and the illegal trade of rhino horn in recent years. In areas that are well-managed and well-protected, rhino numbers are increasing, but not enough to offset the loss due to poaching in other areas. • Rhino skin is up to 2 inches thick (an inch thicker than an elephant's) and is one of the fastest healing structures known to man. Cuts can heal in one day.

Phylum
ChordataClass
MammaliaOrder
PerissodactylaFamily
RhinocerotidaeGenus
Dicerosspecies
D. bicornis michaeli