

Thüringer Zoopark Erfurt

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## EAZA website

### Alternative medical treatment to solve health problems of a hand-raised white rhino at Erfurt Zoo

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On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 a male white rhino was born at Erfurt Zoo and had to be hand-raised after 60 hours. After five days the bull calf suffered from heavy diarrhoea. Although the calf showed signs of dehydration it was alert and had a good appetite. Apart from ordinary veterinary treatment the author wanted to add a homeopathic treatment to improve the body condition and to make the surrogate milk more digestible. In the beginning, Arsenicum album C30 (gastro-intestinal tract, central neural system, once a day) and Abrotanum D3 (gastro-intestinal tract, mucous membrane, lymph system) were given in an organic potency three times a day. The medicine was massaged in the mucous membrane of the mouth to improve absorbing rates.

The health status of "Amari" went rapidly down on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The calf showed spasms of muscles, but the body temperature was not raised. Although still suffering from massive diarrhoea, "Amari" readily responded to stimuli. The epidermis started to dissolve mainly from the distal parts of the limbs. Against this, a treatment was initiated with Nux vomica-Homaccord 2x 1,1 ml subcutaneous (gastro-intestinal tract, liver dysfunction), Mucosa comp. 2,2 ml s.c. and was proceeded with daily application p.o. (mucous membrane system, immune system). Sulphur C30 was used to detoxicate the body and to improve the immune system. Traumeel S ointment was applied locally on epidermal lesions.

Two days later, on June 20<sup>th</sup>, "Amari's" overall health status had increased virtually. He drank a lot of fluids. The epidermal lesions became less and new skin was growing. Tremor of muscles was not observed again. The mucous membranes were normally supplied with blood and showed no focus of inflammation. Galium-Heel was used to further promote the immune system.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the health status was critical again. The calf did not gain weight. "Amari" refused to suckle and he laid down a lot. Again, Mucosa comb. in combination with Cerebrum comp. (central nervous system, cerebral blood supply, psychogenic malfunction) was applied. After 45 minutes the general status of the calf improved visibly. The bull got up and wanted to suckle. An Urachus fistula was detected. Therefore, apart from Magnesium carbonicum D4 (milk intolerability of calves) Apocynum D6 (retention of body fluids) was used. The body condition of "Amari" stabilized. Faeces became paste-like. Gradually, the calf gained weight. To improve the regeneration process of the skin as well as to close the Urachus fistula, Silicea D12 was applied three times a day. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the fistula had healed. Since 28<sup>th</sup> of June, the young bull has gained weight continually. From July 4<sup>th</sup>, faeces were of normal consistency.