

**RHINO & LION
NATURE RESERVE**



**News from the Rhino
& Lion Nature Reserve**

Did you know that the pygmy hippopotamus is an endangered species? Hope you said yes, because sadly, they are.

Do you know what the group or collective noun for hippo's is? Well, it's a bloat of hippopotami.

Humphrey Junior came to live on the Reserve about 5 months ago. He's now a very social, happy little creature who loves human interaction and LOVES a treat of cashew nuts! He lives just outside the Croc Pub and has a big dam in which to wallow. A male pygmy hippopotamus is known as a bull, a female as a cow, and a baby as a calf. They are nocturnal herbivores. The bulk of a pygmy hippo's diet consists of ferns, broad-leaved plants, and fruits.

Pygmy hippos have the same unusual sweat as common hippos. It gives a pinkish tinge to their bodies and is sometimes described as "blood sweat" though the secretion is neither sweat nor blood. The highly alkaline substance is believed to have antiseptic and sunscreening properties. The skin of hippos dries out quickly and cracks, which is why both species of hippos spend so much time in water. Pygmy hippos mate and give birth on both land and water. Young pygmy hippos can swim almost immediately. When they are newly born, they weigh about 5 to 6Kg's and males weigh a little more. They will be fully weaned between 6-8 month of age.



The greatest threat to the remaining pygmy hippopotamus population in the wild is loss of habitat. The forests in which pygmy hippos live have been subject to settling conversion and agriculture. As forests shrink, the populations become more fragmented, leading to less genetic diversity in the potential mating pool.



Many folktales have been collected about the pygmy hippopotamus. One tale says that pygmy hippos carry a shining diamond in their mouths to help travel through thick forests at night; by day the pygmy hippo has a secret hiding place for the diamond, but if a hunter catches a pygmy hippo at night the diamond can also be taken.

Conservation of our earth is a very important practice. Think how you can make a difference to our country and write down your suggestions to the Editor. Humphrey is waiting for your visit to his home in the Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve, don't let him down.

**Enquiries and bookings
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