

WIRE SNARE REMOVED FROM RHINOCEROS COW

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Windhoek (bw) - Veterinarians have operated on a wire noose from the leg of a rhinoceros. An older and rather large rhinoceros on a farm in southern Namibia with an old and partially healed wound on its left hind leg began to limp again. Veterinarians found that the pachyderm had been dragging around a wire noose, such as those used by poachers, in its lower leg for years.

The rhinoceros cow had probably escaped the poachers at that time and the wound healed by tissue forming around the wire noose. All these years, the animal coped quite well with it. Recently, however, the owners noticed that the rhino cow's hind leg was swollen and that she was limping. The team from Wildlife Vets Namibia (WVN) used a mobile X-ray machine to determine that there was a wire loop in the leg and had cut the tissue almost to the bone! During the operation on the anesthetized rhinoceros cow, the wound was opened and the wire noose was cut and pulled out. The wound was disinfected, professionally sewn up and bandaged. The "patient" received a dose of long-acting antibiotics and after almost two weeks the wound heals well. According to WVN's veterinarians, the rhinoceros cow is doing well.

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