

Veterinary students need your support for Run4Rhinos on 28 July

By CvB

Posted on 23 July 2012



The Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort, Prof Gerry Swan "welcomes" the rhino with his own donation on Monday morning. The long-awaited life-size fibreglass rhino will be instrumental in the Run4Rhinos campaign kicking off on 28 July at the LC de Villiers sports grounds, and was on display on Monday, 23 July 2012 at the Onderstepoort Campus. The rhino will also be on display at the Hatfield Campus on Wednesday between 10:00 and 14:00 at the Student Centre circle.

A group of BVSc I veterinary students is hosting the Run 4 Rhinos event at the LC de Villiers sports grounds on Saturday, 28 July to raise awareness and funds for the RhODIS project of the Faculty of Veterinary Science's Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL).

In order to help with the plight of the rhinos, the lab collects DNA samples of rhinos across the country to create a database using the unique DNA profile of individual rhinos. So far, the database has grown to include over 3 500 black and white rhinos from South Africa in just over a year.

An official 5km and 10km fun run/walk will form part of the event that will take place at the LC de Villiers sports grounds of the University of Pretoria, while a life-sized fibre glass rhino with a slot hole (built with the financial assistance of **Wildlife Pharmaceuticals**) will be officially introduced as the 'piggy-bank' for the project. Various food and other stalls will be erected on the grounds and the day promises to be a fun-filled event for a great cause.

All the money raised by *Run4Rhinos* will be donated to the RhODIS™ programme which is run by the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) at the Onderstepoort Campus of the University of Pretoria. It costs about R600 for each rhino to be added to the database (excluding darting and sample collection costs). The goal of the VGL, managed by Dr Cindy Harper, is to include all rhinos on the system. This will deter poachers and assist in forensic prosecutions.

One of the other sponsors of the day, **PPS** (the Professional Provident Society) has in the meantime pledged to donate R10 000 to the cause while **Nedbank** has pledged R5 000.

HELP GET A RHINO ONTO THE DATABASE BY PARTICIPATING IN THE *RUN4RHINOS* EVENT

WHERE: UP Sports Campus (LC de Villiers)

DATE: 28 JULY 2012

DISTANCE: 5km or 10km

TIME: 07:30 (registration and payment between 06:00 and 07:15)

ENTRY FEE: R40 – 5 km / R50 – 10 km (paid at the venue on the day)

For more information please go to the [Run-4-Rhinos Facebook page](#).



The rhino has arrived! Some of the Onderstepoort (OP) students "welcomed" the rhino this morning at the OP Campus.

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