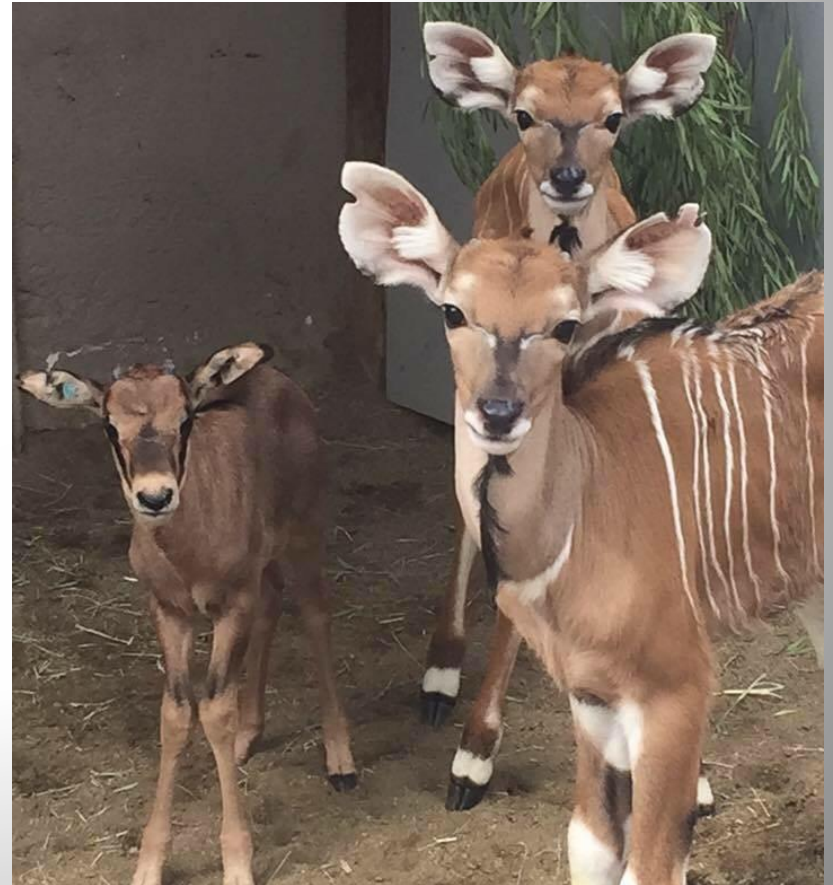


Ungulate Hand-rearing Strategies at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park



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SAFARI PARK



Why do we hand rear?

- Maternal neglect
- Medical
- Shipments



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Negative effects of hand-rearing

- Aggression toward keepers
- Reduced flight distance
- Imprinting on humans
- Difficult to adjust back into herds
- Lack of breeding



3 Hand-rearing methods

- Free Contact
- Modified Contact
- Protected Contact

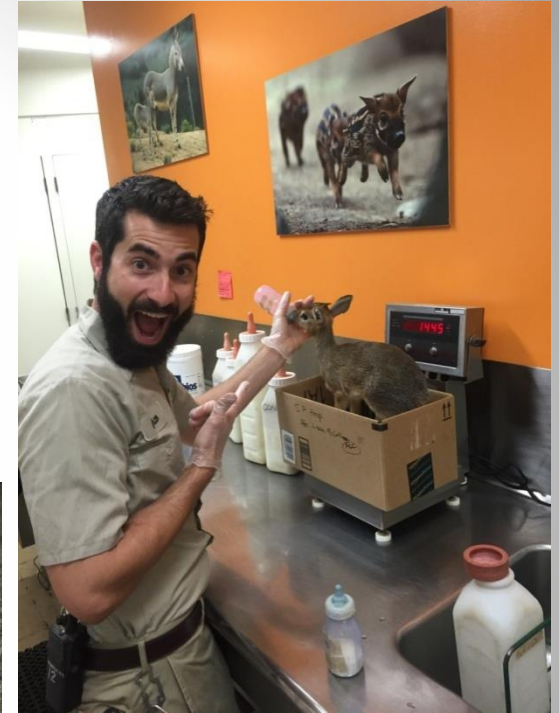


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Free contact

- Traditional “hands on method”.
- Flighty animals for shipment.
- Flighty herd animals that could benefit from a calm animal.
- Females of most species.



Behind the scenes tours and training



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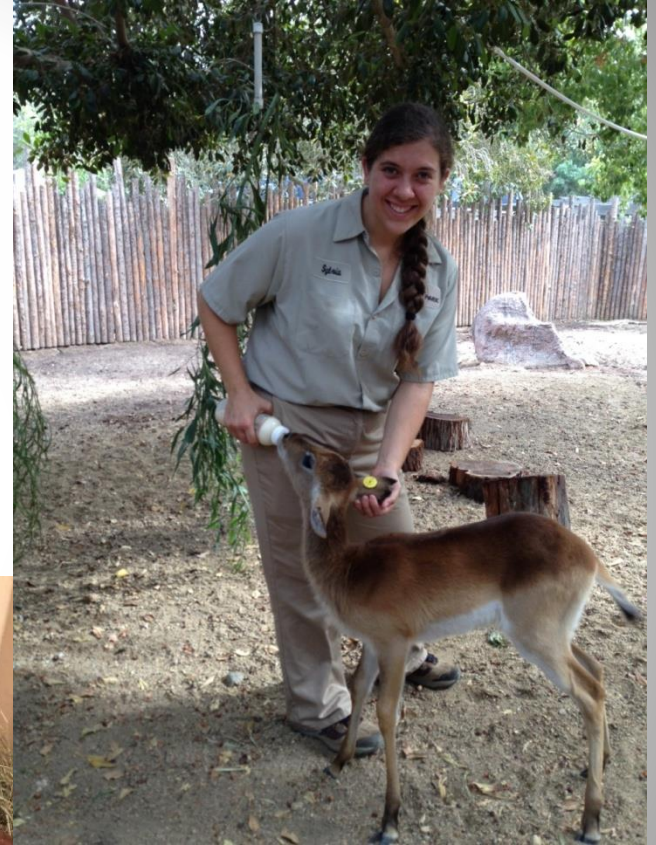
Free contact species

- Steenbok
- Dik Dik
- Zambesi Lechwe
- Impala
- Red-fronted Gazelle
- Springbok



Zambesi Lechwe

- Females were pulled to hand rear for shipment to DAK Lodge.
- Contacted future facility.
- Paired future re-call with bottle.



Raised with multi-species to help with the transition.





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Modified Contact Rearing

- Used for species that are large in size or have large horns.
- Minimal human interaction once neonate is established on bottle.
- Fed on racks, over doors, or in crates.



Modified Contact

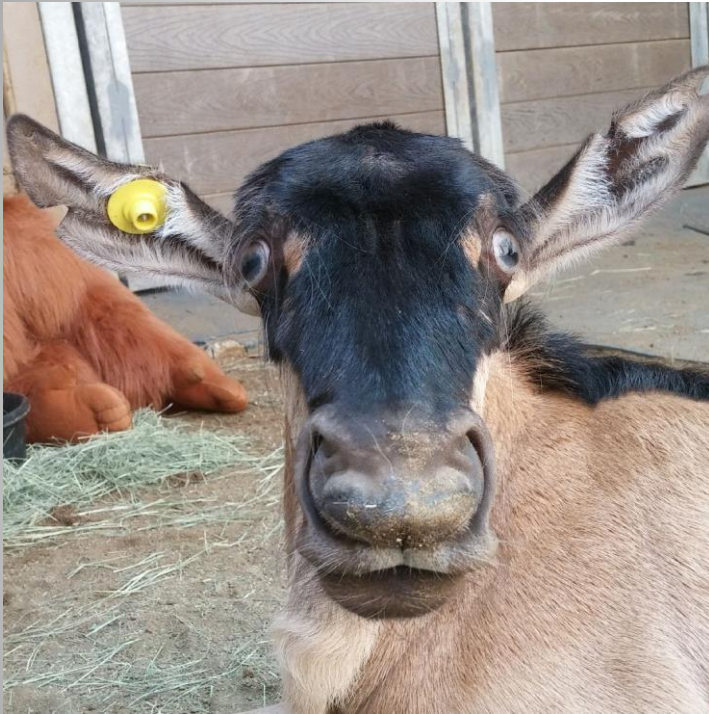
- Keepers can enter exhibit to clean, but discouraged from contact with animals while sharing the same space.



Animals should approach feeding station
for their bottle instead of the keeper.



Modified Contact Species



- Giant Eland
- Common Eland
- Wildebeest
- Female Oryx
- Bongo

Protected Contact Rearing

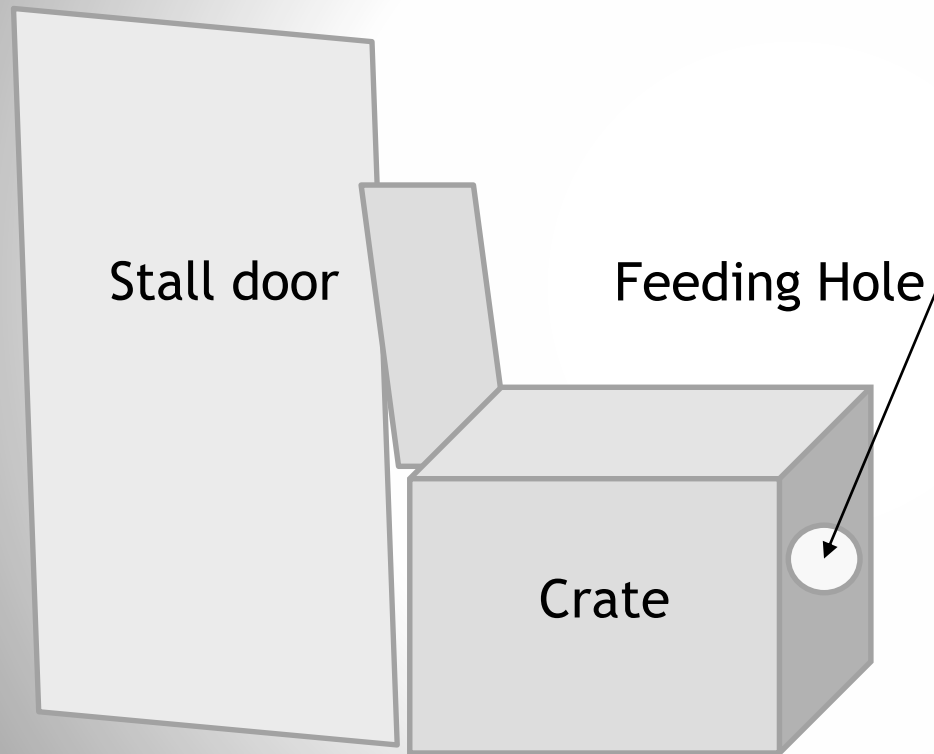
- Most difficult rearing style.
- Requires flexibility and consistency.
- Keepers do not enter space with animal.
- Limit talking around animal during feeding.



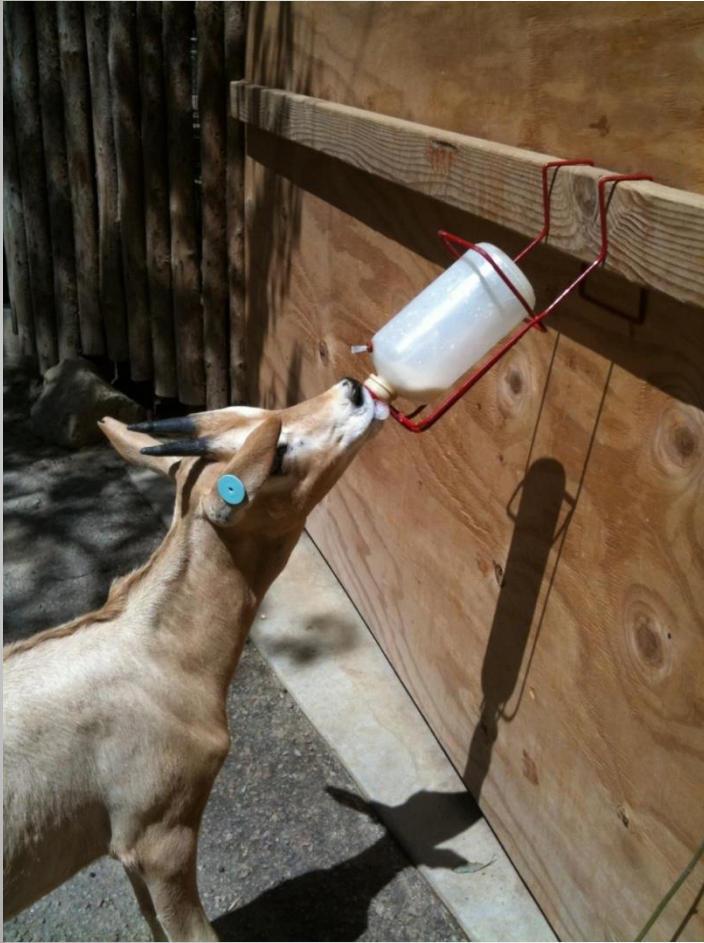
Fed on a Rack, Stick, or Crate with no Visual Contact during feeding



Crate Feeding



Rack Feeding



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Protected Contact Species



- Male Deer
- Male Oryx
- Male Bontebok
- Male Sheep and Goats

Challenges

- Difficult in extreme medical cases.
- Sheep and goats have a quick imprint period.
- Follow up management style must be enforced during transition period.



Do these methods work?



- All 3 methods have produced animals that exhibit similar behaviors to parent-reared animals.
- Less aggression toward keepers.
- We have been able to hand-rear a wide variety of species that we were unable to in the past.

The next step...

- Beginning stage of follow up on all hand-reared animals at SP.
- Will be reaching out to other facilities for information on animals shipped out.
- Adjust methods based on results.



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