

Rhino Orphanage, The (NHU)

6x60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Pemba & Dwayne

The Rhino Orphanage emerged from the darkness of a brutal poaching war gripping South Africa. It's a safe haven for victims of this senseless war, where young orphaned rhino calves can pick up their shattered lives and receive a second chance. One such victim, Pemba, is traumatized and lonely and needs a rhino friend his age - enter recently orphaned rhino calf, 34 day old Dwayne. Under-staffed and over-worked, Karen's eager to get the two little guys to live together, to lift their spirits. It should be as easy as "one, two, three" - but little rhinos don't always comply.

2. Nyani

Born a week premature, little Nyani was unable to keep up with her mother, so Karen took over. Raising a premature calf has never been attempted at the orphanage. One day the little one is running around, the next she's being rushed to Onderstepoort's Veterinary Hospital, fighting for her life. Nyani barely clings to life, its touch and go for two weeks, while Karen and the vets try everything they can to keep her alive. You can't help but fall in love with something so small, yet so feisty. Nyani's short life is an emotional roller coaster of a story.

3. Stinky

Rejected by his mother in Namibia, Tswalu, aka Stinky, due to recurring health problems, has been through so much since he first came to the orphanage. Now it's suspected he's broken his leg. Karen and Vikki are desperate to get him to a veterinary hospital for surgery, but he's not well enough to travel, nor will the hospital accept him until his stomach ailment is cured. It is a dilemma for everyone at the orphanage, he's one of only 800 desert black rhinos left in the world and they'll do anything to save him.

4. The Hooligans

The orphanage is full and the Hooligans are in desperate need of a larger space, even a temporary solution will help. Cramped for space, it's inevitable they begin to fight and, Kalula is always in the thick of it. It's not long before one of the orphans loses a horn in the daily scuffles. Meanwhile, Karen travels to Kwa-Zulu Natal to inspect a new rhino orphanage. It's all part of her dream to create little 'pockets of hope' - a network of safe homes for brutally orphaned rhinos. Veterinarian Gabby steps in to assist at the orphanage, alongside Vikki and Arrie.

5. Lesedi

The Rhino Orphanage receives an emergency call for help, a young calf was found abandoned, stuck in mud, unable to walk. Back at the orphanage the team sets to work massaging Selati's damaged limbs, treating her injuries. Meanwhile Karen is rushing to a sick rhino that may need to be euthanized, but they think she may be pregnant! Inevitably the orphanage gets a call to collect an orphaned rhino from the wild – Lesedi. The full horrors of the brutal poaching war are revealed as Karen attends an incident close to the Kruger National Park. Little Nyani is sick once again.

6. Full Cycle

Overcoming the cruel twist of fate life dealt them, these war orphans, the Hooligans, have survived two years of hands-on rehabilitation at the Orphanage. Finally their traumatic journey is about to conclude, with a release into the wild. Symbols of hope, they are proof that the orphanage can make a difference during these dark times. Karen visits Tula Tula to celebrate its opening – her dream of little 'pockets of hope' is beginning to take shape. With a third orphanage due to be operational within weeks, everything bodes well for the fragile future of the world's remaining rhino...