



This three-month-old rhino calf has a new home.

Calf of poached rhino rescued

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AFTER his mother was tragically poached, a three-month-old rhino calf was given a new home in the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC) on Wednesday.

The animal was found on a wildlife estate next to its dead mother and refused to leave her side. He was inconsolable.

"He is anticipated to have been born on about February 19 and was brought to the HESC after being found next to his dead mother which had been tragically and brutally poached for her horn," said the centre's curator Christo Schreiber.

"Despite his distress, he had a good night," Schreiber said.

After the baby rhino was darted, he was taken to the nearby centre where he will stay until he is released back into the wild.

"Ideally, we want to release him into the wild when he is big enough," Schreiber said.

Schreiber and the newly appointed surrogate mother rhino, named Skaap, are in close contact with the juvenile, who has yet to be named.

Staff at the centre now have to hand feed him fat-free milk for the next few years.

"The HESC has seen a number of injured and orphaned animals successfully rehabilitated over the years, and we are hopeful that this will be another happy ending," Schreiber said.