

DOGS AGAINST POACHERS

For many years, rhinos been targeted by poachers because of the large market for the animal's horn, is considered by some to have medicinal qualities. In the late 2000s, greater demand and higher prices led to increased poaching. In the following years, more than 1,000 rhinos killed annually in South Africa, 80% of the world's rhinos live. A few years ago, the country received help in the fight against poachers. It turned an expert in the USA breeds and trains a type of high-speed, free-running tracking dog that hunts in packs. Several packs now work in South African reserves, with rangers following in helicopters when the dogs released. Though trained not to bite, the dogs are terrifying and highly effective in keeping poachers trapped until their arrest. Rangers have caught more than 145 poachers so far, and in 2019, the number of rhinos poached in South Africa fell to 594. That's still too high, but the only way to bring an end to rhino poaching permanently is to end demand for their horns.

