



# POOP

## Detectives



by Ellen Lawrence

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# Up Close with Dung

A zoo **veterinarian** is at work in a **lab**.

She opens a large refrigerator and takes out a box.

Is it her lunch? No—the box contains rhino poop!

She scoops out a pea-sized lump and adds it to a bowl of salty water.

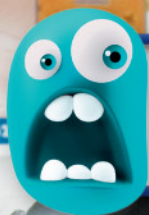
Then she begins to examine the poop water under a **microscope**.

a mixture of  
poop and water



Vets and other scientists can learn a lot from an animal's poop. At a zoo, keepers collect dung samples for the vets to study. The poop is stored in a refrigerator to keep it fresh.





Why do you think the vet  
is studying rhino poop?

microscope

poop sample

veterinarian



# A Poop Checkup

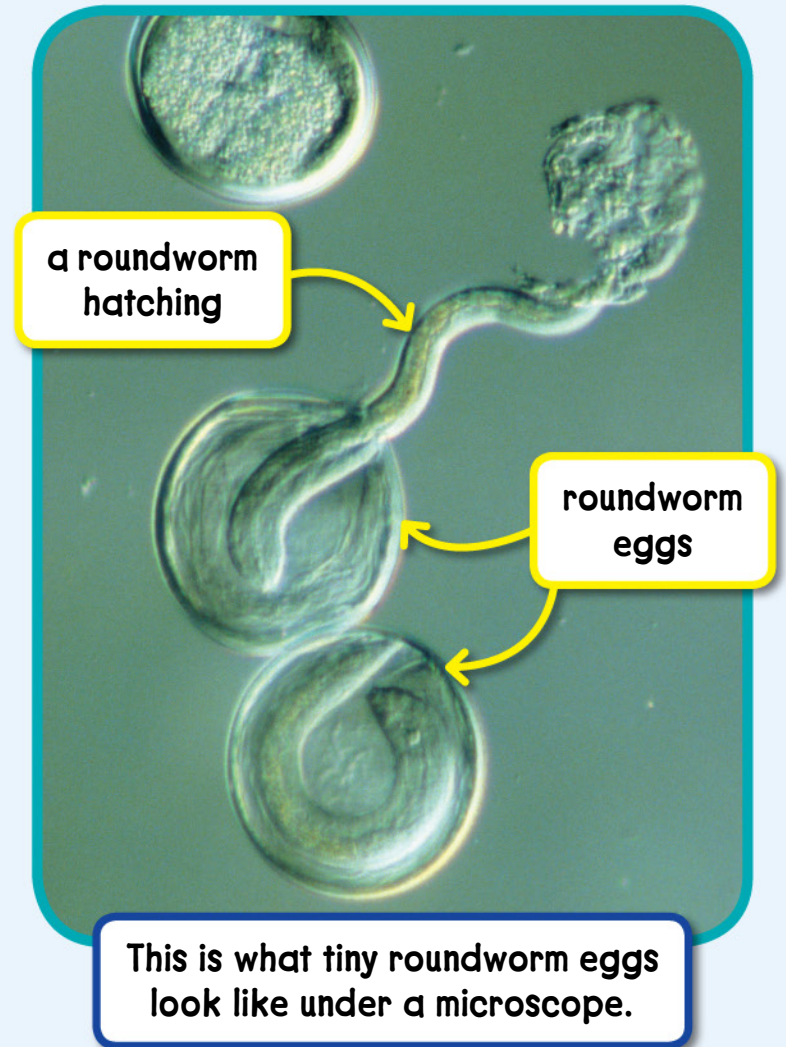
The vet is looking for **parasites**, such as roundworms, that may be living inside the rhino and making it sick.

Roundworms lay their eggs in an animal's stomach.

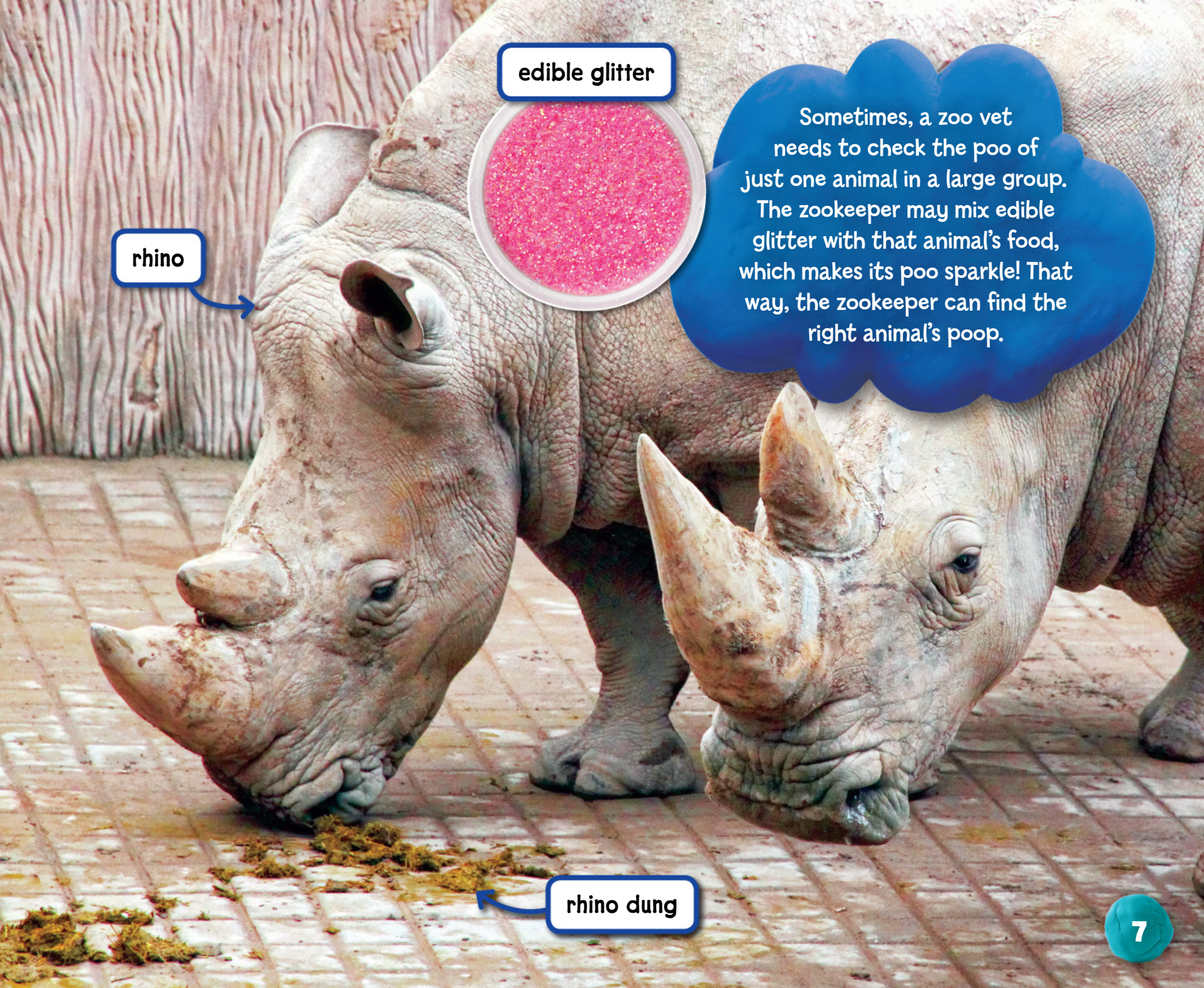
When the animal poops, the tiny eggs are passed out in its feces.

The vet checks the rhino's dung for worm eggs.

If there are lots of eggs, the rhino needs some worm-killing medicine.







edible glitter

rhino

Sometimes, a zoo vet needs to check the poo of just one animal in a large group. The zookeeper may mix edible glitter with that animal's food, which makes its poo sparkle! That way, the zookeeper can find the right animal's poop.

rhino dung