



Rhino Narrative

You are members of the proud, strong, Rhino community. You are large, kind, smart, thoughtful animals who are revered for your intelligence and grace. You love being Rhinos so much, and your large, strong horns are one of your favorite qualities. Rhinos have inhabited the lands of Berkeleyville for thousands of years; your culture's histories tell stories of a time before any other animal shared these lands. You are an organized community who cares deeply for others and wants a more active role in the local politics of Berkeleyville. While you have representation on the town council, there are only 2 Rhinos out of 20 council seats. Since Rhinos have been in the land the longest, you know deep in your hearts that you have the best interest of Berkeleyville at the center of your community, and want to ensure it is a great place for all the animals. You do not have a single leader who stands out or takes control; you have a few strong leaders who rule together. However, because you do not have a single leader, some of the other animals see you as being weak.

Recently, a major issue has developed which is causing your community to demand action. Your watering holes are notoriously far away. It takes the average Rhino 45 minutes just to get to the watering hole, so you have to spend a lot of time during your day going back and forth for water. The water there is of lesser quality and has been dirty for ages. In the past year there have been numerous instances of illness in the Rhino community and some of your own have died due to Rhino flu, which has been directly



connected to the water from your watering holes. A recent report published in *The Berkeleyville Gazette* proved that there is toxic material leaking into your aquifer, which is tainting the water. This is a life or death matter and your community is in turmoil. Rhinos are scared. You used to have access to a much cleaner watering hole near the center of town, however that watering hole was taken over by the incredibly aggressive, invasive population of Unicorns who moved into the area a few hundred years ago. The Unicorns were initially a welcome presence as they brought positive attention to Berkeleyville. However, you Rhinos have grown tired of their insistence that the world be all Unicorn all the time. You feel strongly that they push a Unicornist agenda at the expense of others, which is not what your ancestors of Berkeleyville would have wanted. It is not fair that they make policy that is pro-Unicorn simply because they think they are better than the other animals. They always talk about being magic, which you know is not true. 25 years ago there was a famous story published in *The Berkeleyville Gazette* that proved that their magic was fiction, not science. Some of the most reputable scientists in the animal community conducted, wrote, and published the study.

Not only is the water cleaner, this particular watering hole also holds incredible significance for the Rhinos. Generations ago this was the birthplace of the original Rhino. Every year you hold a festival in your town celebrating the birth of the original Rhino; there is wonderful music, delicious food, and lots of joy. 35 years ago there was a major tragedy on this holiday. As is custom on the Original Rhino birthday, the young Rhinos



travel together to visit the original watering hole and pay homage to their ancestors. On their way, your youth were attacked by a pride of Lions. It was a brutal attack that killed 15 young Rhinos; while many of the survivors turned for home, a small group of 6 of the youngest Rhinos ran the other way. Rhinos grow relatively quickly so it can be hard to tell their age, which not many other animals know and is always causing issues within the animal community. The terrified youngsters, traumatized by what had just happened, ran into town and, to add to the tragedy of that day, accidentally trampled a baby Unicorn to death.

Your leaders have spent years trying to apologize for this tragedy, but a group of Unicorns spread rumors that the Rhinos did this on purpose. The Unicorns used social media, TV ads, and gave speeches about this to turn the other animals against your community. Not everyone believes the lie, but enough do, which has made things really tense in Berkeleyville. Your leaders are at a loss and do not know how to be believed. Since then, the Unicorns have banned any Rhino from coming to the healthy watering hole. The issue of access to clean water is a life or death matter for the Rhino community, and all you want is a fair solution.