



CHEETAH OUTREACH

SEE IT. SENSE IT. SAVE IT.

N E W S L E T T E R

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CUB UPDATE

This year we reared 5 cubs from the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust. Turning 9 months old in the middle of January 2009, 3 have already left our facility to continue their educational work. Chip and Belle are now resident in Florida, USA, and are enjoying the sunshine state. Disney returned to De Wildt as she had broken her leg and needed specialist treatment. After the two orthopedic surgeons had consulted her they decided to operate, as the break was just below the elbow. The procedure went well and the surgeons placed 3 pins in her leg, one temporary and the other two to remain permanently. Since the operation her leg has healed wonderfully and she is mobile and as "bubbly" as usual. Although she had decided that she will only eat chicken if mixed with a little milk and hand fed. Spoilt rotten! Elroy and Alf are still at our compounds, but will be making their way to the States within a month.

Left: Disney, healing nicely after the operation.



THEATRE ON THE BAY

Our annual theatre fundraiser is seeming to be more and more popular and thanks to the well attended show over R105,000.00 was raised during the festive auction prior to the raising of the curtain. This year we had 3 adorable little helpers, Anatolian puppies, who have joined our project from Turkey. Thor and Chenin, and the third puppy who's naming rights have been offered to Auckland Zoo as a fundraising initiative, raised R18,500.00 towards the Anatolian project. Mercedes from the States, a new member of our breeding dog team, also lent a paw to the evening's proceedings. The audience was overwhelmed by her presence and her size.

Once again a huge thank you to all who participated in, and organized the evening's activities.

Top right: appreciative crowd

Bottom right: Annie and Mercedes

Left: Thor, Chenin and unnamed puppy



GOODBYE HEIDI

After 8 years as our function co-ordinator Heidi Moller has taken on the challenge of relocating to New Zealand, where she has chosen to actively pursue her passion in the field of emergency medical care. We have enjoyed the years working with her and wish her great success in her new adventure.

HELLO ARNO

Arno Smit is our new function co-ordinator and handler. He has an impressive background which includes experience as a wildlife guide, he has completed courses in tracking, approaching dangerous game and game lodge management. He has worked as a guide in South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania. His passion is wildlife, especially big predators and he is a welcome addition to our team.

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WIDENING OUR APPEAL

As our Anatolian project has become so fundamental to free-range cheetah conservation we have seen an opportunity to diversify the animals that we house at our facility. Housing different predators found on farmlands at our facility has given us the unique ability to educate the visitor by incorporating our See it, Sense it, Save it motto into the Cheetah Outreach experience. Although our new editions do not as yet take part in the touch programme, they have become a valuable awakening tool of difficulties faced on farmlands. During the guided talk given at various times of the day the visitor will be introduced to these animals and informed about their unique needs and obstacles faced on farmlands. Please note that all these animals are captive born.



Sebastian - Meerkat

Sebastian thoroughly enjoys interacting with the staff and volunteers at our facility. They are constantly bringing him interesting goodies to eat, but he still shows partiality to grapes, mealworms and crickets. He loves his walks around the facility as this gives him the opportunity to stop along the way and dig for some scrumptious snacks.



Malaika - Caracal

Malaika is almost 7 months old and is probably the friendliest, most lovable and laidback cat you will ever meet. She has a passion for fluffy toys and can play for hours at a time, throwing the toy in the air and chasing after it. She is housed with the two jackal and has taken on the role of "leader of the pack".



Black-backed Jackal

Also joining our team is a male and female black-backed jackal, yet to be named. They enjoy their quarters with our caracal. They are not as confident as she is, but they enjoy the visits that they receive from staff and volunteers and have no end to their love. The highlight for them is when they are taken to one of our larger enclosures where they get to run around and have fun.





ANGEL'S PUPPIES

Angel's first litter was placed in the Tosca area of the North-West province of South Africa. This area has a lot of movement of wild cheetah as most of the farms are on the Botswana border. The area is hot and dry during summer and mild during winter, with thick Kalahari Bushveldt, and will be one of the most challenging work areas for an Anatolian. On the day of the placement we invited the local farmers union to attend the puppy handover to the four new owners. An incredible 15 farmers attended, confirming our belief that non-predator control is by far the better option.



Left to right: Angel and her pups; handover of puppies to new owners; close-up of newborn puppy; the entire gang

MELDA'S PUPPIES

Our first litter of six puppies was born on the 2nd of July 2008 to Melda and Wardance. The puppies were placed during August 2008. Five of the six puppies are already accompanying their herds to the veldt, the last one is being kept back due to lack of grazing. Crikey, already in the thick of things, successfully prevented a leopard from attacking calves kept in a kraal. Way to go Crikey!



Left to right: Crikey on his farm; Crikey as a puppy; Crikey in the middle of his siblings





NEW BREEDING DOGS

In October we expanded our breeding facility at Eikendal, adding two new enclosures. These were needed to house the latest addition to the Anatolian breeding team, namely 2 one-year old puppies from USA. Mercedes and Karabash Londiwe arrived on the 11th of October and are already bigger than our mature females.

October 29th saw the arrival of our three Turkish puppies. Unfortunately we were only able to greet them at the airport as they were taken straight into quarantine by the state vet. In early November they were welcomed at the breeding facility and since then have been busy raising funds for the Anatolian project at our annual Theatre on The Bay fundraiser.

These five new breeding dogs will greatly increase the genetic diversity of this breed in South Africa and allow us to specifically breed for placement in diverse terrains and with different livestock.

Below: The 3 turkish bred puppies reunited at Cheetah Outreach facility



FUTURE PLACEMENTS

Cheetah Outreach aims to place 20 puppies in 2009 with approved farmers in free ranging cheetah territories. The extra puppies born out of the breeding females will be sold commercially to help keep up with the demand for these dogs in the non-cheetah area. To achieve this goal we will be breeding as follows:

Angel and Melda will be mated with another male other than Wardance, as we discovered last year after breeding that they both carry the "white" gene and this is not ideal for a working Anatolian. If a male is found and mating is successful, we may expect both females to produce an average litter size of 6 puppies.

Helen, the second dog bought from Grootfontein Agricultural College, is also expected to produce an average of 6 puppies.

With the purchase of Lucy, a third female from Grootfontein, the original target may still be achieved, since she will also be expected to produce an average of 6 puppies.

We will only be breeding with the two 12 month old USA females when they turn two in 2010. However, before breeding can take place they have to pass all their health examinations and be cleared of hip dysplasia.



We may have a second breeding session towards the end of 2009 depending on whether or not the females come into heat again. If this is the case most of these puppies would be available for commercial trade and the funds raised will be invested in the breeding programme.

Left: Mercedes and Londiwe, 12 month old females from the States.



BREEDING FACILITY

Eikendal Wine Estate has been supporting the Cheetah Outreach and De Wildt and Wildlife trust for many years, supplying us the use of a facility to hand raise cheetah ambassadors. They have further extended their support by making available half a hectare of land for the exclusive use by Cheetah Outreach to house our breeding female dogs. This is essential, as all newborn puppies need to be reared in an area free of predators to cultivate expected and desirable behaviour. Were the puppies to be housed at the Cheetah Outreach facility where cheetahs live in close proximity, the puppies might accept this as the norm and no longer view them as a potential threat.

There are six female camps for the dogs, measuring 15m by 9m each. Each camp has a small wooden house for shelter and additional shade is also provided. With the current design of the camps all the dogs have access to a big area for play and energy release. This area is also used for grazing by the sheep, thus ensuring that all the dogs have contact with the livestock.

In addition to the housing camps we have also developed a whelping area where females can be kept in isolation from the other females. This separate concrete area provides shelter for the mom and puppies and is in close proximity to the veterinary facility, thus enabling easier and better hygiene and monitoring. The whelping area is also set up with lighting and additional heating if necessary in inclement weather. When puppies reach a certain age and size, they are moved to the female enclosure areas where there are puppy pens set up. These pens are designed in such a way enabling the sheep to be in the larger enclosure with the puppies, but not able to get into the puppy area where a puppy can accidentally be trampled. This gives the puppies some exposure to the livestock prior to being placed on the farms. Currently there are Merino and Dorper sheep at the breeding facility and we plan on acquiring a few Boer goats to increase the variety of livestock that the puppies are exposed to prior to their placement on farms.



WOOLWORTHS PILOT PROGRAMME

The collaboration with Woolworths, who are looking at expanding their free-ranging lamb products by including predator-friendly alternatives as well as promoting farmers who use non-lethal predator control methods has seen the placement of 10 puppies in the Cradock area.

The first 5 puppies placed have completed their bonding phase and are ready to go out and assist their owners in combating predators.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Woolworths on their progressive stance when it comes to uniting commerce and conservation efforts. Please note that they carry the full funding of the 10 dogs placed.





FOUNDER'S NOTE

Closing the door on a productive 2008, we open a new chapter of opportunities and growth in 2009 here at Cheetah Outreach. At the end of last year we acquired 2 new breeding dogs from the States and 3 dogs from Turkey. These new bloodlines are critical to improve the genetic diversity of the Anatolian in South Africa. I would like to thank Panther Ridge for assisting us with the exporting of Mercedes and Londiwe from the States. I would also like to thank Shepherd's Rest Anatolian Breeding Centre, based in the States, for facilitating the purchasing and importing of the breeding dogs from Turkey.

Welcome to our 3 new species housed at the facility. The meerkat, caracal and jackals have added an interesting expansion to our see it, sense it, save it initiative and I am sure that visitors will enjoy their antics.

I am overwhelmed at the enormous support that we receive each year at our Theatre on the Bay fundraiser. A huge thank you to all who donated the wonderful goodies up for auction, and congratulations to the successful bidders we hope you enjoy your winnings. Thank you to those responsible for the success of the evening, this fundraiser is certainly one of our highlights on our fundraising calendar.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a successful and peaceful year ahead.

Annie



Alsan, Thor's sire - note the clipped ears and spiked collar for protection against predators

HELP SUPPORT CHEETAH OUTREACH

To join Cheetah Outreach in its efforts just mark the category of support and fill in your name and address on the form below:

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:

Member (R100)

- Bi-annual newsletter of activities, 1 free entry into enclosure per year.

Supporter (R250)

- Newsletter and certificate of recognition, 3 free entries into enclosure per year.

Sponsor (R500)

- Newsletter, photograph, name and date of visit to school or community event, 6 free entries into enclosure per year.

Patron (R1000)

- Newsletter, and recognition on Cheetah Outreach website, 15 free entries into enclosure per year.

Adoption of one cheetah - when available (R5000)

- Newsletter, recognition on our adoption board at Cheetah Outreach, recognition on website and a photograph and information of cheetah adopted as well as unlimited entry into enclosure.

Guarding Dog (R5000)

- Placement of a livestock guarding dog on a South African farm or the purchase of a breeding dog, recognition on sponsor board at Cheetah Outreach.

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

Mail this form and your cheque, payable to Cheetah Outreach, to PO Box 116 Lynedoch, 7603, South Africa.

