



# CHEETAH OUTREACH

SEE IT. SENSE IT. SAVE IT.

N E W S L E T T E R

MAY 2010

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1



## NEW LOOK WEBSITE

After months of hard work, the new Cheetah Outreach website is live. The new site has updated information, photographs, videos and downloads. And don't miss the link to our facebook community where you can join us online, we look forward to seeing you there. [www.cheetah.co.za](http://www.cheetah.co.za)

We would like to thank Debby Wettlaufer and Mike Calvin our new webmasters for the wonderful work that they have done with the site, we are grateful for your time and your effort.



# [www.cheetah.co.za](http://www.cheetah.co.za)

## MISS WORLD PAGEANT

## beauty with a cause



The theme for the 2009 Miss World Pageant was conservation and the contestants were divided into 4 groups campaigning for one of the following endangered animals: the Black Rhino; the Cheetah; the African Penguin; and the Marshall Eagle.

Each group had the opportunity to visit conservation facilities focused on the problems and solutions of the endangered animal that they represented through out the pageantry. During their time at Cheetah Outreach the contestants were filmed meeting our adult ambassadors as well as our enthusiastic cubs. They also got to meet

M a l a i k a (Caracal) and Jackson (Black-backed jackal) while our education manager gave them a talk on the programme's goals, aims and initiatives. The ladies were mesmerized by our beautiful cats and their interest in the program was infectious.



Malika (Caracal) and Jackson (Black-backed jackal) while our education manager gave them a talk on the programme's goals, aims and initiatives. The ladies were mesmerized by our beautiful cats and their interest in the program was infectious.

Their time at the facility was aired around the world to 80 countries during the live broadcast providing Cheetah Outreach an amazing opportunity to spread the word.

## beauty with a cause



## KAYA, SAVANNAH and MOYA TRIBUTE

- They are no longer with us, but the memories of Kaya, Savannah and Moya are treasured deep in our hearts.

2009 saw the untimely death of 3 ambassador cheetahs, Kaya and Savannah of Cheetah Outreach, and Moya who was born at Cheetah Outreach but resided at the Cincinnati Zoo in America.



**Kaya** came to us in 2002 as a small cub from the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Centre (formerly De Wildt), and along with his two brothers Joseph and Byron was raised to be an ambassador for his species. His gentleness touched the hearts of those privileged enough to know him and he was an excellent ambassador at Cheetah Outreach. A real fighter, Kaya endured a long illness, but in the end his body let him down. We are all going to miss his sweet, loving presence and quiet dignity.

**Savannah** and her sister Zaza were the first cubs that came to us from the Ann Van Dyk Cheetah Centre (formerly De Wildt). For the staff and volunteers at Cheetah Outreach it was one of the most amazing opportunities to play a part in her upbringing and to be able to share in the experiences of her life. Savannah's sudden death dealt a

great blow to our heart strings. Our memories of her are filled with many joyous moments and the unconditional love and trust that she gave to a lucky few will be cherished for ever.



**Moya**, brother to Nyana and Charlie who were born at Cheetah Outreach to parents Inca and Candy passed away exactly one year to the date after his brother Nyana. Moya who had spent his life at the Cincinnati Zoo had touched the lives of many people in America and his handler's broken hearts were a testament to his loving nature. A memorial service was held at Cheetah Outreach and was attended by his handlers from Cincinnati Zoo. They brought his collar with to hang up on our memorial wall and returned his ashes so that he could be reunited with his brother.

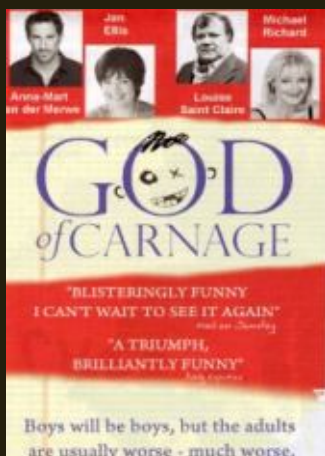


**Kaya: 30/05/2002 - 12/08/2009**  
**Savannah: 20/04/2001 - 04/11/2009**  
**Moya: 15/09/1997 - 26/01/2009**

## Theatre on the Bay fundraiser

This year's Theatre on the Bay fundraiser raised over R90,000 for the Anatolian programme, and we would like to thank everyone who participated in making it a huge success in spite of the poor economic climate.

The auction was highlighted by a visit from our Anatolian ambassadors and once everyone had spent their money they could sit back and enjoy the hilariously successful "God of Carnage". This play, starring Jan Ellis, Anna-Mart van der Merwe, Micheal Richard and Louise Saint Claire has had rave reviews and was enjoyed by all who attended.



## THE YOUNG ONES

Taking care of 6 cubs must be one of the best jobs ever! The 3 older boys, Chobe, Felix and Heathcliff are turning into brilliant ambassadors and have already done several events and functions on and off site. Heathcliff, our king cheetah, is a real crowd pleaser with his sweet personality and unique markings. Jasmine, a slightly younger female, is a little less sociable than the boys and tends to keep more to herself as shy girls often do.



The two youngest cubs in our care, Isis and Kamakazi were raised a bit differently and as such are not yet ready for ambassador training. Not to be outdone by the others they put on a good show for the public playing with their favourite ball in their enclosure, running and passing the ball like pro soccer players. We assume that they are doing their bit to promote the 2010 Soccer World Cup!

The cubs will remain with us for a few more months before moving on to their permanent homes where they will continue their important awareness and conservation work.

## JACKSON

Towards the end of October a 9 week old little bundle of energy and joy arrived at our facility. Jackson, a black-backed jackal, was the only surviving member of his family and subsequently was handreared by the farmer from a few weeks of age. As jackals are a large problem on farmlands he could not be re-released in this farming community, and the farmer brought him to us with the hope that we would be able to provide him with a loving home. For the first two weeks, Jackson was in quarantine, as he had not yet been vaccinated. During this time he spent his days in the classroom and his evenings at one of our staff member's homes. Needless to say they did not get much sleep as he constantly demanded their attention and felt that he should have free reign of their house and garden. After receiving his inoculations and being declared disease free, he was moved into one of the large female enclosures during the day and slept in Malaika's enclosure at night. Supervised play sessions were undertaken with Malaika (caracal) due to her familiarity with young jackal pups. Unfortunately, he could not be integrated with our older jackal pair due to the difference in age and territorial issues. The search was on to find him a home that would comply with our stringent requirements. The Eco Centre in North West Province complied with Jackson's needs and Jackson has started his ambassadorial tasks of educating and raising awareness of conservation methods to the farmers in the area. Of course he is being spoilt rotten, but we haven't heard any complaints from him yet!



## Welcome



Nikki Russel joined us in August 2009 as our function coordinator and has quickly become an invaluable member of the team. Nikki has a Bsc in Environmental management and over the past 10 years, has worked in the field of Environmental Education at various centres around South Africa and in the UK.

With a passion for wildlife and the desire to protect the environment, she hopes to motivate and inspire others through her work. We are grateful she took the big step and relocated from Durban as she has proven herself to be hardworking, reliable and competent. Welcome to the team.

## ANATOLIAN UPDATE

2009 has been a challenging year for the Anatolian programme. Internal conflict and funding difficulties plagued our delivery partner, De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust, resulting in the trust being dissolved and nonoperational for many months. As such Cyril Stannard spent excessive hours travelling to cover many of the dogs that fell within the area of monitoring by De Wildt and we were able to fully deliver and control the programme. In the mean time we are seeking an alternative alliance with the Endangered Wildlife Trust and hope by the first quarter of 2010 all will be sorted out.

We also experienced breeding difficulties at Cheetah Outreach in the second half of 2009 as our successful

breeding dogs, Angel and Melda, did not

breed although we attempted to breed both with Wardance. Thor, the immature Turkish Anatolian, is a very dominant dog and may be inhibiting Wardance from breeding. Thor has been temporarily removed to the Eikendal breeding enclosures to see if his absence rectifies this situation.

**24 dogs** were placed in 2009, bringing the total placement of dogs since inception of the programme in 2005 to **70 dogs**. During 2009 two dogs were removed due to behavioural problems and one because of deafness. Unfortunately in the past year we lost 4 dogs out in the field.

Two were killed by predators, and one was killed as a result of a livestock accident, the last dog disappeared and could not be found, presumably dead due to snake bite. In this time the Woolworths/Cheetah Outreach trial programme also lost 1 dog due to snake bite. In January 2010 we will be placing new dogs on the farms where the 3 dogs were removed as well as the farms where dogs had died.



As equally important as the Anatolian placements are the

opportunities given to us to attend and present at farmer meetings. 2009 saw us partake in the National Woolgrowers Association and the Sustainable Livestock Production Initiative. We hosted an information day on the use of the Anatolian Shepherd for the Pedi Sheep Breeders Organisation. We visited the farm owned by the President of the Mohair Growers of South Africa, who has offered his lands for any type of research that we would need to undertake. We were also invited back to give another presentation to Woolworths SA to continue our alliance with them.

Cheetah Outreach is developing strong credibility in the farming community due to Cyril Stannard's unique understanding of livestock issues and challenges. The non-confrontational stance adopted by the trust and the open handed sharing of information, results and limitations has been applauded. It is imperative that the trust does not lose the advantage attained as we aim to place 20 dogs each year with farmers in free-ranging cheetah territory.



## FOUNDER'S NOTE

It was with great sorrow that Cheetah Outreach said goodbye to its first founding cheetah ambassador, Shadow, on the 4th March 2010. Shadow, at 14 years old, was an integral part of the Cheetah Outreach family, being an important partner in the Cheetah Outreach education outreach programme. Reaching over 18,000 annually, Shadow introduced learners in the greater Cape Town area to the wonder and plight of these elegant African predators for over 10 years, before retiring just before turning 11. During his extraordinary life, Shadow took part in the opening ceremony for the Cape Town Olympic bid, starred in a Bollywood movie and visited the sick and the old in hospital and old age homes, numerous impoverished communities and camps for disadvantaged children, as well as meeting the rich and the famous.



During his final week he faced his last challenge which he met with the courage and spirit which marked his life. He so nearly beat the odds but, in the end, his body let him down.

The difficult decision was made to allow him to die peacefully, in the company of those he loved most.

Shadow will be sorely missed.

*Annie*

## HELP SUPPORT CHEETAH OUTREACH

To Join Cheetah Outreach in its efforts mark the category of support and complete the form. Mail this form together with your cheque, made payable to Cheetah Outreach, to PO Box 116, Lynedoch, 7603, South Africa.



### SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:

#### Member (R200)

- Bi-annual newsletter of activities and 1 free entry into enclosure.

#### Supporter (R500)

- Newsletter, photograph of school visit sponsored, certificate, website recognition and 3 free entries into enclosure.

#### Patron (R1,000)

- Newsletter, certificate, website recognition and 6 free entries into enclosure.

#### Guardian (R5,000)

- Newsletter, certificate, website and facility recognition and unlimited free entry into enclosure.

#### Adoption of one of our Ambassador Animals (R5,000)

- Newsletter, certificate, website and facility recognition, photograph of animal sponsored as well as unlimited free entry into the enclosure.

#### Adoption of Working Anatolian (R5,000)

- Newsletter, monthly newflashes, bi-annual guard dog report, website and facility recognition, as well as unlimited free entry into the enclosure.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

