



# CHEETAH OUTREACH

SEE IT. SENSE IT. SAVE IT.

## DECEMBER 2013 Newsletter

### JOINING FORCES - BREEDING LEGENDS

Everybody knows the saying "From CAPE to CAIRO".....how about "CAPE TO ALLDAYS" After careful thinking and deliberation, Cheetah Outreach decided to establish a formal partnership with another NGO called Green Dog Conservation up in Limpopo Province close to the small town of Alldays and situated on a farm close to the Mapungubwe National Park. Rox Brummer, who is the director of Green Dog Conservation, has worked closely with Cheetah Outreach in the Limpopo area through the previous custodianship agreement with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Rox has provided excellent litters of Anatolian Livestock Guarding Dogs in the past and the logical thing to do was to establish a formal partnership. The Cheetah Outreach Anatolian breeding dogs, currently at Paardevlei, will be moved up to the new breeding facility by the end of January 2014. Green Dogs will be responsible for the care and also the breeding of the Cheetah Outreach dogs as well as the raising of the puppies until they are placed as livestock guarding dogs. Green Dogs also have their own Anatolian dogs which will be used together with the Cheetah Outreach dogs to provide farmers with the best livestock guarding dog puppies. This group of dogs from both organisations makes this one of the most superior groups of Turkish dogs in Southern Africa in terms of genetics as well as working lines.



The Turkish Kangal dogs with Deon Cilliers of Cheetah Outreach and Rox Brummer of Green Dog Conservation

#### NEW STAFF MEMBER:

**Deon Cilliers, Livestock Guard Dog Project Manager – Territory East**

Deon joined the Cheetah Outreach team in June 2013 as Livestock Guarding Dog Manager, Territory East. Armed with a National Diploma and MSc in Nature Conservation, he has vast experience working in wildlife conservation. Deon started as an environmental officer for the South African Air Force and later worked as an animal control officer for the Limpopo Department of Conservation. In 2000 he started the De Wildt Wild Cheetah Project and continued until 2009 when he was employed as Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Officer by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, utilising the skills he developed by starting and managing the ASDG Programme with Annie Beckhelling in 2005. As project manager for the eastern territory of the Livestock Guarding Dog (LGD) Project, he will be placing and monitoring Anatolians on livestock and game farms in the Limpopo Province, a natural distribution range for wild cheetah. Deon brings valuable knowledge and experience to the effort to reduce human-predator conflict in South Africa through the LGD Project.



Our retired breeding dogs and juvenile dogs too young to breed will still be housed at Eikendal which has also been redeveloped.

Thank you to Wildlife Warriors, Australia Zoo for their continued support of the Irwin's Guardians stud as well as to Sean Williams / Living Creatures Trust for sponsorship of enclosures and monthly sponsorship of the Anatolian Programme.

## EAST AND WEST - ALL TERRITORIES ARE COVERED

With the hiring of Deon Cilliers, the Cheetah Outreach livestock guarding dog programme has been expanded and divided into 2 territories: East and West. Deon is managing Territory East, the Limpopo Province, and Cyril Stannard is managing Territory West, the NW Province.



Deon Cilliers



Cyril Stannard

## OUR NEW CLASSROOM IS OPEN!

Our education department continues to deliver quality, curriculum linked presentations and resources to schools in the Western Cape through teacher workshops, on site presentations and partnerships with other NGO's. After renting classroom space in one of the other office buildings on Paardevlei, Cheetah Outreach now has its own classroom on site, courtesy of funding from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund. This classroom will allow us to have more interactive displays and activities for our visiting learners.

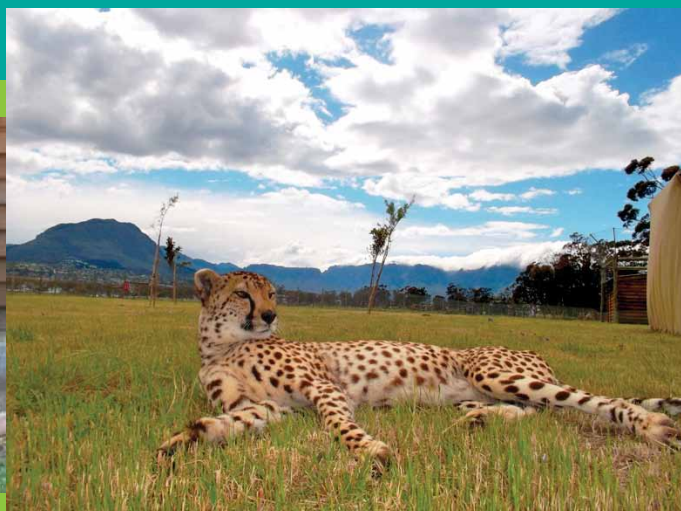


Due to the constraints of building in a historic precinct and next to a protected wetland, the classroom could not be a permanent structure, so once again we built a wooden hall to fit in with the requirements from Paardevlei and the municipality.



## ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

It is always sad when we lose one of our animals, and this year we had to say goodbye to Nicola, an anatolian female and our oldest cheetah, a female called Charlie. Charlie was born at our facility on 15 September 1997, and lived a full life with gusto and attitude. Very much loved by those who knew her well. Her presence as one of the "original" cheetahs will be greatly missed. There will never be another Charlie – we love you!



website: [www.cheetah.co.za](http://www.cheetah.co.za) - e-mail: [cheetah@intekom.co.za](mailto:cheetah@intekom.co.za) - tel: 27 21 851 6850



# BREEDING CHAMPS

Mercedes, one of our Anatolian shepherd breeding dogs, gave birth to a litter of 10 puppies on 7 August. It was a long tiring night for Mercedes with the first pup born just after midnight and the last at 11:00 in the morning. Mercedes is known for large litters and she didn't disappoint with 10 pups, 7 males and 3 females. Sadly one male pup was still-born but the rest were strong and did very well. Many of the pups were quite large and feisty, taking after their father Togo. This is the first litter sired by Togo who has taken over from Wardance, our wonderful male who died last year.

When they were 6 to 8 weeks old, 9 of the puppies were placed on farms in South Africa as part of our Anatolian Shepherd Livestock Guarding Dog Programme, to protect livestock from predators and reduce conflict between farmers and cheetahs. Morrison, one of the males has been retained at the facility as a future breeding male in order to carry Mercedes's genes forward in the breeding programme.

Well done Mercedes and Togo!



bonding

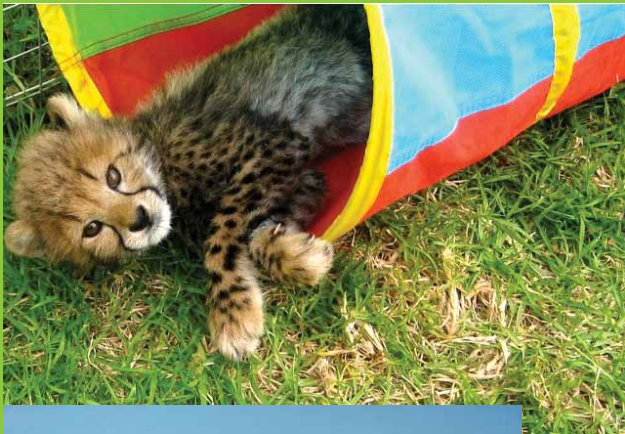


# YOUNGSTERS HAVING FUN!

Cheetah Outreach is hand-raising 6 cubs to be ambassador cheetahs this year. The cubs were born at the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre and came to us at just a few weeks of age. Three cubs, Innis (m), Jura (m) and Kerrera (f) were born on 16 June. Their father is Bryon, who was hand-raised by Cheetah Outreach back in 2002. His brother Joseph is our main ambassador cat and is now passing his genes on to the next generation through his brother. The other 3 cubs, Layla (f), Masika (f) and Ncuthu (m) were born on 28 June. All 6 cubs are being raised together.

Innis, Jura and Kerrera were all named after Scottish islands by the head of the cub-rearing project, Emily, who is from Scotland. The other 3 cubs were given African names: Layla is a Swahili name meaning born at night, Masika means born in the rainy season and Ncuthu is Xhosa for something nice.

They remained at our cub facility on Eikendal Wine Estate until all their vaccinations were complete and then joined the Cheetah Outreach facility at Paardevelei the first week of November. They are well on their way to being star ambassadors, already taking guests for walks around the surrounding areas with great aplomb and professionalism.



CUBS



# Ntombi - Excerpts from Staff Diary

## Ntombi and her broken leg

31 May 2013: Ntombi broke her leg

Upon entering the jackal enclosure to feed them, I discovered Ntombi with one of her hind legs dangling in the air – it appeared to be broken in the hock area. We stabilised the leg and then rushed her to Panorama Vet Clinic for an emergency procedure. The surgeon pinned her leg with a plate and screws. Andrew's crew built a small enclosure inside the jackal enclosure where she will be confined for 3 to 4 weeks post operative. This is to ensure that she does not run around on it – not easy with these jackals! Hopefully she will not pull the stitches out either! She was given an antibiotic injection that lasts for 10 days - see x-ray of her leg.

19 June 2013: Ntombi's leg has to be amputated

Sadly, Ntombi had to have her broken leg amputated yesterday. She developed an infection in her foot, probably due to the bandage restricting circulation, so we took her back to Panorama Vet Clinic yesterday afternoon. When examining her, the vet found that the pins had come out of the plate holding her bones in place and there was no possibility of saving the leg.

The operation seems to be a success – now for recovery and rehabilitation!

She is at Lisa's house with a cone to keep her from ripping the stitches out, being watched 24 hours a day. After spending 5 hours with her I can say that she is doing really well considering what she has been through. She is already getting around on 3 legs. Her biggest problem right now is the cone, which she is understandably unhappy with and frustrated about. She finally ate around noon, first being hand-fed because she couldn't figure out how to eat with the cone on. After a while, however, she managed to eat some pieces directly from the bowl. She also drank her first water shortly after eating. She figured out how to tilt the cone down on the ground around the bowl so she could drink the water. Once she had figured that out, she returned to it several times and drank a lot.

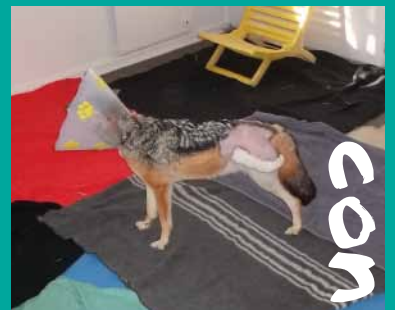
She is calm and sleeping a lot after her ordeal yesterday but immediately gets up and walks around when she hears people arriving, doors closing, voices, etc.

The good news is that she will go back to the vet in 2 weeks to have her stitches out and hopefully will be able to go home to Moya shortly after that, depending on her condition.

As long as she isn't able to pull her stitches out, her prognosis is very good and she should be able to get around with no problem on 3 legs and lead a normal active life.

10 July 2013: Ntombi reunited with Moya

Ntombi was finally reunited with Moya today. Both very happy to be with each other again and no issues between them. Ntombi spent a long time exploring her enclosure after being confined for so many weeks.



confinement



REUNION



# FOUNDER'S NOTE

It has been another landmark year for Cheetah Outreach with the new classroom being completed, the cub raising facility re-established and the dog facility at Eikendal rebuilt as well as a brand new Anatolian breeding facility at Green Dogs in Limpopo. Added to this Cheetah Outreach has now doubled the cheetah territory in which it places dogs and patrols. We have been busy! Next year looks equally exciting as we are planning to trial guard dogs with exotic game including Sable, Nyala and Buffalo and expand our delivery outside of Cheetah territory to farm groups in the Eastern Cape, Karoo and other Western Cape farming communities, all by invitation. This takes Cheetah Outreach further towards its overarching goal of instilling a guard dog culture in South Africa.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and hope you can look forward to a full, happy and safe 2014.

My gratitude to each and every one of you who have been such generous and consistent partners.

Annie



Season's Greetings  
& a Happy New Year



## HELP SUPPORT CHEETAH OUTREACH

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

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- ☐ **Member (R200)** - pays for worksheets for 4 school visits  
Bi-annual newsletter of activities, 1 free entry into enclosure per year.
- ☐ **Sponsor (R500)** - Supports an on-site school presentation  
Newsletter, photo, name and date of school or community event, 3 free entries into enclosure per year.
- ☐ **Patron (R1,000)** - Supports funding of transport for disadvantaged schools/community groups to on-site presentation  
Newsletter and recognition on the Cheetah Outreach website, 6 free entries into enclosure per year.
- ☐ **Adoption of one cheetah - when available (R5,000)**  
Newsletter and recognition on our adoption board at Cheetah Outreach, recognition on the website and a photo and information of cheetah adopted as well as unlimited entry into our enclosure.
- ☐ **Adoption of a Working Anatolian (R5,000)** - Supports husbandry & veterinary expenses for 1st year of placement on farm  
Newsletter and recognition on our Anatolian adoption board at Cheetah Outreach, recognition on the website and a photo and regular updates of Anatolian adopted as well as unlimited entry into our enclosure



NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER : \_\_\_\_\_

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

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your cheque payable to:

Cheetah Outreach Trust, 211 Victoria Junction, Prestwich Street, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa.

A special thanks to our facility land sponsors on properties at Heartland/Paardevlei (main Cheetah Outreach facility) and Eikendal (Cub and dog breeding facility)



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