



CHEETAH OUTREACH

SEE IT. SENSE IT. SAVE IT.

N E W S L E T T E R

JANUARY 2008

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

WE'VE MISSED YOU

After more than 3 years, Charlie, one of the three cheetahs born at Cheetah Outreach some 10 years ago has returned home. Charlie was sent to De Wildt on a breeding loan, but after many male suitors were introduced to her, she had decided enough was enough and she wanted to come back. Unfortunately Charlie never found her "Brad Pitt" cheetah male and as such refused to mate with any of the numerous suitors who were after her bootilicious body.

This is one of the main difficulties encountered at breeding facilities. Your female cheetah is very particular as to whom she will mate with and as such is looking for the best genes in order to give her potential cubs the best opportunity to survive in the wild. These instincts are not lost in captivity. The female will put up quite a fuss with her potential suitor and if he does not live up to her standards, well it's "hit the road Jack"!

The staff and volunteers at Cheetah Outreach are naturally disappointed that she did not mate and breed, but are more than happy now that she is back on Cape soil. Not one of the most accommodating cheetahs, those that know her well and have been with her for many years have been welcomed back into her life with enormous amounts of purrs and affection.

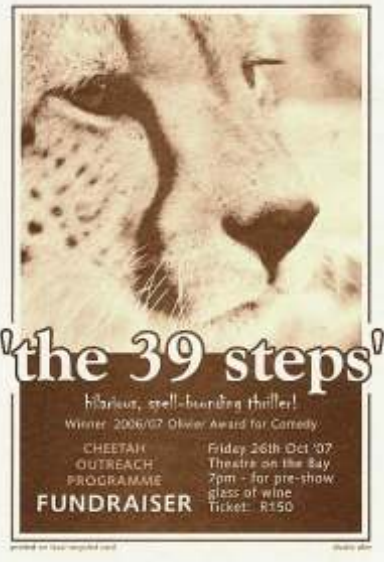


STEPPING UP OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

We would like to thank all involved in the success of this year's "Theatre on the Bay" fundraiser. All the proceeds of the evening (including the auction) has been directed towards our Anatolian Shepherd Guard Dog non-lethal predator control programme.

The play this year was the hugely enjoyable "The 39 Steps", based on John Buchan's novel, which was made into a successful Alfred Hitchcock movie in 1935. Four actors play a minimum of one hundred and thirty nine roles.

Overview of the play: "Charmingly snobbish bachelor Richard Hannay is accused of a murder he didn't commit and goes on the run from the espionage organization called the "39 Steps" to Scotland, all the while trying to clear his name. Along the way he encounters a myriad of characters, including a cheeky milkman, an eccentric couple who lie on a remote farm, lingerie salesmen, detectives, copes, Scottish dancers, a mumbling election chairman, a sinister German professor, an icy blond and the enigmatic "Mr Memory" who demonstrates his extraordinary powers to London theatre-goers."



Besides the play mentioned above, guests were fortunate to see on stage one of our cheetah ambassadors as well as Baggins, our serval cat. Needless to say Baggins thought that this outing was just what he ordered and was very impressed with the wonderful response he received from the audience.

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BEARWOOD LAKES GOLFERS RAISE MONEY

Continents apart has not stopped Pat Logan, a member of the Bearwood Lakes Golf Club in the UK from raising money in support of Cheetah Outreach. A keen golfer, Pat organised a charity golf competition which took place on Bank Holiday Monday, in Surrey in the UK. 80 Bearwood Lakes members and guests took part in this competition and the trophy went to fellow member Sara Steward. Just under R50,000 was raised on this day through individual donations, raffle tickets and an evening auction. R40,000 has been used to support the "Bus-to-Us" initiative which provides transport for school children from the disadvantaged communities to the education facility based at Cheetah Outreach. R5,000 went to renew the adoption of Charlie, who has been adopted by a group of Bearwood Lakes members for the last three years and R5,000 is going to purchase a new female breeding Anatolian.



Pat Logan and winner Sara Steward

This is not the first time that this spirited bunch of golfers have raised money for Cheetah Outreach. Back in 2006, they contributed £6,000 (about R70,000) to the building of a small but world-class facility offering visitors and students a unique, focused and interactive learning experience.

We at Cheetah Outreach would like to thank all the Bearwood Lakes golfers for their continued support of our programme and for their shared belief in our vision.

ALL GROWN UP



Ten years have passed by so quickly that a reflection back on these years will show a growth of events that have ensured that Cheetah Outreach has become a world-class facility. On 15 September 1997, three cubs were born to Inca (founding member of Cheetah Outreach) and his lady love Candy. Today we celebrate these cats' lives and contribution towards the conservation of their cousins in the wild. Two of these cats namely Nyana-Spier and Charlie are housed at our facility and the third Moya is happily living his life at the Angel Fund facility in Cincinnati, USA, who has been a major contributor to cheetah conservation in Southern Africa. Nyana-Spier has been a remarkable ambassador for his species, and he is the world record holder for the 100 metre sprint. He has also appeared in numerous photo and film shoots, and has raised an insurmountable amount of funds for Cheetah Outreach. Nyana and his sister are retired ambassadors enjoying their time at Cheetah Outreach. We love them dearly and thank them for allowing us to partake in their lives.

NYANA-SPIER



CHARLIE



MOYa





BAGGINS - OVERLY CONFIDENT



At ten months old, Baggins has grown into a spectacularly beautiful serval with a lot of attitude to fit his handsome looks.

Over the last several months along with his handlers he has explored different venues on and off Spier. This has been extremely valuable for enrichment and to build on his already "over the top" confidence. One of his favourite places to visit is our volunteer house where he loves to explore and make himself comfortable on the volunteers' living room couch. He's also managed to climb up the staircase leading to the upstairs bedrooms only to discover that the descent is too scary and a brave handler

would have to lift him down again.

He proved his confidence when he made a public appearance at our local Theatre on the Bay fundraising event and blew the audience away by his antics on stage. He walked onto the stage as if he owned it and was quite reluctant to leave after being in the spotlight

for a few minutes. We had to use his favourite toy in the world, a selection of guinea fowl feathers, to entice him to leave the stage again!



Baggins is a favourite on our facility tours, even though he sometimes chooses to conceal himself in patches of long grass. It's a good thing too that our first tour is only at half past ten, since he is a late sleeper and often only climbs out of bed at ten o'clock! Another favourite pastime for him is to be taken into our big running enclosure to explore and search for little insects and lizards.



With pricked ears, a rigid body and little tail vibrating he listens intently for any movement in the grass and then with a huge arch flies through the air to pounce on the unsuspecting grasshopper or lizard. When taken back to his enclosure after an exhausting play session he often climbs into his big water

trough to cool off, happily lying among his selection of floating balls, before moving onto a new game.

With his endless energy and enthusiasm for life and play and his larger than life attitude, he still manages to steal more hearts every day. Every moment with this unique little character is still a privilege and a special time to treasure.

WELCOME TO OUR TEAM

Cheetah Outreach would like to welcome our newest member of staff, Beryl Patterson, all the way from the USA. Beryl has a distinguished background in animal husbandry. Born in North Carolina, she attended school in Missouri. After completion of school she worked at a small animal practice in Virginia as a veterinary technician (Nurse) for five years. From there she managed an SPCA shelter for 2 years. A move to Phoenix saw her spending the next 9 years as a veterinary technician at the local zoo. During this time she became a qualified veterinary technician. For the past two winters she has been volunteering at Cheetah Outreach assisting us with our cub rearing project. She enjoyed it so much that she accepted a position at the facility, and will be with us for the next 3 years, and who knows how much longer after that.





CATTLE INITIATIVE

The placement of DELTA and ECHO (Anatolian Shepherd Guard Dogs) represents a new initiative in the quest for expanded non-lethal predator control. These dogs have been placed with cattle, as the dogs have to date only been placed with sheep and goats. A positive outcome here will ensure that many cattle farmers will receive assistance with their ongoing struggle with predators. This struggle has resulted in losses to cattle and subsequent loss of predators on these farms.

DELTA



A report on Delta's placement in mid August 2007 has shown excellent results, as she has now started accompanying her herd of 9 cows and calves when out grazing. She is already showing guarding behaviour and is bonding well with the cattle, and the farmer is happy with the progress shown thus far.



ECHO



Echo has been placed on a farm in the Limpopo Province (mid August 2007), and he has bonded exceptionally well with cattle herd of 46 members and accompanies him daily in a 200 ha camp. He has fully integrated with the herd and has shown aggression towards perceived threats to this herd. The farmer is very pleased and impressed by the independence shown by Echo at such an early age.



OUR ANATOLIAN PROGRAMME IS EXPANDING

Cyril Stannard will be joining us in 2008, taking on the duties of coordinator of our Anatolian Guard Dogs. Much of his time will be spent driving to the various farms to check up on the progress of dogs placed there. With these regular checks any unfavourable behaviour can be rectified before it's too late. Since 2001 Cyril has been working as an animal production technician and has been the project leader for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog breeding programme at Grootfontein. As such his invaluable experience with the breed is going to be an enormous asset for our programme.

We would also like to thank **MERCEDES BENZ** for the wonderful sponsorship of a vehicle for Cyril to travel the four corners of our country in the pursuit of well placed and maintained Anatolian Shepherd Dogs.



BREEDING SEASON

The Cheetah Outreach Anatolian Shepherd Guard Dog programme is now entering into its second phase which entails the breeding of our dogs kept at the facility. Currently we have two 18-month old females, born at respected Anatolian Shepherd breeders, Liebenberg Anatolians, Bloemfontein, South Africa, and a 17-month old male born at Shepherds Rest Anatolians in the USA. Angel and Melda have undergone rigorous medical examinations and testing for hip dysplasia and related problems and have been declared free of such conditions, and as such we have now been given the go ahead to plan and implement the breeding season at Cheetah Outreach.

Much appreciation is expressed to Eikendal Wine Estate who supports the Cheetah Outreach and De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust by providing the use of a converted veterinary facility to hand raise cheetah ambassadors. But they have taken their commitment to us one step further by donating half a hectare of land for the exclusive use by Cheetah Outreach to house our breeding female dogs. This is essential, since newborn puppies need to be reared in an area free of predators as to cultivate expected and desirable behaviour. If the puppies were allowed to be housed at the Cheetah Outreach facility on Spier, where cheetahs live in close proximity, the puppies might accept this as the norm, and not be inclined to protect their future herd from such predators.

Two living enclosures (18m by 15m) have been built where Angel and Melda are housed with their small herd of livestock. To accommodate additional breeding females Cheetah Outreach is evaluating different options in terms of converting this available area into four breeding camps.

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 area provides shelter for the mom and puppies in a separate concrete area closer to the veterinary facility, thus enabling easier and better hygiene and monitoring. The shelter area has been constructed in such a way as to prevent the livestock from approaching and trampling small newborn puppies, but providing close enough proximity to expose puppies to the sounds and smells of the stock. When puppies reach a certain age and size, they will be able to scale a small barrier and interact more directly with their stock.

Cheetah Outreach currently house Merino and Dorper sheep and plan on acquiring a few Boer goats giving young puppies' exposure to all types of livestock that they might be placed with.

As it is our aim at Cheetah Outreach to eventually be able to breed up to 48 puppies a year for placement on farmlands, we are looking into acquiring another 2 females and 1 male for the breeding programme. Much consideration is going into the choice of these dogs and close examination of their working offspring will be investigated. There is a possibility of three dogs from Grootfontein Agricultural College, in Middleburg and if acquired they will be included into our 2008 breeding year.

Our two resident females will be 2 years old in April 2008 and as they have already come into heat, the expected next season will correspond with their second birthday. We expect some difficulties with the breeding process as they are young and inexperienced, but if all goes well we hope to have two litters of about 6 puppies produced by middle of next year.

With four sets of breeding females producing two litters of 6 puppies a year we hope to fulfil our goal of 48 puppies in a year. Since established Anatolian dogs in cheetah ranges guard an average area of approximately 821 ha, this placement of 48 puppies could secure an estimated 40 000 ha of cheetah friendly farmland.



◀ MOROCCO

MELDA & ANGEL ▶





FOUNDER'S NOTE

At the beginning of a new year it is really exciting to have 7 farmers awaiting new dogs which will be delivered in January. The aim in 2008 is to place at least 30 new puppies considerably expanding the territory where farmers will be more tolerant of cheetahs and other predators. As time goes by retailers of red meat will begin to ensure their butchery suppliers are practicing non-lethal predator control, assisting to conserve biodiversity on South African farms.



Did you know South Africa is one of the three most diverse countries in the world? Let's all try to keep it that way.

To all our friends and supporters, thank you for your ongoing interest.

Have a wonderful 2008, be safe, be happy.

Annie



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.

