



# CHEETAH OUTREACH

SEE IT. SENSE IT. SAVE IT.

N E W S L E T T E R

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## NEW EDUCATION AND INFORMATION CENTRE OPENS



Top left: new centre; inside the education classroom; Official opening by Annie and Valli; Valli Moosa

On the 5th of October 2006, the **Earth Foundation Environmental Education Classroom** and **Seagate Adult Learning Centre** was officially opened. Valli Moosa, currently President of the World Conservation Union, delivered the opening address and emphasized the role that the South African media has to play in educating the nation and delivering quality South African produced programmes about our captivating wildlife.

The invited guests were encouraged to explore the new classroom and adult learning centre. The permanent video presentations were shown to guest regarding the plight of the cheetah and the role of the Anatolian shepherd guard dog. The classroom is filled with interesting facts about the cheetah and the education officer will be able to host pupils at the facility giving them an in depth learning experience based on the AAWARE Teacher's Resource Guide which has been compiled and delivered by Cheetah Outreach .

A huge thank you to all that attended and made the day possible, especially to the **Earth Foundation** and **Seagate** without whom none of this would be possible.

## IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CHEETAH OUTREACH

Valli Moosa has been appointed a board member of Cheetah Outreach and together with Simon Espley, Dr. Malan van Zyl, Ann van Dyk and the trustees acknowledges the responsibility of ensuring the growth and continued existence of Cheetah Outreach, knowing all to well the importance of such an organisation in promoting sustainable co-existence between man and animal.

## CHEETAH OUTREACH CRYSTAL CHEETAH AWARD

Christo Van Niekerk, handler and maintenance officer, was awarded this years Crystal Cheetah Award as the member of Cheetah Outreach who has excelled at promoting the plight of the cheetah. This award is decided by votes from staff and volunteers at the programme. Congrats Christo, keep up the good work!

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# ANATOLIAN BREEDING PROGRAMME

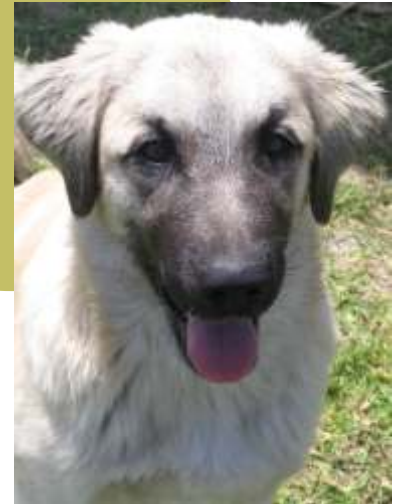
Due to the success of the Anatolian Guard Dog Pilot project in South Africa, Cheetah Outreach has taken on the challenge to breed the Anatolian for placement on farmlands in South Africa. At this stage we have acquired two breeding females namely Melda (sponsored by Fran Meyer) and Angel (sponsored by Angel Fund, Cincinnati Zoo). The breeding male Morocco (sponsored by Africa Geographic) joined us in the second week of October from the Shepherd's Rest breeding centre in America, who donated Morocco. The dogs share their enclosures with 3 sheep (Snap, Crackle and Pop) and three Angora goats as a way of socialising them with herd life. The pups born will also be sharing their compounds with the sheep enabling a smooth transition into the working farm life. Thank you to Royal Canin for supporting our Anatolian Shepherd programme with a welcome contribution of Vet's Choice dog food every month.



**Melda:** sponsored by Fran Meyer



**Angel:** sponsored by Angel Fund, Cincinnati Zoo



**Morocco:** sponsored by **AFRICA Geographic**



**Snap, Crackle and Pop - Our 3 sheep used in socializing our Anatolians with herding animals**



**Anatolian breeding centre - Cheetah Outreach**



Thank you to Royal Canin for helping us out with our monthly dog food supply





## REARING TO GO

We welcome our newest arrivals from the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust. Each year Cheetah Outreach takes on the challenge of rearing new born cubs from De Wildt as ambassador cats for facilities throughout the world. Careful attention is given to their diets as part of Cheetah Outreach / Massey University / De Wildt research project focusing on cub rearing nutrition and husbandry, which is implemented by Katherine Bell (PhD Candidate, Massey University, New Zealand). Once all the relevant data has been collected Katherine will be able to publish a paper detailing her findings on cub nutrition and thus be able to assist all breeding facilities as to the most effective feeding and supplementation methods available.



## LITERACY RESOURCE

A new literacy resource aimed at grade 0 -3 has been compiled by Dawn Glover (Cheetah Outreach Education Officer) and Liesl Smith (Cheetah Outreach Manager and qualified teacher). The content of the resource has stood its ground at the initial phase of workshops held with teachers from around the province. Their constructive feedback has ensured that the resource has attained the level of education required with the added interest of lesson plans based on conservation issues, making learning a fun activity. At the moment the resource is still in its pilot phase and once all parties including the Western Cape Education Department have given their go ahead, the resource will be mass produced and Dawn will have the important task of teacher training and implementation of the resource throughout the Western Cape Province schools. This is the second educational resource that Cheetah Outreach has produced, and by uniting with the education department, Annie Beckhelling, saw an opportunity to encourage conservation among the youth of South Africa by importing conservation based learning plans into the school curriculum.



## THE HARSH REALITY OF WILD CHEETAH

Every now and again a situation arises where you are doomed if you do and doomed if you don't. Such a situation has presented itself to the NCCF (National Cheetah Conservation Forum). A group of wild caught cheetah that have been with a farmer for a period of time making them unsuitable for release into the wild as fear of them not being able to survive due to their captive state, face an uncertain future. The farmer acquired these 7 cheetah when they were young and they have been in captivity ever since. He has a strong interest in promoting a sustainable wild cheetah population, however the harsh realities of land-owner conflict on game farms is a very real issue. As such, concern has arisen that these cheetah may be sold to organisations or individuals with questionable reputations placing this very valuable gene pool at risk of being destroyed. The NCCF would like to relocate these cheetah and use them to benefit the free ranging South African cheetah and do not support or encourage the practice of capturing wild cheetah for whatever reason, however re-release of cheetah held in captivity for long periods can result in early death as they struggle to adapt.

The trustees of Cheetah Outreach, also against wild caught cheetah, voted unanimously to make funding available to purchase two of the cheetahs in question. These animals will be donated as biological assets to the Wild Cheetah Management Programme (WCMP) to benefit the wild cheetah either genetically or financially, hopefully both. It was the wishes of the trustees that the animals are placed on breeding loan at De Wildt, and

that the offspring accrue 50% De Wildt breeding programme and 50% WCMP. The designation of offspring owned by WCMP is either for rewilding and release or to be offered for sale to raise funding or maintained as assets owned by the programme. De Wildt was elected as the breeding programme of choice due to its unique Cites approved status. Lets hope that only good will arise from this situation and that the well being of the cheetah is the top priority.



These are the two female cheetah that Cheetah Outreach purchased and donated to WCMP



## SAFARI WINNERS - AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Lynn and Bryan Badgett, winners of the 2004 Race for Survival silent auction fundraiser held in America enjoyed an unforgettable holiday in South Africa. Their prize included two nights at De Wildt with tour of De Wildt and visit to the Elephant Park, two night at Singita, Lobombo Lodge – all expenses paid, and two nights at Spier Hotel with private tour of Cheetah Outreach. According to the couple the biggest highlight was spending time with the cubs at Cheetah Outreach. All in all they have never felt so pampered and thoroughly enjoyed all the facilities visited. They wish to thank everyone for the wonderful hospitality that they enjoyed while in South Africa.





## CHEETAH CHALLENGER - CELLPHONE TALK

Keeping track of a cheetah is a hard thing to do. But with today's modern technology the process has just become easier. It is important for range project researchers to have access to reliable and up to date information in order to make an accurate assessment and evaluation of a cheetah's home range. Thanks to our cellphones and the internet these researchers receive constant cellphone sms's updating them of the cheetah whereabouts. They can also log on to the internet and access a map of movements of the cheetahs via satellite. With this new technology being used for conservation truer reflections of cheetah whereabouts and migration patterns can now be achieved.

Cheetah Outreach sponsored one of these new collars fitted to a cheetah named Challenger. In order to re-collar a cheetah, the cat is tracked by helicopter, then darted from the air, and moved to the ground team. The general condition of the cat is assessed and recorded. The old collar is removed and the cheetah is fitted with a new collar containing fresh batteries.

So far, the signal from the new fitted collar is working wonderfully and researchers are eagerly awaiting their daily sms's with positioning co-ordinates of the cheetah. We eagerly await a report back of Challengers comings and goings. All the best to Deon Cilliers, Conservation Manager: De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Trust, De Wildt Wild Cheetah Project and his team.



The sequence of photographs above take us from darting Challenger, checking his general condition to fitting the new collar. Once fully recovered from the anaesthetic he is released to roam again.



## FOUNDER'S NOTE

Not a day goes by without the degradations of our most important service provider – our environment – hitting the headlines. Today we live in a world where it is becoming dangerous to step outside and enjoy the sun. Thinning of the ozone layer has resulted in an epidemic of skin cancer, one of the conditions suffered by Namibian guard dogs on their tongues. As we approach the holiday period, remember the sunscreen. Also remember - how we live today impacts the way our children will live tomorrow.

Those of you who have a chance please see the film "An Inconvenient Truth".

*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 (R60)

- 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.

