



CHEETAH OUTREACH

SEE IT. SENSE IT. SAVE IT.

N E W S L E T T E R

JULY 2008

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

STATUS OF THE CHEETAH IN SOUTH AFRICA



According to the latest figures the numbers of the cheetah in South Africa has stayed the same, but with a slight change in distribution. A total population of about 850 is made up as follows:

- 350 found in formal conservation areas
- 500 found free-ranging on farmland

One of the biggest threats facing the wild South African cheetah is the growing illegal trade. This includes the illegal trapping and selling of wild cheetahs found on farmlands, and the breeding of wild caught cheetahs to sell their off-spring as captive born. As a result of these activities about 60 cheetahs a year are being removed from the wild, something this free-ranging population can not deal with. There is however hope, in that new national legislation for endangered and protected species will help prevent this illegal trade and thus reduce the number of animals removed from farmlands.

South Africa's captive cheetah population is in the region of 500. The touch programme at Cheetah Outreach and other facilities in South Africa play a vital role in emphasizing the importance of cheetah conservation not only for South Africa but also for other viable cheetah populations within the rest of Africa. This touch experience offered to visitors instills a sense of ownership and encourages active participation in conservation issues as a whole.

As touch programmes have increased in South Africa over the past couple of years, the

National Cheetah Conservation Forum (NCCF) has drawn up a draft protocol for the handling of cheetahs during public encounters. Annie will be contributing her experience in this field and will assist in anyway possible to initialize a working protocol for all facilities, ensuring the safety of the cat, the public and the handler.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Status of cheetah in SA	...1	A terrible tragedy	...4
New cubs	...2	Woolworths opportunity	...4
Golf day fundraiser	...2	African Zoo Conference	...5
ASGD programme	...3	Literacy Resource	...5
Breeding programme - update	...3	You're never too young	...5
Dog tails	...4	Founder's note	...6



OH SO CUTE!

We have received five cubs so far this year as part of our cub-rearing project. Each year we raise and train cubs as ambassador cheetah to be placed at facilities around the world. These cubs remain with us for just under a year and in that time we assess their ability to interact with the public and train them in the ambassador protocol that has been created for their protection and comfort.

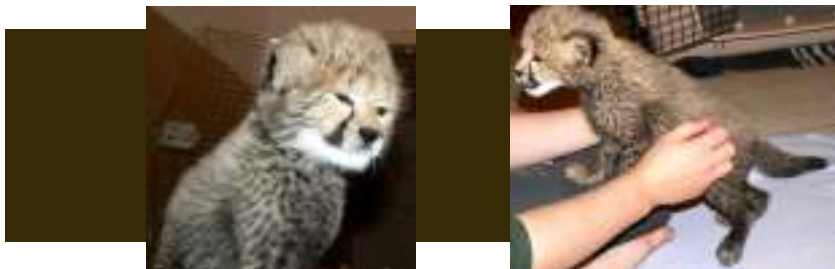
The first litter to join us, one female and two males, was born on 16 April 2008. They were taken away to be hand-reared as their mother died during an emergency c-section. These three have settled in nicely and are growing in courage to explore their surrounds.

The second litter was born of a female that partook in the early stages of our cub-rearing project. Peaches (now known as Cetane) had a litter on 18 April 2008, and two of these cubs (one male and one female) have arrived at Cheetah Outreach. The little female was pulled from the litter after only a few weeks as she displayed stunted growth as well as having corneal ulcers on both eyes, the male came along to keep her company. After receiving treatment the little girl's eyes have cleared completely and after spending a couple of weeks in quarantine, these two cubs have joined the other litter.

All five cubs have been growing in leaps and bounds and are in good health, they will be introduced at our facility at Spier in August and will slowly start ambassador training.



Beryl, in charge of cub rearing, with her hands full



GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

On the 25th of April this year Cheetah Outreach held its annual golf day at the De Zalze Golf Club. The weather was perfect for the 25 four-ball competitors to hit some birdies and maybe an eagle here and there. Gavin Ganigowski once again led the merry auction luring all into partaking in the bidding war. The main prize of fabulous golf bags donated by Taylor Made was won by the Imali Vest team. Joseph eagerly greeted and congratulated the players at the dinner. About R85,000 was raised for the Anatolian and Education initiatives.

Roy and Pat Logan from Bearwood Lakes Golf Club in England made the long trip out to join us for the day. Although they did not win this year, they do have their eyes set on winning at the golf day fundraiser that they will be hosting in England later in August this year. The previous year they raised just under R50,000 at the event.



Once again the fun, bubbly personalities of our volunteers helping with all the behind the scenes organization added to the ambience of the day.

Far Left: Winning team - Imali Vest; Left: Team In-X-Trans meeting Joseph



ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD GUARD DOG PROGRAMME

Two and a half years ago Cheetah Outreach launched its Anatolian Shepherd Guard Dog programme focusing on farmlands in South Africa.

The aim of the programme is to educate and assist farmers with reducing stock loss due to predators on their farms and in so doing saving many cheetah and other predator lives from indiscriminate hunting and certain death.

To date the programme has placed 26 dogs on farms in South Africa. Two were placed on a farm in the Western Cape, and the rest were spread on farms in cheetah areas in the Northern Cape, North West and Limpopo provinces. The goal for Cheetah Outreach this year is to place another 20 dogs, keeping in mind that these dogs are placed for free and the first years vet and food bills are sponsored by Cheetah Outreach.

The programme has had a 90% success rate, mainly due to the effort placed on follow-up monitoring, farmer education, and support in the form of people and information for farmers when needed. With this solid basis, carefully implemented dog placement on farms has resulted in 95 to 100% reduction in stock loss.

As the programme progresses it has been noted that the Anatolian has proven to be far more adaptable than previously thought:

- Dogs have been successfully moved from farm to farm and from herd to herd
- Dogs have been placed with two different herds on the farm
- Two dogs have been placed together within one herd
- Two dogs have been placed with cattle

It has also been discovered that the dogs have a preference for goats over sheep, and that they display a distinct maternal instinct, especially the Male dogs.

NEW SUPPORTERS OF THE ASGD PROGRAMME

- Columbus Zoological Park Association, inc.
- Sabine Diederichs
- Felix Schaefer Foundation
- IAMS SA (Pty) Ltd
- Mercedes Benz
- Christine Kalnow
- Leopards
- The Monarch Trust

BREEDING PROGRAMME - UPDATE



Our Anatolian breeding programme has endured a few temporary set backs, namely the loss of one of the breeding females and the discovery that Morocco (breeding male) has hip dysplasia and cannot be used for breeding. But with perseverance comes success and on the evening of the 2nd of July 2008, Melda gave birth to six adorable pups. This first litter born to our programme will have a lot riding on them, and we eagerly await their certified good health and the eventual report backs of their success on farmlands.

The continued success of our breeding programme will be determined by combating any further hip dysplasia problems. Breeding dogs with new bloodlines are being imported to improve genetic diversity of this breed in South Africa.





DOG TAILS:

Boleyn, an Anatolian female placed with a herd of sheep, developed such a strong bond with her herd that she stayed with a mother goat that had given birth out in the field and actually carried the newborn kid home with the mother following her. To reciprocate this bond the herd of goats later on alerted the farmer to the fact that Boleyn was caught in a snare, the goats saved her life.

Uthaya, a young male placed on a farm in the Western Cape, on a very hot, sunny day, gently pulled a weak sheep by the back of the neck into the shade, thereby preventing lethal dehydration taking place.

These remarkable stories of courage, kindness and concern displayed by the Anatolian can only be achieved by the dedication and commitment by the farmer to encourage strong bonding between dog and livestock.



Boleyn



Uthaya

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY



Echo, one of our star dogs used in the trial programme focusing on cattle farming was shot by a neighbouring farmer after he successfully chased off a leopard which was threatening his herd of cattle.

Owner Attie van der Westhuizen, who farms with cattle near the town of Lephalale in Limpopo Province was shocked by this event. The bravery of his dog being rewarded by his death.

Confusion erupted when the leopard attacked and some of the cattle broke through the fence and scattered, some ending up on the neighbour's farm. Echo, disorientated by the events mistakenly remained with the neighbour's cattle instead of returning to his farm with his herd.

The neighbour's son, found Echo close to his herd and thought he was a threat to the cattle, and shot him at close range in the head.

The owner, heartbroken by the tragedy has said that he will battle to continue farming without an Anatolian Guard dog. The neighbour's son who is "remorseful" of his actions, has indicated that he will pay for a replacement dog.

Echo was the first Anatolian placed with cattle as a trial project to determine the effectiveness of using these dogs as livestock guarding dogs for cattle. A lot of financial input and effort was put into getting Echo trained, and the success of this trial will have wide spread implications, as the majority of livestock farmers in the cheetah distribution range in South Africa are cattle farmers.

WOOLWORTHS NEW OPPORTUNITY ON THE HORIZON

The involvement of Woolworths, who are looking at expanding their free-range lamb products and including predator-friendly products has led to a pilot project, whereby 10 dogs will be placed on farms and monitored for a year. If the results are positive, Woolworths will expand the project through the placement of more dogs and the promotion of farmers who use non-lethal predator control methods.



AFRICAN ZOO CONFERENCE



Dawn Glover, Cheetah Outreach Educational Officer, was fortunate enough to attend this year's PAAZAB conference held at San Lameer, Kwa-Zulu Natal. The three day African Zoo conference was an excellent networking opportunity for Cheetah Outreach and we were one of the PAAZAB members to receive a certificate of Institutional Membership. During the conference numerous interesting papers were presented from local and international delegates on a range of issues affecting animals in zoos, as well as in-situ conservation issues. Luke Strugnell, a field worker from De Wildt delivered a presentation on the Anatolian programme and its resounding success in South Africa. During her time there, Dawn attended the Animal Enrichment and Environmental Education workshops and has brought back some useful information that can be applied at our facility. The highlight of the trip was a visit to Ushaka Marine World where the delegates got to pose for a group photo with one of the performing dolphins shortly before he joined his friends in delighting the crowd with their joyful gymnastics set to music.

"THE HUNT" LITERACY RESOURCE



With the second educational resource well on its way, Cheetah Outreach is on the foreground of bringing conservation efforts into the classroom and also assisting with learner education throughout schools in South Africa. The

literacy project focuses on reading and mathematics, but with the added bonus of teaching life skills to pupils through the illustrated story of a day in the life of a mother cheetah and her cubs. The story is available in three languages namely, English, Afrikaans and Xhosa, and portrays the difficulties faced by a cheetah living on or near farmland. This year the resource will be utilized in schools and will be assessed on its merits as an educational aid.

YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG

Jonathon Paul, a 7 year old from Omaha, USA, was so touched after watching a programme on cheetahs that he decided he had to actively contribute to cheetah conservation. A few months previously Jonathon's dad had met one of our handraised cubs, namely Victor, at his new facility in LA. Remembering that Victor was raised and trained by Cheetah Outreach for his future role as an ambassador cheetah, Jonathon decided that he wanted the funding to go to us. As part of his fundraising drive, he sold "Save the Animals" bracelets and plush bookmarks. When he visited us during his family holiday in June this year, he proudly handed over the \$725 he had raised. While experiencing our facility he was able to meet Joseph, one of our adult ambassadors, as well as our three sub-adults, X-ray, Whiskey and Zulu. He also enjoyed a tour of our cub raising facility where he met five 7-week old cubs. As part of our appreciation we handed him a certificate of support to commend him on his conservation efforts.





FOUNDER'S NOTE

With a packed 3 week visit to the States behind me, I can happily report about the support Cheetah Outreach has and continues to enjoy in America.

Firstly I stopped over at the Miami Metro Zoo and thanked them personally for their support of our Anatolian programme. I was also fortunate enough to tour an Anatolian breeding facility in Florida and subsequently purchase a 9 month old female, Tornado, for our breeding programme. Her father, Roxy, a working Anatolian has been crowned the American Anatolian Champion three years running. A bloodline well worth having.

From there I went to a cold and rainy Cincinnati to attend the "Angels of Music" opera fundraiser which is held every 3 years. This hugely successful opera evening raises funds for The Angel Fund, who contribute greatly to our programme.

Finishing up my trip in Los Angeles, I attended a Cheetah Outreach fundraiser hosted by Peter Burke and the Monarch Trust at his home. Thanks to the very successful auction just over \$70,000 was raised for cheetah conservation. Among the highly sought after items up for auction was a custom made "cheetah" branded surfboard. Leopards Etc. graciously contributed to the success of the evening with their ambassador cheetah mingling with guests. Part of the funds raised will go towards our Anatolian project.

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.

