

# CHEETAH SPOTS

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia

| Summer 2021

## The Fight Goes on!

For thousands of years, the elite of the ancient world kept cheetahs in captivity. The pharaohs of Ancient Egypt



kept cheetahs as companions and represented them in artwork. Persian shahs, Italian nobles, Russian princes, and Indian royalty kept cheetahs for hunting and as status symbols representing their wealth and rank. Because cheetahs could not easily breed in captivity, individuals were taken from the wild to support the demand. The

ancient pet trade diminished wild cheetah populations, especially in Asia. The demand for pet cheetahs is most likely the primary cause of the extinction of the Asiatic cheetah across the majority of its former range. Very small populations remain in the wild. *(Continue on page 2)*



## The Fight Goes On! (continued from Page 1.)

Today, there is still a high demand for cheetahs as pets. However in many countries it is illegal to take animals like cheetahs from the wild. The illegal trade in wildlife parts and live animals is estimated to be worth billions. It is highly organised and linked to other organised criminal activities. Cheetah cubs are captured from the wild and then smuggled through the Horn of Africa, destined primarily for the Middle East, where demand is the highest. CCF estimates that only one in six cubs survives the journey to buyers. Cheetah cubs have specialised dietary needs that are not easily met and can easily perish due to malnutrition or inadequate veterinary treatment. Even if cubs are intercepted and confiscated their chances of survival are extremely slim. Caring for these animals is a challenge to even the most experienced wildlife veterinarian.

With the help of regional partners and at the request of local governments, CCF facilitates confiscations whenever possible. Although geographically widespread, most reported cases of smuggled cheetah cubs involve the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. Since 2005, CCF has actively participated in the fight against illegal pet trade in cheetahs. CCF's involvement began with the confiscation of two cheetah cubs outside a small restaurant in the Somali region of Ethiopia. In

2007, CCF became a founding member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), a voluntary public-private coalition started by the Bureau of Oceans and International Scientific and Environmental Affairs of the US Department of State.



In 2013, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) tabled the issue of cheetah trafficking at its 13th Conference of the Parties (CoP13) held in Bangkok. Since then, CCF has been working with CITES and non-government organisations (NGO), to address issues such as law enforcement, demand reduction, procedures for the placement of confiscated cheetahs, and cyber-crime.

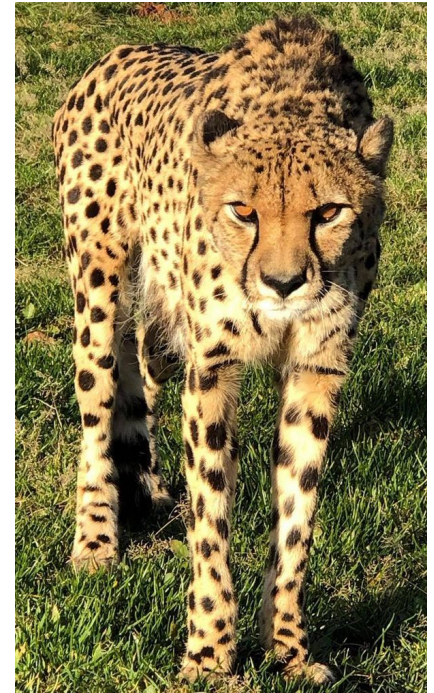
To support law enforcement in establishing the origin of confiscated cheetahs, CCF collects cheetah DNA samples to add to its database under the proper CITES permits.



## R.I.P Saadani

We have received sad news from Michelle, cheetah keeper extraordinaire, at Monarto Safari Park.

*"It is with great sadness that the carnivore team at Monarto Safari Park announce the passing of our dear cheetah boy Saadani, on Friday 27th November due to health reasons. Saadani had not long had his 9th birthday and was the sire to our last litter of 1.4 cubs, now 2 1/2 yrs old. Saadani was imported with his brother 6 years ago from the Netherlands, which was a very exciting time for us to have two new breeding males come in. We are so pleased that after some time he finally got to sire the one litter. He was always so full of life, the boy, with eyes that would burn through your soul and a bounding run that took your breath away to watch. We are devastated at this loss, as we had only just began a new breeding season and things already were looking interesting. Saadani will be very sadly missed by us all..."*



## A testament in flesh

In 2019, Kathleen, one of our Directors, chose to celebrate her birthday by tattooing a mum and bub cheetah on her back. She asked friends and family to donate to the cause, and raised more than \$1000 in aid of cheetah conservation.



*I am Cheetah....  
I have eyes of burnt orange  
from which dark tears flow  
The future's uncertain, will my  
baby grow  
Compared to extinction, my  
pace is too slow  
Without all your help, my  
chances are low  
I am Cheetah...*

## International Cheetah Day in the time of Coronavirus

As the planet moved into lockdown, its inhabitants have tended to focus inward - sometimes forgetting the world at large. Here in Australia, we have experienced the horrific destruction of our Summer fires before the fear of COVID-19 set in, and we have donated what we could for our native causes, and the cheetahs have had to take a step back. However, we are very grateful for the donations that have come in in these difficult times.

Donations for International Cheetah Day 2021 were not as numerous as usual, but we did get some significant and large donations Thank you to all! You know who you are.

However, some lucky cheetah friends got to spend an excellent time celebrating International Cheetah Day. Rosheen writes *"My mother, my partner and I were very excited to have a family visit to Monarto Safari park in South Australia after nine months lock down in Victoria, and joined my mother, a South Australian resident, to celebrate her birthday. We managed to arrive on International Cheetah Day. Monarto has an awesome breeding program for the cheetahs. Gail, the keeper of the day gave a great talk on a very warm day."*



*On view, were three female cheetahs (Mapenzi , Mara and Kuishi) who are just over two years old, and are part of a litter of four bred at Monarto to Kesho (who was born at Monarto in 2012) and their father Saadani was imported from the Netherlands."*

Thank you Rosheen and family, for authorisation to use your photos and story.

As always, many thanks to our friends at **Goodwill Wine**. Remember to get some cheetah wine to celebrate a vaccine to end our isolation, so we can return to visiting our beloved cheetahs in Namibia. You will be amused by the labels. Nab the bottles marked "You are so much lovelier than Trump", as they are being discontinued, together with their presidential namesake! And, of course, don't forget to pick Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia as your chosen charity! You can enjoy a beautiful drink knowing that you're benefiting our cause.

