



Your Update for Aurora

from Namibia!

Aurora still lives with her fellow group of females (Harry, Hermione and Rainbow) and resident male Romeo (who very much lives up to his name!). She is now six years old. Aurora was captured when she was just a few weeks old. The person initially saw two cubs but was only able to catch one and decided to keep her as a pet. After keeping her for two weeks he called CCF. Her claws had been cut and she was malnourished but she recovered incredibly well and is now one of our super star runners for the public.

Aurora exercises on CCF's lure course a couple of times a week. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Aurora is one of our most energetic and athletic cheetahs, so some people argue that she is the best runner. Aurora is very enthusiastic about chasing the lure and always sprints multiple times during the Cheetah Run.

Aurora is fed every day at 'Centre Feeding', where people can watch her eat and learn about

her story. It has been a very busy few months here at CCF and Aurora has met thousands of new people. Aurora is an ambassador for her species and helps educate the public on the plight of the cheetah. She also helps with ongoing research here at the centre. People love to take pictures of Aurora because she grabs her piece of meat and then leaps onto the roof of her hut to eat. She is a smart girl and realized that she could eat up there without being disturbed by her group mates. People commonly ask how CCF staff can tell Aurora apart from Rainbow, and the answer is that Aurora has a distinct super white tip to her tail.

Aurora has had her picture taken a lot recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. She is the perfect model cheetah as she will always sit still so that photographers can get that perfect shot.

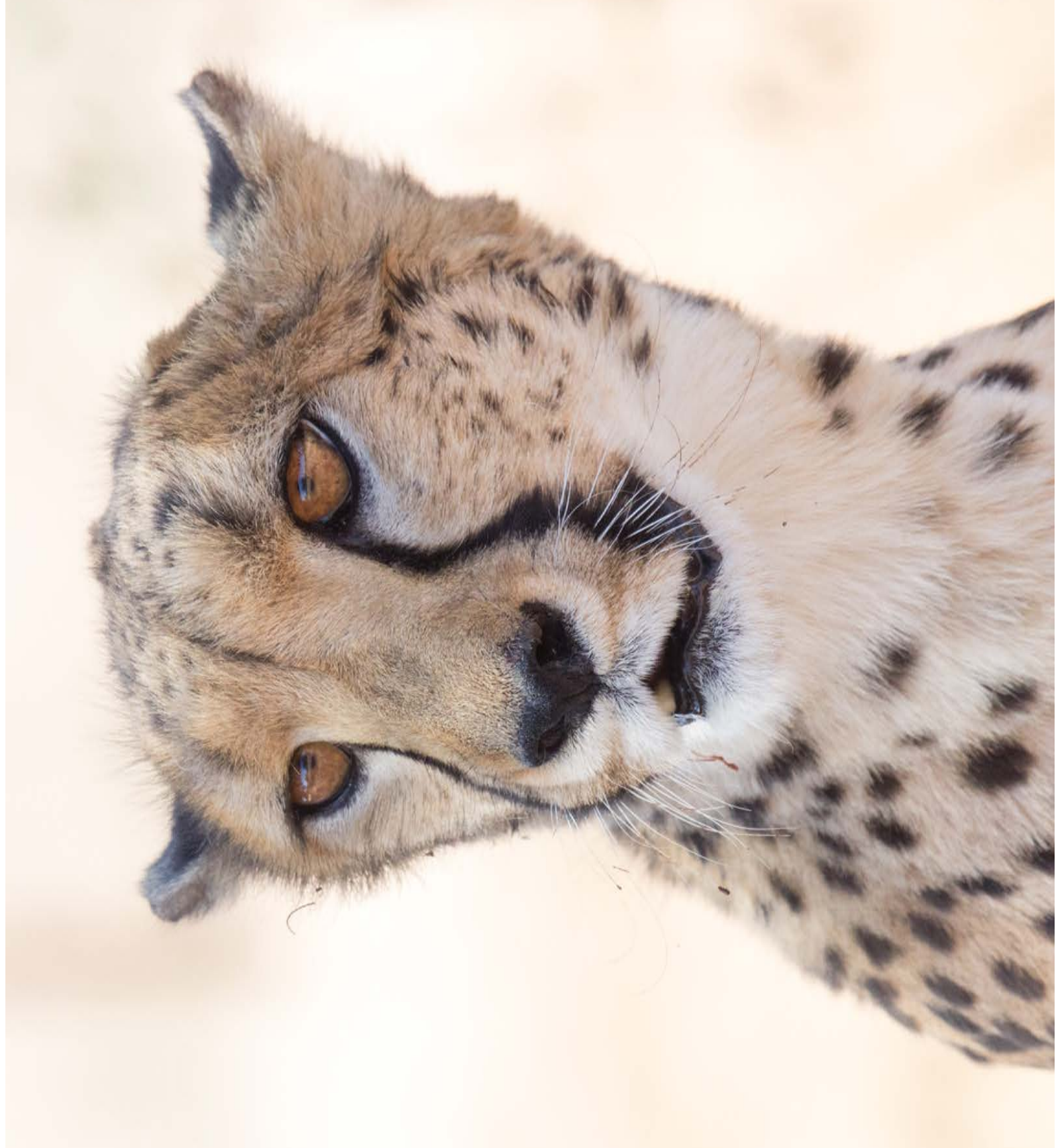


Everyone at CCF (especially Aurora) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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To see a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in co-existence with people and the environment.





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Aurora



Your Update for B2

from Namibia!

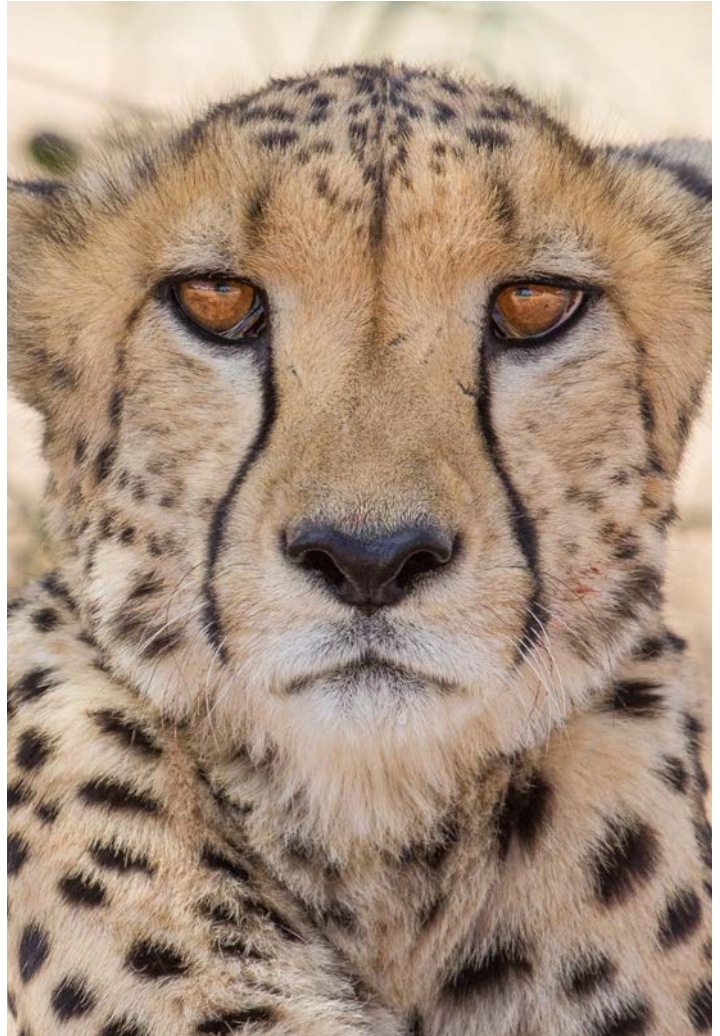
(Hello)

B2 still lives with 'his best friend' and "older brother" Phoenix. He is now four years old. He has a unique way of expressing himself which range from burbles, chirps and growls. You can always hear his noises from far away when it's feeding time. B2 is still a little nervous around the other cheetahs and always wants Phoenix to be by his side. Phoenix unfortunately became unwell the second half of this year with pancreatitis so had to be brought inside a smaller enclosure until he was well again. B2 was so desperate to be with Phoenix that he was also brought into the smaller holding area during Phoenix's recovery. He behaved like the perfect little brother and sat with Phoenix, grooming him whilst he was sleeping in his hay nest.

B2 has become quite confident with his keepers the second half of this year and has begun purring at them when they arrive. B2 is not known for being particularly affectionate so his keepers were very excited when he started showing them warmth on their arrival.

The second half of this year, B2 also met a new young cheetah named Dominic through the fence of his enclosure. Dominic was only six months old, so this was something new and exciting for B2 as he hadn't seen cubs this young before. B2 went straight over to him and

checked him out, then immediately started to purr. All his keepers were shocked as he is very tightly bonded to Phoenix and doesn't get on well with other cheetahs. During the day now, B2 will always make sure he greets our young cub and makes him feel welcome.

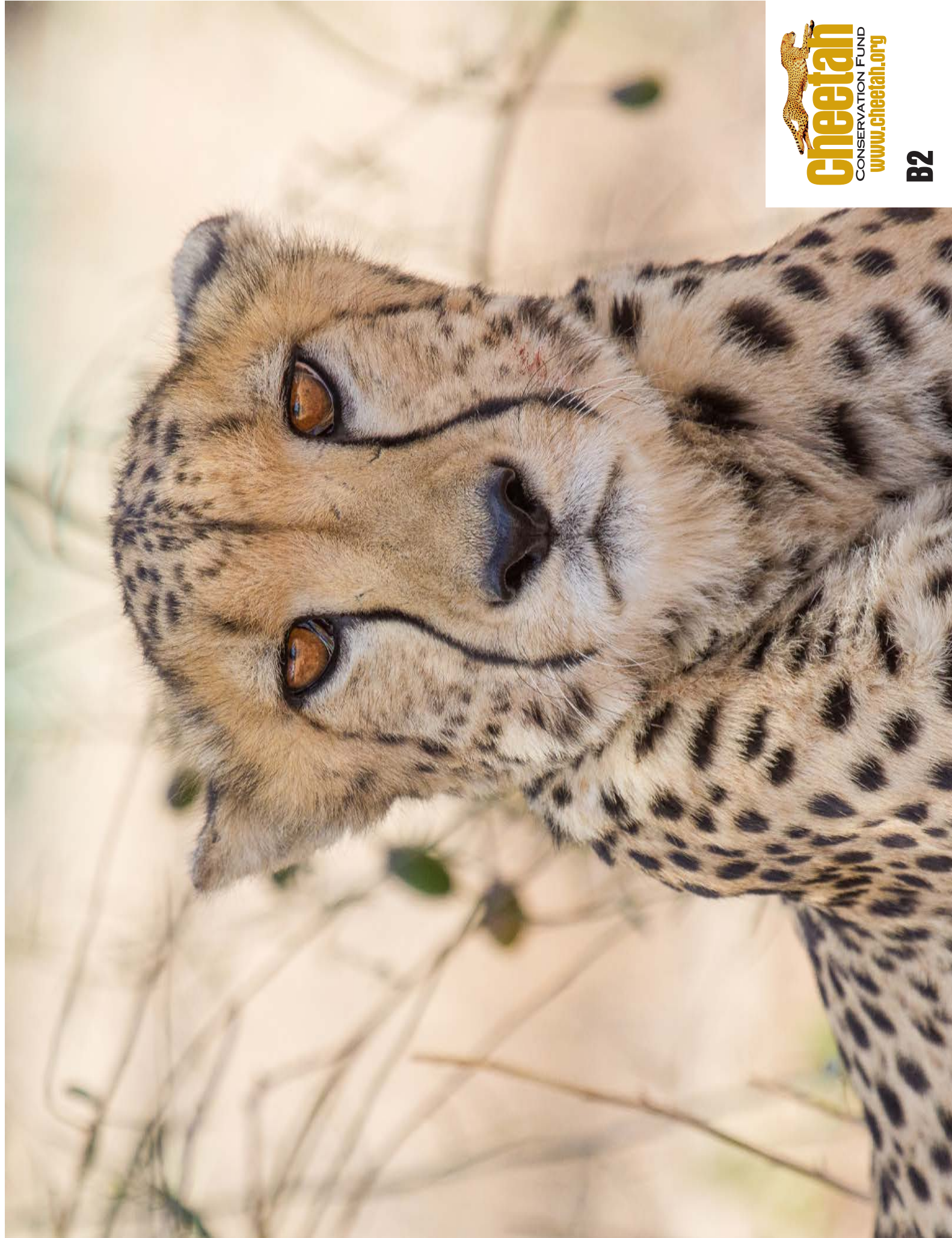


Everyone at CCF (especially B2) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Your Update for Bella

from Namibia!

Bella came to CCF in December 2017 at around a year and a half old. Bella was kept as a pet on a private farm with a male (Katiti). After not having permits granted to continue keeping them, the pair were handed over to CCF. Before arriving at CCF, the cheetahs had a poor diet of chicken necks so have been transferred on to a diet of large hoofstock meat with a vitamin and mineral supplement to help them grow and develop properly. Bella is very habituated to people and will always purr whenever people are around her. She is confident in nature and is learning quickly during her training sessions at CCF.

Bella had a busy few months again at the end of this year. Her relationship with Sasha, the other female she lived with, was not working out as perfectly as her keepers had hoped. Unfortunately, Bella began bullying Sasha, so her keepers decided to switch her around and see how she mixed in with the males she lived next door to. Bella had been showing lots of positive signs that she would get on well with the males.

Bella was introduced one at a time to the males and everything went very smoothly. It is illegal to breed in captivity here in Namibia therefore, Bella had to have a contraceptive implant to

make sure that she did not breed with any of her group mates. It was a simple procedure that involves a small needle going into the scruff of her neck and is over in a few seconds. Because Bella was hand raised, she is very easy to handle if you have the right treats. Her keepers can easily distract her during the procedure, so she barely feels a thing. The newly mixed group is working very well, and Bella has fit in perfectly. She can still be a bit of a bully around food, so during feeding time she is still separated to make sure she doesn't steal from the boys.

She has perfected the lure course now and is one of our best runners for our guests, some would argue even the fastest cheetah here at CCF. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Bella has had a lot of pictures taken of her lately since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that staff, interns and volunteers can get to know them better.

Everyone at CCF (especially Bella) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Your Update for Darwin

from Namibia!

Darwin continues to live in the 13-hectare (nearly 30 acres) enclosure we call the 'Elands pen' here at CCF with his brothers Livingstone and Fossey (also known as "The Scientists") and is now 13 years old. Along with his brothers, Darwin was trapped as a cub for hunting blesbok and springbok in 2006. They were kept in a garage with no daylight for about six months, which caused calcium deficiencies that stunted their growth.

Darwin is the quieter of the brothers and tends to keep to himself. At the end of this year, Darwin's brother Fossey became unwell with renal failure, so Darwin and the rest of his coalition were all brought into a smaller enclosure for monitoring. Male cheetahs live in coalitions in the wild, these coalitions usually consist of siblings but can include males they have met when very young and have first left mum. The bond is for life and they will hunt together, look for females together, everything. In captivity these bonds are just as strong, so when a member of the coalition is sick or injured, we try not to separate them if possible. Darwin was more than happy to come into the smaller enclosure with his brothers because it meant that he would get extra treats. He is one of our greediest cheetahs and will do anything for extra food, even if he's just been fed.

When his brother Fossey was ill, Fossey needed

to be brought into a catch cage every day for fluid therapy. Luckily, his brother is perfectly catch cage trained so willingly enters a cage to eat his dinner whilst his keepers administer these fluids. The process only takes around 10-15 minutes and Fossey happily sits inside chewing away at his bone throughout without any stress. Darwin would always make sure he provided moral support by sitting alongside him.

We make sure to exercise him every other day to keep him fit and healthy, this involves running behind our special feeding vehicle and eventually throwing the meat to him at the end of the session. This is very important for cheetahs as they do not hunt for their own food here at CCF. He doesn't run as fast as he used to but it is important that he keeps fit and strong in his older age.

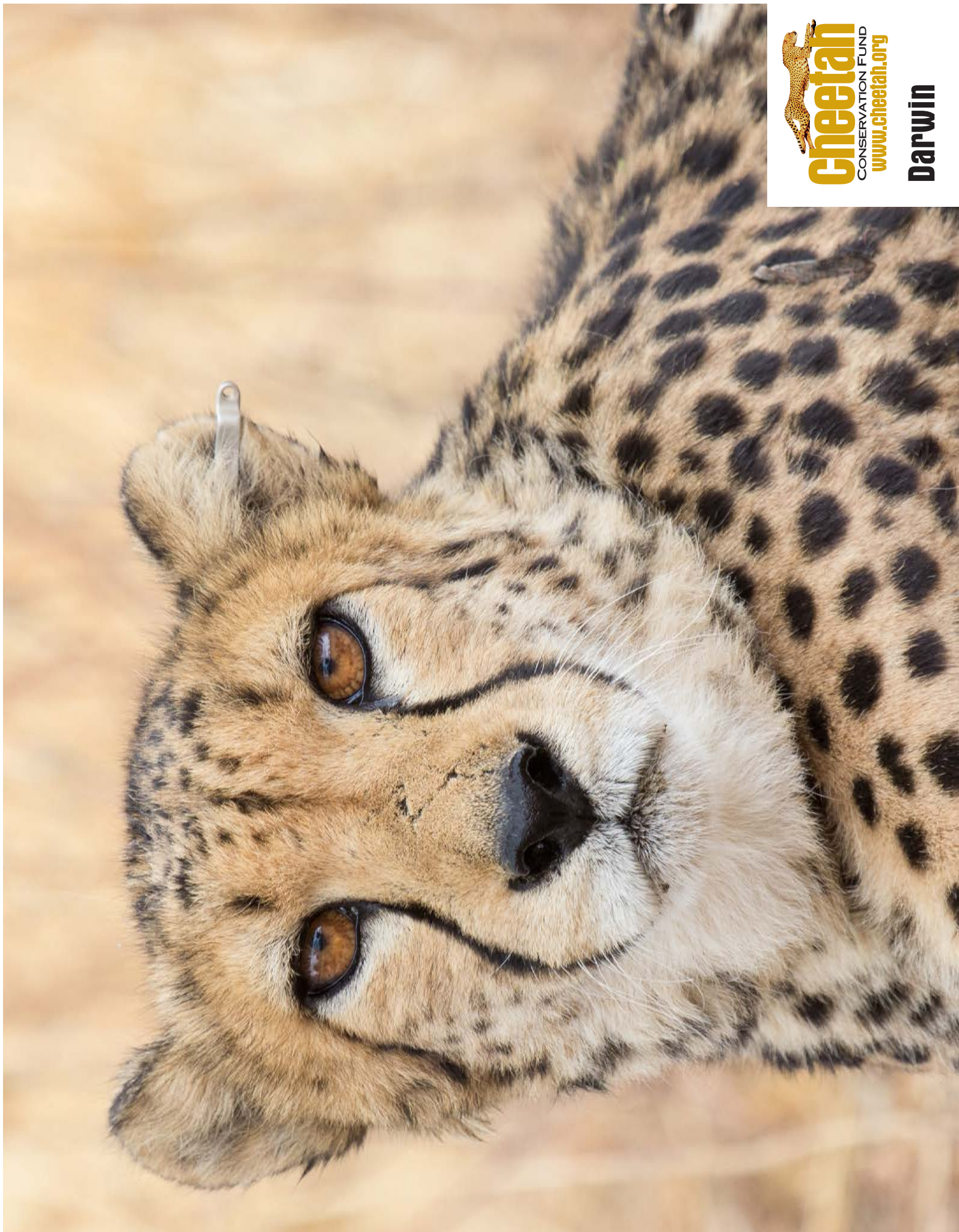
Darwin is very much loved by our guests because of his wide range of vocalisations before feeding time. He is always chirping and meowing as loud as possible! He has had a lot of interactions with guests the end of this year because we have been so busy here at CCF. He has been a useful ambassador in teaching school groups, guests and volunteers what we do here at CCF, learn about Livingstone's story and how people can help to save the cheetah all over the world!

Everyone at CCF (especially Darwin) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Darwin



Your Update for Dominic

from Namibia!

Dominic came to CCF in May 2018, he was taken in by a lady who's farm workers had found him orphaned and alone. Cheetahs are very difficult to care for and unfortunately, she did not have the right facilities or diet for him so after he became unwell, he was taken to a vet and eventually brought to CCF. A cub as young as Dominic needed 24hr care and attention, he was only 10 days old on arrival, so he had to be bottle fed and hand raised by the dedicated staff here. Due to the high amount of human contact he received whilst being raised, he cannot be released into the wild and must remain at CCF as a resident ambassador.

Dominic grew up very fast, playing outside and learning about the world. In August he made a friend through the fence, another young orphaned cheetah named Sasha. They played along the fence line together and would interact in such a positive way that his keepers decided to move the pair into the same enclosure, so they could grow up together. Introductions went smoothly, and Dominic and Sasha started having supervised play times a few times a day.

Because Dominic was raised by humans and only interacted with dogs inside his nursery, he was a little confused when Sasha tried to instigate play with him. It took him a bit of time to figure out that all Sasha wanted to do was

play rather than hurt him. Now during the day, they can both be seen playing ball together and investigating their new larger enclosure.

Now that Dominic is older, he is starting to go through the same training as all our other resident cheetahs. He has already mastered 'spoon training' which involves taking treats nicely from a purpose-built spoon as a reward. It is important for him to learn this skill, so his keepers can easily medicate him if necessary. The 'spoon' also acts as a target, so is helpful during free contact sessions with his keepers.

He is now starting to learn how to run on our purpose-built lure course, this is where we encourage him to chase a rag, once he has caught it, he then receives a reward (his favourite is heart). It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Dominic remains a very independent and vocal cheetah cub. He has no qualms in making his voice heard as loud as possible to attract his keeper's attention in case they have extra treats for him! If anyone approaches him (staff, interns or guests) he will always purr as loud as possible through the fence too.

Everyone at CCF (especially Dominic) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Dominic



Your Update for Fossey

from Namibia!

Fossey continues to live in the 13-hectare (nearly 30 acres) enclosure we call the 'Elands pen' here at CCF with his brothers Darwin and Livingstone (also known as "The Scientists") and is now 13 years old. Along with his brothers, Fossey was trapped as a cub for hunting blesbok and springbok in 2006 in a fenced game farm. They were kept in a garage with no daylight for about six months, which caused calcium deficiencies that stunted their growth.

Fossey has had a difficult end to the year, an abscess formed on the outside of his throat, so his keepers rushed him into the on-site veterinary clinic. Initially he was thought to have a snake bite but upon closer inspection he showed sign of a tooth root abscess. He underwent a medical procedure to drain and clean out the abscess, was put on antibiotics and rested in our feeding camps for the next few days. His keepers built him a large hay nest so that he could be comfortable. Unfortunately, a few days later his blood results came back, and they showed him to have renal failure; this is something quite common in older cats.

Due to its severity, Fossey needed some critical medical care from his keepers and the veterinarian so was brought into a smaller enclosure with his two brothers (Livingston and Darwin) to keep him company. Male cheetahs live in coalitions in the wild, these coalitions usually consist of siblings but can include males they have met when very young and have first left mum. The bond is for life and they will hunt together, look for females together, everything.

In captivity these bonds are just as strong, so when a member of the coalition is sick or injured, we try not to separate them if possible.

After a few weeks, Fossey started to recover and was able to be let back out into his larger enclosure. For now, Fossey still needs daily fluids administered subcutaneously. Luckily, he is perfectly catch cage trained so willingly enters a cage to eat his dinner whilst his keepers administer these fluids. The process only takes around 10-15 minutes and Fossey happily sits inside chewing away at his bone throughout without any stress. It is important for all CCF resident cheetahs to be trained this way so that minor medical procedures can be done stress free and effectively.

At the moment Fossey doesn't exercise like the other cheetahs by chasing the vehicle, he is given his large enclosure to move around in and can follow the vehicle if he wants to. If he does choose to follow the vehicle his keepers slow down and only run a short distance with him, so he doesn't exert himself. He is usually spotted sunning himself during the day, he lays completely flat on the ground, his keepers describe him as "pancake" cheetah. This is an incredibly relaxed position for a cheetah and shows that he is content in his environment.

Fossey has become the quietest member of the group since his illness, but even when his brothers try to steal his dinner from him, he will always fight back and keep it for himself. Once his brothers have been told off by Fossey for stealing, they will sit next to him and meow as loud as possible begging for food.

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FOSSEY



Your Update for Harry

from Namibia!

Harry still lives with her fellow group of females (Hermione, Rainbow and Aurora) and resident male Romeo (who very much lives up to his name!). Harry originally came to CCF with her two siblings (Ron and Hermione) also known as the "Harry Potter Trio" in 2005, as two-month-old orphaned cubs. CCF staff named them after the kids in the popular book and film series. Harry is now 13 years old and still doing very well.

Having several female cheetahs living together is quite unnatural in the wild. Female cheetahs are solitary once they leave their mother at around two years old. They hunt alone, raise cubs alone, and live alone. However, Harry and her group mates get along very well and enjoy one another's company. Even in her old age, Harry still participates in exercising on CCF's lure course. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. She still gives the crowd a few hard sprints during the 'Cheetah Run'.

People often describe Harry and Hermione as "mousey" because they are one of our smallest cheetahs, but she has a big stride when she

runs. Harry is fed at the 'Centre Feeding', where the public can watch her eat and learn her story. Harry is an ambassador for her species and helps educate the public on the plight of the cheetah. She also helps with ongoing research here at the centre.

Often times, people ask how CCF staff can tell her and her sister Hermione apart. The real answer is it can be hard! However, Harry is lighter than her sister because she has fewer spots along her back. People love Harry and Hermione because they will commonly groom one another's faces all over after eating. This affectionate display is some people's favourite part of 'Centre Feeding' and shows the tight bond that they have.

Harry has had a lot of pictures taken of her recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. Harry is one of the quietest members of the group and usually is found near the back of her enclosure away from the main centre with her sister.

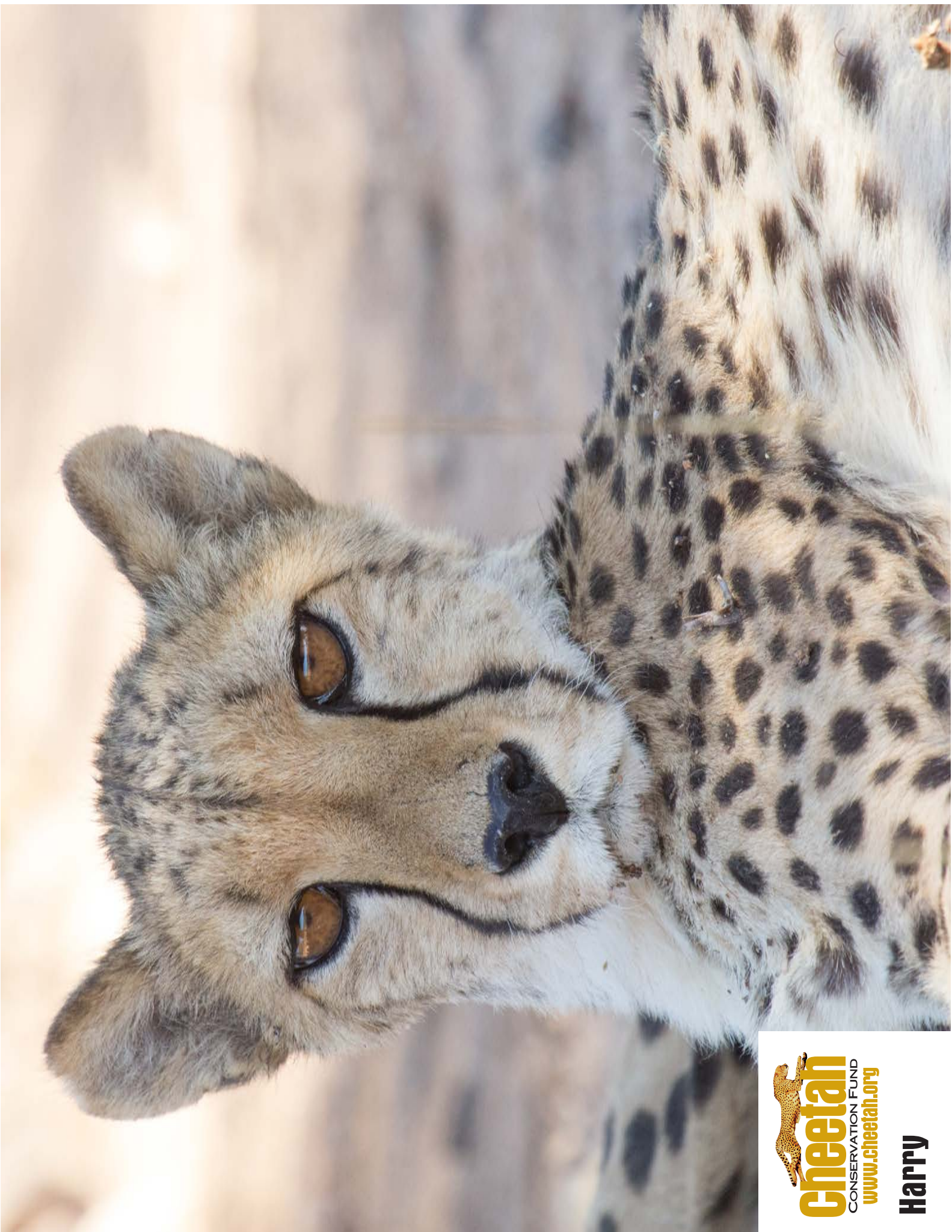


Everyone at CCF (especially Harry) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Harry



Your Update for Hary

from Namibia!

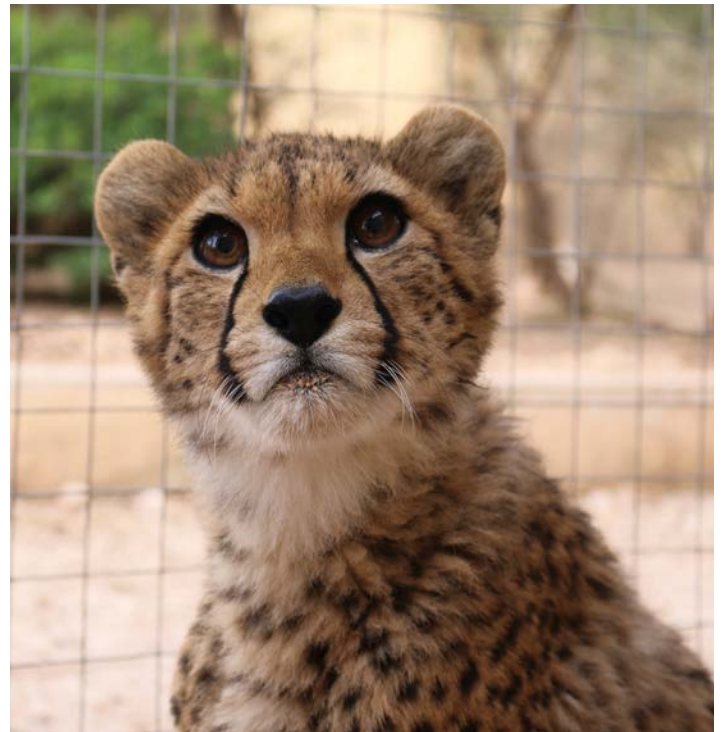
Hary is short for Harimaad, which is the Somali word for cheetah. He was confiscated with another unrelated cub, Shakeer, and a young gerenuk being sold by poachers in the Adaadley district of Somaliland. As soon as the news of their existence reached the Minister of Environment, our team travelled with wildlife officials to Adaadley, in eastern Somaliland, to retrieve all three animals and transport them to our safe house in the capital, Hargeisa.

Hary is a beautiful male and is now about a year old. He was very stressed for the first two days, so our team had to wait a couple of days to remove a rope around his neck and apply all vaccines. He also had to be hand fed for a few days, but soon became stronger and more confident. He and Shakeer have shared an outside enclosure since their arrival and bonded quite well.

Hary and Shakeer share the yard with other animals, including two other confiscated male cheetahs, Indie and Veepi, although they seem to ignore one another. Fortunately, he and Shakeer have plenty of action around them with the other confiscated animals under the care of our Hargeisa team, which currently include two kudus, a gazelle, a gerenuk and two vultures. They stalk and watch their yard mates through the fence when they are not just resting in the

sun. None of the other animals seem to mind, and occasionally they approach the cheetah enclosures for a mutual smelling session.

The two cheetahs also seem to enjoy their caretakers' presence, purring loudly and rolling over when they approach. This is good because it makes it easier to handle him when needed; however, this also lessens any chances of them going back to the wild. Sadly, most cheetah cubs stolen from the wild at a very young age for the pet trade must be hand raised and lose their fear of humans. This has the potential of resulting in conflict as he would most likely approach human settlements in search for food.



Everyone at CCF (especially Hary) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Your Update for Hermione

from Namibia!

Hermione still lives with her fellow group of females (Harry, Rainbow and Aurora) and resident male Romeo (who very much lives up to his name!). Hermione originally came to CCF with her two siblings (Ron and Harry) also known as the "Harry Potter Trio" in 2005, as two-month-old orphaned cubs. CCF staff named them after the kids in the popular book and film series.

Hermione is now 13 years old and still doing very well. Hermione is the quietest member of the group and is not normally seen during the day. Even in her old age, Hermione still participates in exercising on CCF's lure course as it is still one of her favourite things to do. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Usually she is waiting next to the lure box that holds the rag she must chase. She always waits patiently under a tree and watches her keepers set up. She still gives the crowd a few hard sprints during the Cheetah Run.

People often describe Hermione and Harry as "mousey" because they are our smallest

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cheetahs, but she still has a big stride when she runs. Hermione is fed at Centre Feeding, where the public can watch her eat and learn her story. Hermione is an ambassador for her species and helps educate the public on the plight of the cheetah. She also helps with ongoing research here at the centre.

Often, people ask how CCF staff can tell her and her sister Harry apart. The real answer is it can be hard! However, Hermione is darker than her sister because she has more spots along her back and she has a very dirty looking nose compared to her group mates. People love Harry and Hermione because they will commonly groom one another all over their faces after eating. This affectionate display is some people's favourite part of Centre Feeding.

Hermione has had a lot of pictures taken of her recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. Hermione is one of the quietest members of the group, she can usually be found with her sister at the back of the enclosure sleeping. Although, if her keepers have a few extra treats she will usually come running up to the fence in excitement.







Your Update for Indie

from Namibia!

Indie is named after the American Independence Day because he was confiscated two years ago on that day. He was removed from a private zoo in Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, where he had been kept in a very small and unkempt cage. He was the first cheetah forced to remain in country due to a new government regulation that banned transferring confiscated animals to sanctuaries in other countries.

In April of this year we decided to move two other confiscated male cheetahs from another house to Indie's yard. Indie's yard, unlike the house where the other cheetahs were living, has soil and even grass when it rains. We were hoping that the three males would form a coalition. A month after the move, one of the males, Dhoobi, suddenly passed away, and we were even more determined to attempt a successful introduction. However, neither cheetah seemed interested. He and Veepi ignore each other, even though they are only separated by a fence. As such, Indie continues to have an enclosure all to himself ever. Fortunately, he and Veepi have plenty of action around them with the other confiscated animals under the care of our Hargeisa team,

which currently include two kudus, a gazelle, a gerenuk and two vultures, in addition to two younger cheetahs, Indie and Veepi stalk and watch their yard mates through the fence when they are not just resting in the sun. None of the other animals seem to mind, and occasionally they approach the cheetah enclosures for a mutual smelling session. Indie's limp, evident when he walks, seems to disappear when he runs along the fence 'chasing' the other animals.

Cheetahs are very visual; in the wild, they like to climb on trees and termite mounds to get a better view of their surroundings. However, Indie does not seem interested in climbing on a platform built especially for him. He continues to use it as a toilette, or for shade, like on the photo, even though there is plenty of shade around.

Indie really seems to enjoy human presence. He purrs loudly and rolls over when his caretakers approach. This is good because it makes it easier to handle him when needed; however, this also lessens any chances of him going back to the wild. Sadly, most cheetah cubs stolen from the wild at a very young age for the pet trade must be hand raised and lose their fear of humans. This has the potential of resulting in conflict if he were released into the wild, as he would most likely approach human settlements in search for food.

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Indie



Your Update for Katiti

from Namibia!

Katiti came to CCF in December 2017 at around a year old. Katiti was kept as a pet on a private farm with a female (Bella). After not having permits granted to continue keeping them, the pair were handed over to CCF. Before arriving at CCF, the pair had a poor diet of chicken necks so have been transferred on to a diet of large hoofstock meat with a vitamin and mineral supplement to help them grow and develop properly.

Katiti is quite a shy cheetah and is always keeping a close eye on what's going on around him. He has bonded with his new coalition well and his 'best friend' Bella has come back to the group to live with him which he has been very pleased about. Last month Katiti started working closely with his keepers and learned how to run on our purpose-built lure course to stay fit and healthy. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. During his training, Katiti was initially quite scared of the rag on a piece of string that he needed to chase. His keepers could see he was desperate to chase it but was unsure what

it was. To begin with his keepers rewarded him for being close to it, then eventually progressing onto holding it in his mouth. He is still new to this whole process and still has work to do but he is making great progress every single day. He is currently running after the rag as fast as he can in front of guests but is still a little cautious when it stops for him to catch it. He still gets lots of rewards from his keepers for chasing it, his favourite treat is heart.

Since being mixed into a male coalition, Katiti has got on very well. He is now nicely bonded with the two males and his 'best friend' Bella, has moved back into the group too. The group of four are now getting along well and are regularly participating in the 'Cheetah Run' and 'Centre Feeding'. At the 'Centre Feeding' the public can watch him eat and learn about his story.

Katiti's mantle is starting to disappear as he gets closer to two years old. The mantle is the long hair on the back of a young cheetah's neck that stretches from their ears to their shoulders. It's usually long in young cheetahs for camouflage in the tall grass. Katiti has had a lot of pictures taken of him lately since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that staff, interns and volunteers can get to know them better.

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Katiti



Your Update for Khayjay

from Namibia!

Khayjay still lives with his three siblings Peter, Senay and Tigerlily; a group known as the "Ambassadors". He is now eight years old and doing very well. The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just three weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised at our Centre. They are very accustomed to people and enjoy attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them. They purr loudly through the fence when they have visitors.

Khayjay runs on CCF's lure course a few times a week with his siblings. It is great way for him to exercise and stay lean! CCF visitors love his energy during the 'Cheetah Run' because he is such a big cheetah and will always come racing past with heavy paws – he sounds like a horse running past. Khayjay is fed every day at 'Centre Feeding', where people can watch him eat and learn about his story. The "Ambassadors" are always guests' favourite because of their routine during feeding. When they are let into the feeding camp, they dart to the first piece of meat they find, pick it up, and then run around, like musical chairs, but with bowls. Even though it looks like they are randomly running about, the four of them always end up eating in the same spot every single day. Even though it looks like they are randomly running about, the four of them always end up eating in the same spot

every single day. Khayjay eats in the front-left corner of the pen between his sisters.

The Ambassador's enclosure, where Khayjay lives, is next to the Babson Guest House. Babson guests get to look out the window or off their balcony and see Khayjay and his siblings interact in their enclosure. One way to tell that the Ambassadors are related is that they groom one another. It is thought that cheetahs who live in coalitions together but are unrelated are less likely to participate in grooming. Khayjay's coat always looks great thanks to his brother and sisters.

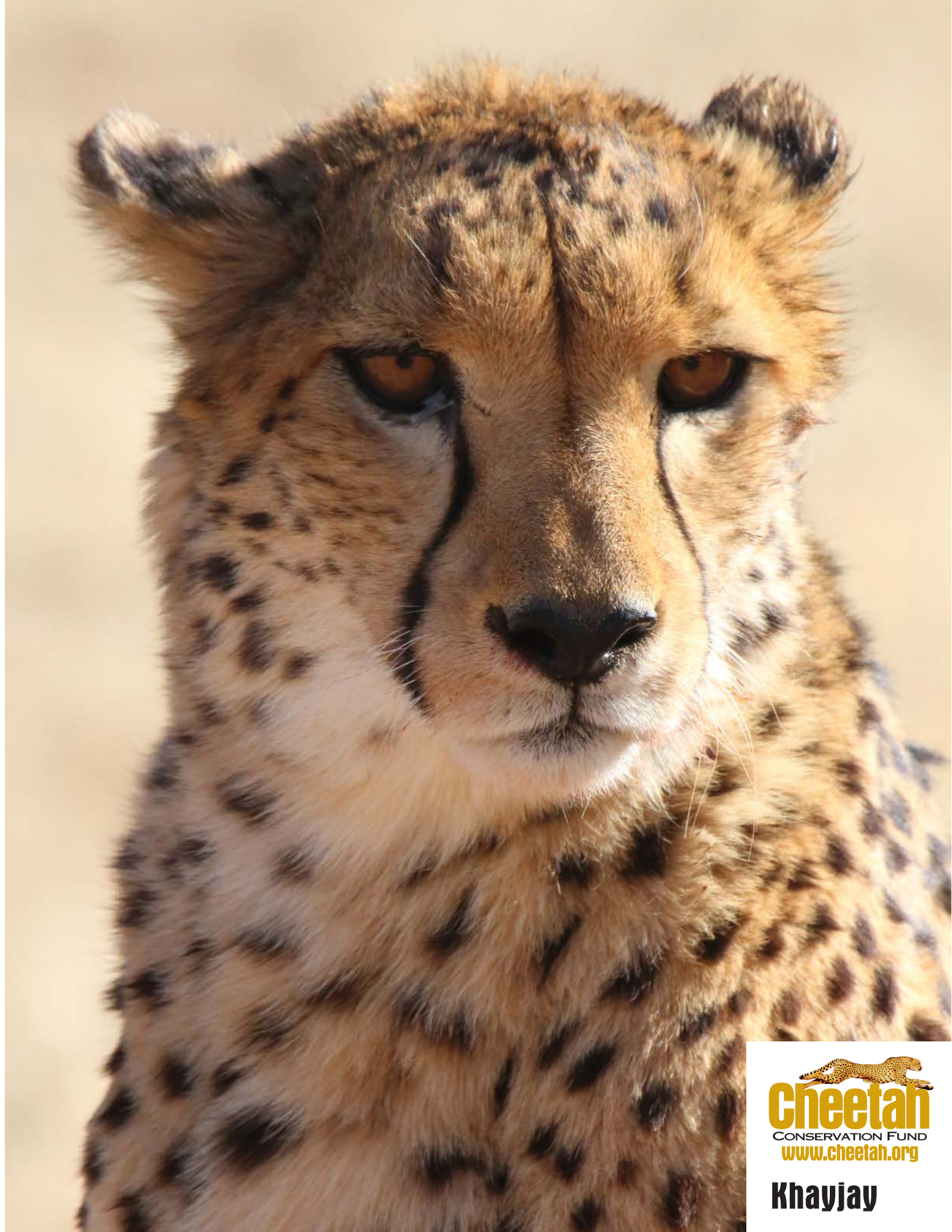
Khayjay has had his picture taken a lot recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. Khayjay is one of the most affectionate out of his sibling group and will always make sure to come and greet his keepers in the morning with loud purrs always expecting treats. He loves his treats and will always come over to the meat preparation area near his enclosure to watch his keepers cut up the meat, just to check in case there's any extra for him. Because Khayjay was hand raised, it makes him quite easy to handle during important procedures or for minor medical treatment such as annual vaccinations.

Everyone at CCF (especially Khayjay) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Khayjay



Your Update for Koya

from Namibia!

Koya came to CCF in July 2017 after being captured on a farm at around 6 months old. Koya and his brother (Niko) were kept on the farm for nearly two months before CCF were called. He was kept in a small chicken coop, given a poor diet and had no exercise, so was very overweight when he arrived. It's not often that we come across a chubby cheetah. Cheetahs are incredibly sensitive when it comes to nutrition, so a proper diet is very important for their health.

Unfortunately, due to his poor living conditions, Koya developed metabolic bone disease in his front legs. Metabolic bone disease is caused by an imbalance of vitamins and nutrients, particularly a lack of calcium, which weakens the bones. CCF is happy to say that both Koya and his brother Niko have recovered well here at CCF due to proper diet, exercise, and regular health check-ups.

Koya exercises on CCF's lure course a couple of times a week. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Koya has come a long way with his training during the 'Cheetah Run' initially Koya would love to catch the rag

and immediately try to eat it! He would always keep his keepers on their toes, so they would get there in time. Now he's one of our best runners and sits perfectly off to the side to get his reward. He can successfully chase down and catch the lure, and then will sit off to the side for his reward, organ treats. CCF visitors love to watch Koya and Nico run because they always give it a good effort and are claimed to be our fastest runners.

CCF staff have been trying out different combinations during feeding time as Koya is being bullied slightly by a female he lives with named Bella. Usually, the four within the group would eat together but for now, Koya eats with the boys. Koya still eats with both of his front paws in his bowl, which is a very unnatural behaviour for a cheetah. Since he doesn't know what it is like to be a wild cheetah that must worry about other predators, Koya has decided it's easier to hold his food down with his paws rather than eating in the crouched position. Koya is fed daily at 'Centre Feeding', where the public can watch him eat and learn about his story.

Koya's mantle is starting to disappear as he gets closer to two years old. The mantle is the long hair on the back of a young cheetah's neck that stretches from their ears to their shoulders. It's usually long in young cheetahs for camouflage in the tall grass. Koya has had a lot of pictures taken of him lately since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that staff, interns and volunteers can get to know them better!

Everyone at CCF (especially Koya) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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KOYA



Your Update for LGD Program

from Namibia!

As of December 2018, the LGD program has placed 32 puppies throughout Namibia, including five puppies born in 2017. This year, five litters of puppies were born. Of these litters, five puppies will not be placed until 2019 as they were only born in November 2018, to CCF's female, Kiri. Due to old age, three of our breeding females have been retired from the breeding program and sterilized – this includes Kiri, Karibib, and Aleya. CCF hopes to acquire new dogs in 2019 to expand the breeding program and replace the retired females.

The two master students from Bristol University completed their masters projects on the Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGD). One study was focused on studying the personality traits that make a good LGD – by scoring the dogs doing different behaviours. Below are the personality traits that were compared to efficacy of dog's working skills:

- Five personality traits were found: Playfulness, trainability, independence, sociability with people, and reactivity.
- Working dogs were found to be more independent than breeding dogs.
- Dogs with a higher trainability and a

lower reactivity were likely to be more effective LGDs.

- Dogs that were more playful with people were more likely to play roughly with the stock

The second study was focused on the proximity of guarding dogs to the herd throughout the day. We used satellite collars on both the lead goat and the dog to track how close they were to each other during the day.

- The LGDs are closest the lead goat at the beginning and end of their working day.
- LGDs were closer in proximity to the lead goat in areas of dense vegetation and were the furthest from the lead goat in low vegetation.
- All three dogs observed out with the herd spent most of their guarding time walking ahead of the herd and oriented in the direction of travel, suggesting they are on the lookout for predators
- The three observed dogs all also scent marked throughout their guarding period

Completing research such as the above, allows us to continue updating our knowledge on the use and techniques of guarding dogs which allows CCF to provide this information to farmers and other organizations interested in this mitigation tool.

CCF is very happy with the progress of 2018 and hopes this success continues through next year. Thank you for supporting the LGD program at CCF!

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Livestock Guarding Dogs



BONUS! CCF SCAT DOG UPDATE



The Scat Detection Dog Programme has continuously grown over the years. In May of 2018, Tim Hofmann, dog handler, and his dog Ole, a six-year-old Weimaraner, joined Quentin de Jager and the CCF scat dogs. Tim joined the team as the Scat Dog Research Coordinator. In mid 2017, Tim first came to CCF as an intern in order to do research for his master's thesis, looking at factors that influence the success of scat dogs in detection. Before coming to CCF, Ole was used in several research projects as a tracking dog and has already made great progress in his new role as a scat detection dog. With two scat detection teams, the area that can be covered has increased and the teams have proven to be fully operational, scat detection teams. With the programme's growth in 2018, the teams were able to visit farms in the Otjozondjupa, Omaheke and Oshikoto regions of Namibia. A large number of scat samples have been acquired and it is hoped to the efforts in the upcoming year of 2019.

As another addition to the scat dog team, four Belgian Malinois puppies were donated to CCF from the Otjiwarongo Neighbourhood Watch. Two of the puppies were donated by CCF to collaborators at Ongava Game Reserve to aid their work in the protection of endangered wildlife. The other two puppies – Enyakwa (Enya) and Gamena (Mena) – remained at CCF and are currently being trained to become the next generation of scat detection dogs. Enyakwa and Gamena were named by donors via a Facebook initiative – we would like to thank the participants for their generous support to CCF's scat dogs. Enya is a very active dog with the typical temperament of a Malinois, whereas Mena is more relaxed but still motivated for the job.

In 2018, both sisters have taken their first steps in becoming professional working dogs. They have now matured from their puppy-stage and are ready to start serious training in scat detection work. The distance of their searches and intensity of their training will be gradually

increased. Thick bush areas will be added to their training to improve their performances. Enya and Mena's performances and improvements will be evaluated regularly with assessment transects in 2019.

Quentin and Levi became a part of a three-year project involving long-term CCF collaborator Dr Ezequiel Fabiano – obtained his MSc and PhD through CCF and is now a lecturer at the University of Namibia – and CIBIO (Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos). To kick off the project, Quentin and Levi travelled to Angola from the 10th until the 30th of June 2018 to search for and collect carnivore scat samples in local National Parks. CCF's scat detection team covered more than 7 km per day while searching and found a total of 71 scat samples from a range of carnivores including leopard, caracal and African wild dog on which Levi indicated. No cheetah samples were found. The samples will be used in the research of three graduate students. The data collected from analysed scat samples and camera trap photos will be combined to determine the predator and prey population sizes and how they are integrated.

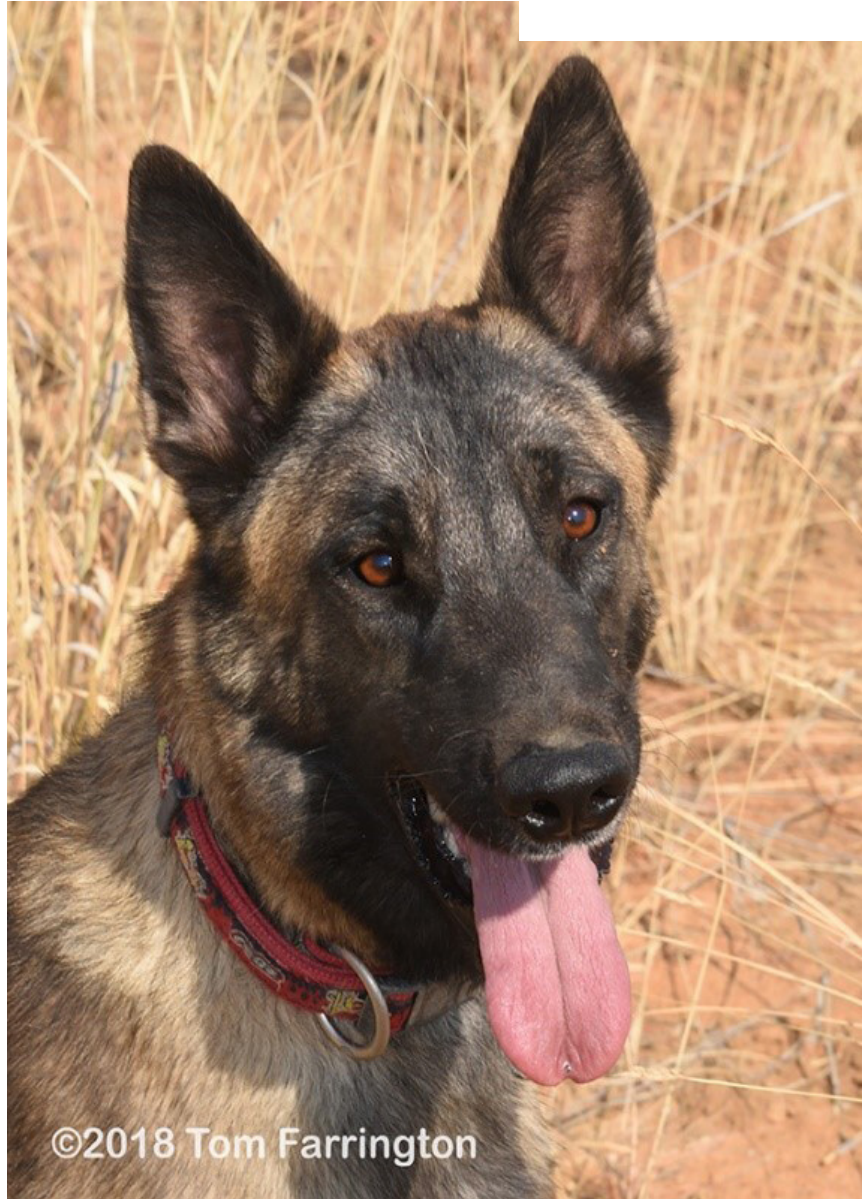
In 2018, CCF's scat detection dog team trained an ammunition detection dog for NYIME Anti-Poaching Unit. The trained dog has proven effective since returning to its handler at NYIME and has gained attention from ISAP, as well as various other Anti-Poaching organizations. Starting at the end of December 2018, the two Belgian Malinois dogs that were donated by CCF to Ongava Game Reserve will be trained in ammunition detection and human-scent tracking to aid Ongava in their fight against poaching. The two Malinois will be ready to start their work in combating poaching by March 2019.

Images: Map 1: Green shows dog movement on a search, Flags indicate detected samples and species based on field ID. Samples are Market Car: A-J for wild samples found and marked AWD 1-3 for a Wild Dog Training Aid use to keep our dogs motivated. Top center: left to right: Levi (dog), Quentin, Tim and Ole (dog). Bottom: left: Gamena, right: Enyakwa



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Scat Detection Dogs



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Your Update for Little C.

from Namibia!

Little C continues to live here at CCF in his male coalition group with his close friends Shunga, Ron and N'Dunge. Little C came to CCF as a month-old orphan from the Okahandja area. His mother got too close to a farmer's sheep and was killed by the farmer's dogs along with Little C's siblings. The farmer caught Little C in a tree and hand raised him for a month before CCF acquired him. He is now 10 years old. At the beginning of this year Little C and his coalition moved to a much larger enclosure (8 ha - 20 acres) called "The Elands Pen" and have continued to live there ever since. Little C loves this huge enclosure as he has a little more space out of the public eye, so he can enjoy his retirement.

Little C continues to practise catch cage training, this is especially important now that he is getting older in case his keepers need to treat him quickly. We train all our cheetahs to enter a crush cage calmly and remain in there in exchange for treats, this is a method of positive reinforcement training. A crush cage allows the cheetah keepers to safely capture Little C without the need for anaesthesia and perform minor medical procedures such as taking blood, treating wounds or giving eye drops in a calm and safe environment for both Little C and his

keepers. Little C and his coalition mates love the catch cage because they know they get extra rewards for being inside there. Most of the time during training, all four males will try to squeeze into the catch cage together, there is never any fighting between them at this point as they seem to love being so close to each other. Usually their keepers must encourage them out of the catch cage to start training as they will all rush in for treats.

Little C has been going through some other training too, so that his keepers can take safari vehicles into his huge enclosure and guests can learn about his story and CCF from a distance. Little C has already mastered this training compared to his coalition mates and is always very calm and chilled out around the safari vehicles. He is the perfect cheetah for photographers as he will happily sit in a nice position and pose for them. Little C is one of our biggest cheetahs here at CCF weighing around 50kg. Generally male cheetahs will weigh between 40kg - 45kg so he's quite a big cheetah. Even though he's one of our biggest cheetahs, he is also a gentle giant and loves to spend time with his keepers.

Everyone at CCF (especially Little C.) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Little C.



Your Update for Livingstone

from Namibia!

Livingstone continues to live in the 13-hectare (nearly 30 acres) enclosure we call the 'Elands pen' here at CCF with his brothers Darwin and Fossey (also known as "The Scientists") and is now 13 years old. Along with his brothers, Livingstone was trapped as a cub for hunting blesbok and springbok in 2006. They were kept in a garage with no daylight for about six months, which caused calcium deficiencies that stunted their growth. Livingstone is the quieter of the brothers and tends to keep to himself.

At the end of this year, Livingstone's brother Fossey became unwell with renal failure, so Livingstone and the rest of his coalition were all brought into a smaller enclosure for monitoring. Male cheetahs live in coalitions in the wild, these coalitions usually consist of siblings but can include males they have met when very young and have first left mum. The bond is for life and they will hunt together, look for females together, everything. In captivity these bonds are just as strong, so when a member of the coalition is sick or injured, we try not to separate them if possible. Livingstone was more than happy to come into the smaller enclosure with his brothers because it meant that he would get extra treats. He is one of our greediest cheetahs and will do anything for extra food, even if he's just been fed.

When his brother Fossey was ill, Fossey

needed to be brought into a catch cage every day for fluid therapy. Luckily, his brother is perfectly catch cage trained so willingly enters a cage to eat his dinner whilst his keepers administer these fluids. The process only takes around 10-15 minutes and Fossey happily sits inside chewing away at his bone throughout without any stress. Livingstone would always make sure he provided moral support by sitting alongside him. We make sure to exercise him every other day to keep him fit and healthy, this involves running behind our special feeding vehicle and eventually throwing the meat to him at the end of the session. This is very important for cheetahs as they do not hunt for their own food here at CCF. He doesn't run as fast as he used to but it is important that he keeps fit and strong in his older age.

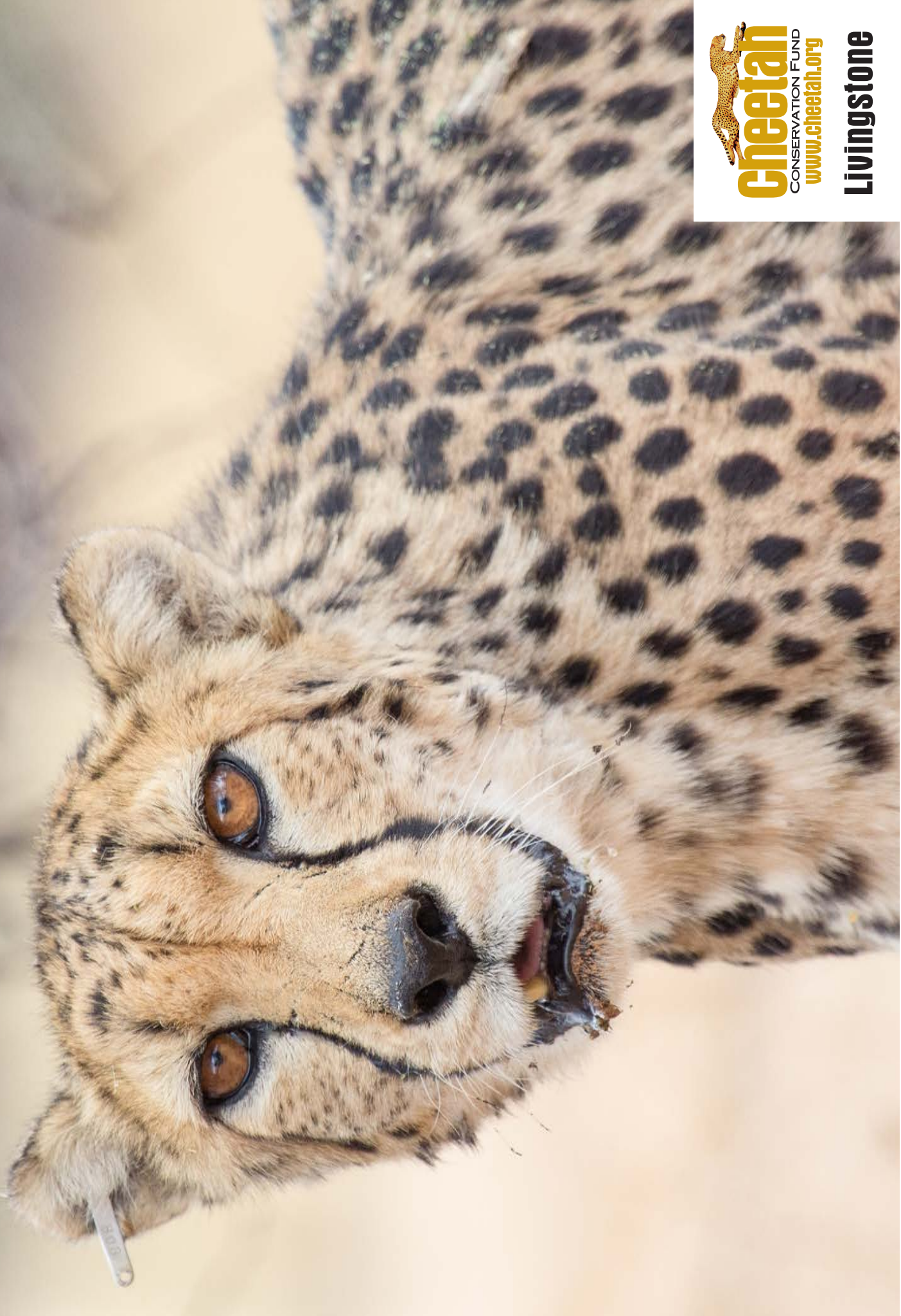
Livingstone is very much loved by our guests because of his wide range of vocalisations before feeding time. He is always chirping and meowing as loud as possible. He has had a lot of interactions with guests the end of this year because we have been so busy here at CCF. He has been a useful ambassador in teaching school groups, guests and volunteers what we do here at CCF, learn about Livingstone's story and how people can help to save the cheetah all over the world!

Everyone at CCF (especially Livingstone) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Livingstone



Your Update for N'Dunge

from Namibia!

treating wounds or giving eye drops in a calm and safe environment for both Smartman and his keepers.

Smartman and his coalition mates love the catch cage because they know they get extra rewards for being inside there. Most of the time during training, all four males will try to squeeze into the catch cage together, there is never any fighting between them at this point as they seem to love being so close to each other. Usually their keepers must encourage them out of the catch cage to start training as they will all rush in for treats. Luckily Smartman is perfect in the catch cage because he ended up having a small bout of gastritis the end of this year. His keepers were able to medicate him easily and take blood from him without any stress to check on his progress. He recovered nicely and is currently being fed more than his coalition mates to gain some extra weight that he lost during his illness. This means he gets extra treats every day and will come running over as soon as he hears his keepers calling him.

Smartman has been going through some other training too, so that his keepers can take safari vehicles into his huge enclosure and guests can learn about his story and CCF from a distance. Smartman, along with his brother are the most inquisitive and like to give the vehicle a good sniff every time it comes in, so they are still working on their training to keep a bit of distance, his keepers think he is just looking for more treats!

N'Dunge continues to live here at CCF in his male coalition group with his close friends Little C, Ron and Shunga. N'Dunge and his brother Shunga were found without a mother in the Gobabis region. The two cubs were brought to CCF in July 2008 when they were three months old. During their first few weeks here at CCF their keepers noticed that N'Dunge was the first to become comfortable in his new surroundings and quickly picked up on the feeding routines earning him the nickname "Smart-Man".

He is now 10 years old. At the beginning of this year Smartman and his coalition moved to a much larger enclosure (eight ha - 20 acres) called "The Elands Pen" and have continued to live there ever since. Smartman loves this huge enclosure as he has a little more space out of the public eye, so he can enjoy his retirement. Smartman continues to practise catch cage training, this is especially important now that he is getting older in case his keepers need to treat him quickly. We train all our cheetahs to enter a crush cage calmly and remain in there in exchange for treats, this is a method of positive reinforcement training. A crush cage allows the cheetah keepers to safely capture Smartman without the need for anaesthesia and perform minor medical procedures such as taking blood,

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N'Dunge



Your Update for Niko

from Namibia!

Niko came to CCF in July 2017 after being captured on a farm at around 6 months old. Niko and his brother (Koya) were kept on the farm for nearly two months before CCF was called. He was kept in a small chicken coop, given a poor diet and had no exercise, so was very overweight when he arrived. It's not often that we come across a chubby cheetah. Cheetahs are incredibly sensitive when it comes to nutrition, so a proper diet is very important for their health.

Unfortunately, due to his poor living conditions, Niko developed metabolic bone disease in his front legs. Metabolic bone disease is caused by an imbalance of vitamins and nutrients, particularly a lack of calcium, which weakens the bones. CCF is happy to say however that both Niko and his brother Koya have recovered well here at CCF due to proper diet, exercise, and regular health checks.

Niko exercises on CCF's lure course a couple of times a week. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Niko has come a long way with his training during the Cheetah Run. Initially, Niko was quite scared of the lure; he was interested in it but kept his distance, slapping at the rag to see if it was still alive! Now

he's one of our best runners. He can successfully chase down and catch the lure, and then will sit off to the side for his reward, organ meat treats. CCF visitors love to watch Niko and Koya run because they always give it a good effort and are claimed to be our fastest runners.

Niko has been going through a growth spurt lately, which has made him a bit cranky with the other cheetahs. To keep the peace, CCF staff have been trying out different combinations during feeding time. Usually, Niko eats with the other two boys, Koya and Katiti, but recently he has been put on his own to see if that works out better. Niko still eats with both of his front paws in his bowl, which is a very unnatural behaviour for a cheetah. Since he doesn't know what it is like to be a wild cheetah that must worry about other predators, Niko has decided it's easier to hold his food down with his paws rather than in the natural crouched position. Niko is fed daily at 'Centre Feeding', where the public can watch him eat and learn about his story.

Niko's mantle is starting to disappear as he gets closer to two years old. However, he is still fluffier than his brother Koya. The mantle is the long hair on the back of a young cheetah's neck that stretches from their ears to their shoulders. It's usually long in young cheetahs for camouflage in the tall grass. Niko has had a lot of pictures taken of him lately since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that staff, interns and volunteers can get to know them better.

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NIKO



Your Update for Peter

from Namibia!

Peter still lives with his three siblings Khayjay, Senay and Tigerlily; a coalition known as the "Ambassadors". He is now eight years old and doing very well. The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just three weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised at our Centre. They are very accustomed to people and enjoy attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them. They purr loudly through the fence when they have visitors.

Peter runs on CCF's lure course a few times a week with his siblings. It is great way for him to exercise and stay lean! CCF visitors love his energy during the 'Cheetah Run' because he is such a big cheetah and will always come racing past with heavy paws – he sounds like a horse running past. Peter is fed every day at 'Centre Feeding', where people can watch him eat and learn about his story. The "Ambassadors" are always guests' favourite because of their routine during feeding. When they are let into the feeding camp, they dart to the first piece of meat they find, pick it up, and then run around, like musical chairs, but with bowls. Even though it looks like they are randomly running about, the four of them always end up eating in the same spot every single day. Peter eats in the front-left corner of the pen between his sisters.

The Ambassador's enclosure, where Peter lives, is next to the Babson Guest House. Babson guests get to look out the window or off their balcony and see Peter and his siblings interact in their enclosure. One way to tell that the Ambassadors are related is that they groom one another. It is thought that cheetahs who live in coalitions together but are unrelated are less likely to participate in grooming. Peter's coat always looks great thanks to his brother and sisters.

Peter has had his picture taken a lot recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. Peter is the most affectionate of the group and will always greet his keepers in the morning with the loudest purrs. He is also the most well-behaved cheetah out of his sibling group as well and is always willing to work with his keepers, even without treats. Because Peter was hand raised, it makes him quite easy to handle during important procedures or for minor medical treatment such as annual vaccinations.

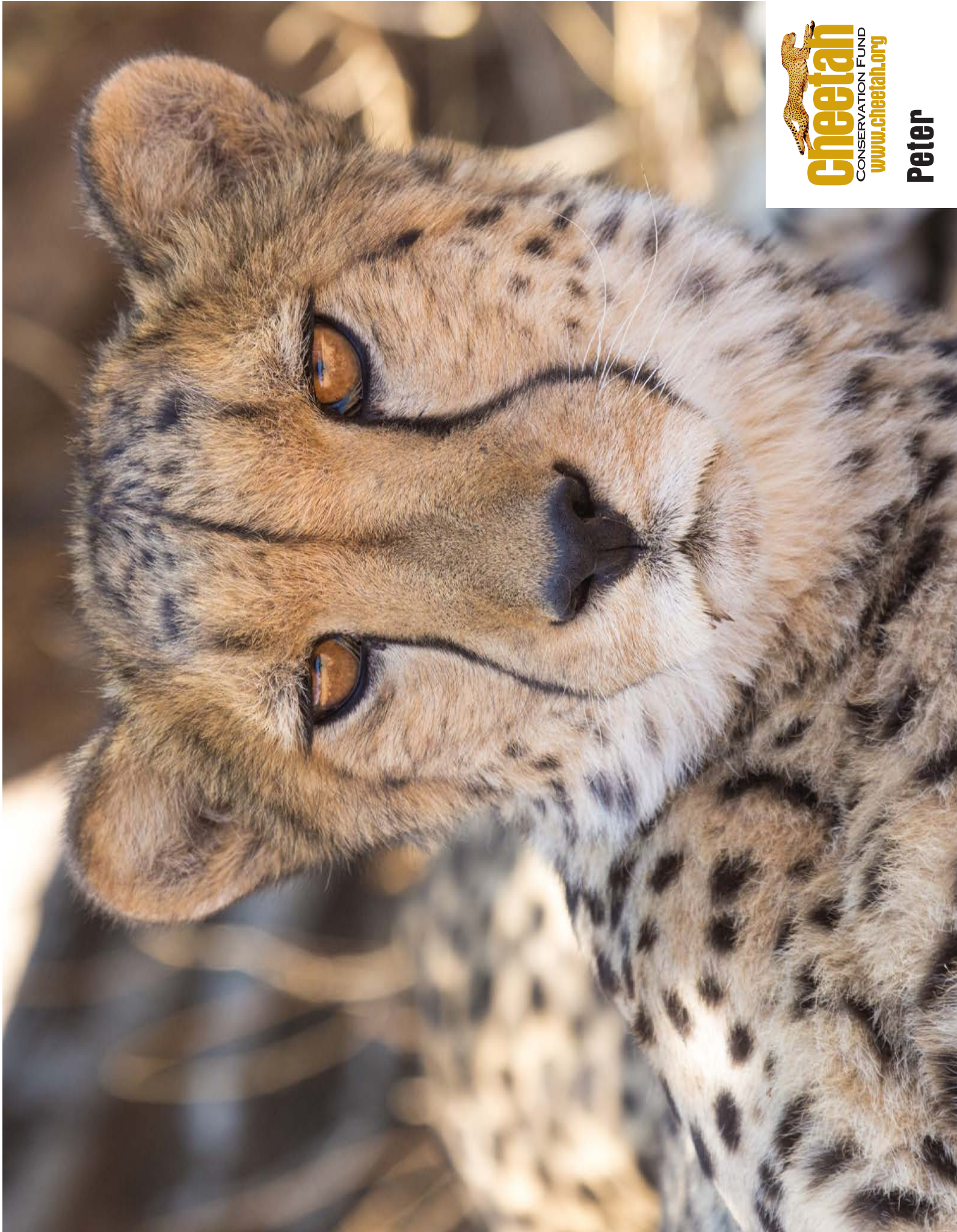


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Peter



Your Update for Phoenix

from Namibia!

Phoenix still lives with his 'best friend' B2. Phoenix had a tough start in life, in 2008 a person shot his mother – but performed a hasty C-section when he realized that she was heavily pregnant, and a neighbour alerted CCF. Phoenix was brought to CCF at just two days old. He was bottle fed and hand raised here by the staff so is completely habituated and not afraid of humans, unfortunately he spent no time with his mother and didn't learn the important skills necessary to live in the wild alone; such as how to hunt effectively, what to hunt and which predators to avoid.

Phoenix had a rough second half of the year due to pancreatitis. He stopped eating for two days and would not come up and purr at his keepers as he usually did, so his keepers brought him in for a check-up with the vet as they were worried about him. After being diagnosed, Phoenix had to undergo some very intensive care as he went downhill very quickly. His keepers cared for him throughout the day and night, brought him into a smaller area so they could monitor him and gave him a variety of medication to help him through it. Luckily after about a week Phoenix improved, he started eating again and began purring at his keepers from

his warm hay nest as usual. It took nearly four weeks for him to fully recover from his illness, but he came out the other side fit and well. He was let back out in to his large enclosure and has been fine ever since.

Phoenix has always been a very vocal cheetah towards humans as he was hand raised, he constantly purrs, chips and meows to let his keepers know how he's feeling. Small signs like this show that he is his normal self. After meeting a new cheetah named Sasha at the beginning of the year through the fence, their friendship has grown a lot. Phoenix spends a lot of his time sitting next to her along the fence line vocalising and rubbing his head against hers. We can always count on Phoenix to be friends with everyone which always comes in handy when we have younger orphaned cheetahs that need a little extra support. Dominic our orphaned cub started going outside for the first time in September. Phoenix immediately made sure he went straight over to greet him through the fence and show him that other cheetahs aren't scary. Even though Dominic would hiss and growl through the fence at him, Phoenix continued to purr as loud as possible and they have now become friends too.

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Phoenix



Your Update for Polly

from Namibia!

(Hello)

Polly continues to live here at CCF and is now 10 years old. Polly was one of a group of two-month-old cubs trapped and brought to CCF after a radio-collared mother cheetah was found dead. She has been living in a 13-hectare enclosure (nearly 30 acres) with her 'friend' Rohini for nearly four years now with "The Scientist boys". Since the introductions at the beginning of this year, the males and females are getting along much better. They have all settled in together nicely and can usually be found all hanging out together at the back of their enclosure under the trees.

Polly and her 'best friend' Rohini, have had quite a long break from the males the end of this year as one of the males in the coalition became unwell. The entire coalition were all brought into a smaller enclosure for monitoring. Male cheetahs live in coalitions in the wild, these coalitions usually consist of siblings but can include males they have met when very young and have first left mum. The bond is for life and they will hunt together, look for females together, everything. In captivity these bonds are just as strong, so when a member of the coalition is sick or injured, we try not to separate them if possible.

At the beginning Polly was very curious and tried to get into the smaller enclosure to see her group mates. She would quite often sit at

the door and just watch them, patiently waiting to be let inside. Eventually she figured out that she had lots more space and could go about as she pleased so was more than happy with the transition. A few weeks later when he was better, he was let back out into the big enclosure and reunited with Polly. She was very excited and came running over to him and washed his ears for him.

Polly is very independent and loves her huge enclosure to roam around in, she can quite often be seen chasing small mammals and birds with her 'friend' Rohini. She is a favourite among our guests, as she is one of the superstar runners for our "Behind the Scenes" experience. She will chase the feeding vehicle as fast as she can and always catch treats thrown by her keepers in the air. It has been very busy the end of this year at CCF, so Polly has met lots of new people. She is an important ambassador for her species as she allows people to get close to her, learn about her story and help educate people on the plight of cheetahs.

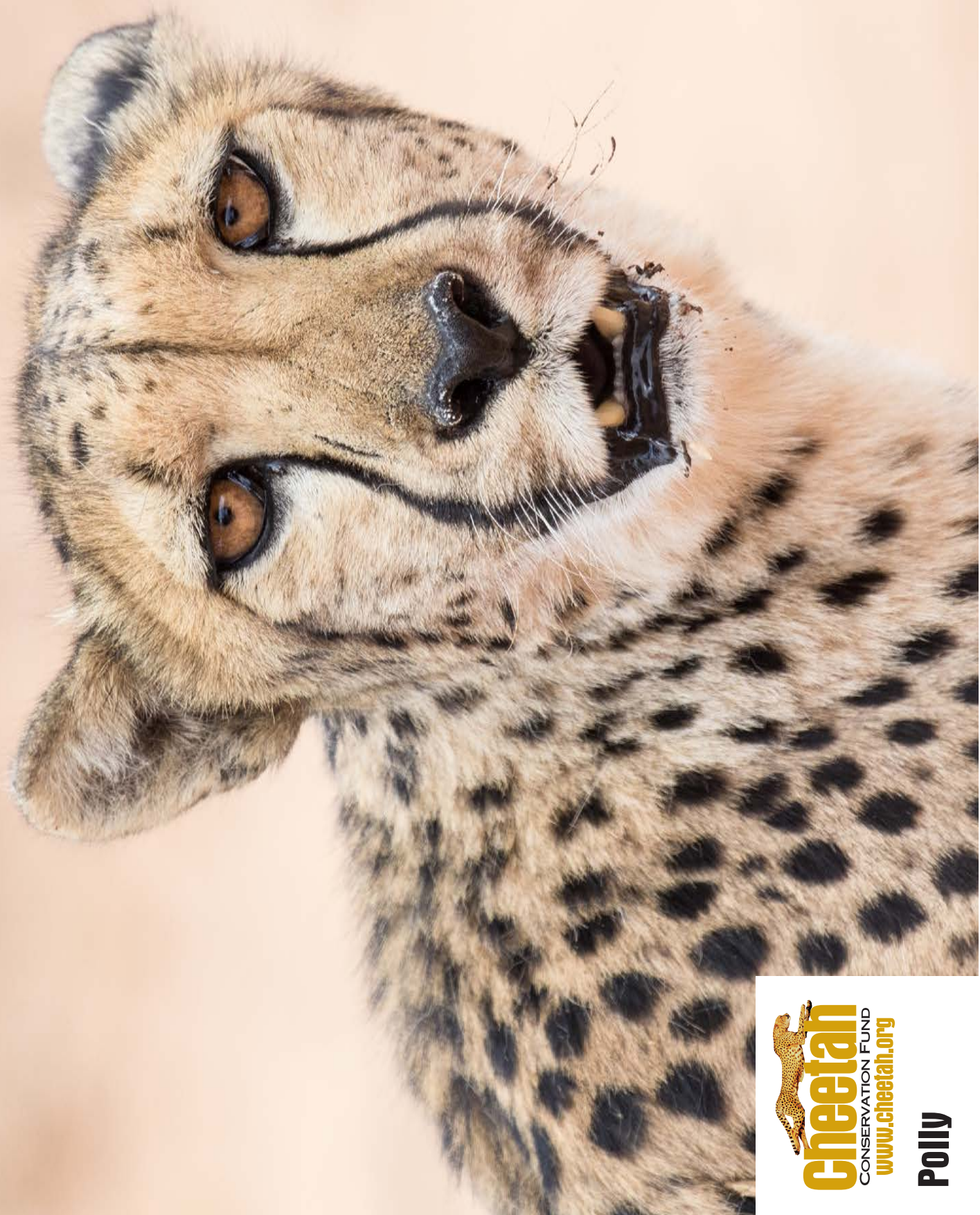


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Polly



Your Update for Rainbow

from Namibia!

usually running around in circles showing her keepers she is ready to go.

Rainbow is fed every day at 'Centre Feeding', where people can watch her eat and learn about her story. It has been a very busy few months here at CCF and Rainbow has met thousands of new people. Rainbow is an ambassador for her species and helps educate the public on the plight of the cheetah. She also helps with ongoing research here at the centre for behavioural and scientific studies.

Rainbow has had her picture taken a lot recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. She's the perfect model cheetah and will always sit still so that photographers can get the perfect shot.



Rainbow still lives with her fellow group of females (Harry, Hermione and Aurora) and resident male Romeo (who very much lives up to his name!). She is now six years old and is as bouncy as ever. A person found Rainbow on the side of a road near Otjiwarongo and decided to try nursing her back to health. Rainbow was abandoned by her mother, although it is unclear what happened to the mother. After a week the farmer, called CCF to come pick her up. She had not eaten much and was being held in a small cage; she was not hand fed, but she had a high level of human contact during this time, so she cannot be released into the wild.

Rainbow exercises on CCF's lure course a couple of times a week. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Rainbow is one of our most energetic and athletic cheetahs, so some people argue that she is the best runner here at CCF. Rainbow is very enthusiastic about chasing the lure and always sprints multiple times during the 'Cheetah Run'. Before she is let out of her feeding camp for the run, she is

Everyone at CCF (especially Rainbow) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Rainbow



Your Update for Rohini

from Namibia!

Rohini continues to live here at CCF and is now eight years old. Rohini was confiscated from a farm by the Ministry of Environment (MET) in the western communal areas (known as Damaraland) in early 2010 and CCF was asked to then take care of her for the rest of her life. She was about three months old at the time and has lived at CCF ever since. She has been living in a 13-hectare (30 acre) enclosure with her friend Polly for nearly three years with "The Scientist boys". Since the introductions at the beginning of this year, the males and females are getting along much better. They have all settled in together nicely and can usually be found all hanging out together at the back of their enclosure under the trees.

Rohini and her 'best friend' Polly, have had quite a long break from the males the end of this year as one of the males in the coalition became unwell. The entire coalition were all brought into a smaller enclosure for monitoring. Male cheetahs live in coalitions in the wild, these coalitions usually consist of siblings but can include males they have met when very young and have first left mum. The bond is for life and they will hunt together, look for females together, everything. In captivity these bonds are just as strong, so when a member of the coalition is sick or injured, we try not to separate them if possible.

Rohini was more than happy to have a break from the males as it meant she could have more 'girl time' with Polly. Rohini can always be found grooming Polly's face and cuddling up to her. A few weeks later when he was better, he was let back out into the big enclosure and reunited with Rohini. She was very excited and came running over to him to greet him back into the group. Rohini is the shyest member of her group but will happily participate in training with her keepers and for guest experiences. She is a favourite among our guests, as she is one of the superstar runners for our "Behind the Scenes" experience. She will chase the feeding vehicle as fast as she can and always catch treats thrown by her keepers in the air.

It has been very busy the end of this year at CCF, so Rohini has met lots of new people. She is an important ambassador for her species as she allows people to get close to her, learn about her story and help educate people on the plight of cheetahs.

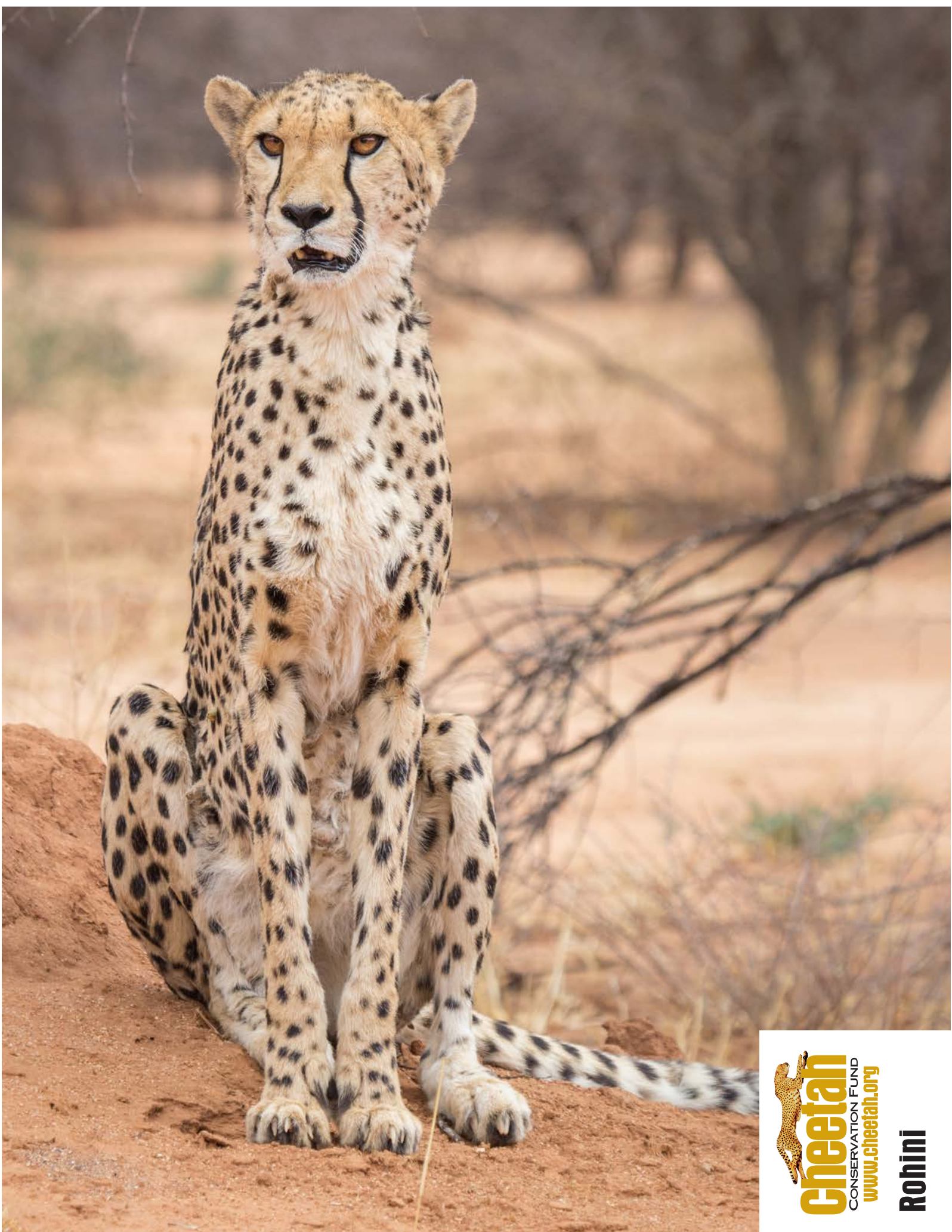


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Rohini



Your Update for Romeo

from Namibia!

Romeo still lives with his four female cheetah friends Hermione, Harry, Rainbow and Aurora. Romeo was the family pet of a farmer in the Grootfontein area. He was well cared for and hand-raised, but the practice of keeping cheetahs as pets is illegal in Namibia. CCF was called in December 2014 to take charge of Romeo. He does not get along with the other males at the centre as he doesn't speak "cheetah" very well and they become very frustrated with him. So instead he gets to live with four female cheetahs.

Romeo is 13 years old now, so he is one of our oldest cheetahs. However, he is healthy, happy, and living the life here at CCF. Every day, he gets a big piece of meat that is easy to chew because at 13 years old his teeth are quite worn down. Romeo is very easy to accommodate for and is fed something soft so that he can chew easily, he is also separated from the girls he lives with because he needs extra time to eat. They would just steal his meal from him and since he is not a fighter he will always give it up in favor of peace.

Romeo is fed at the Centre Feeding, where the public can watch him eat and hear his story. Romeo loves people, so he seems

to like the daily attention. During 'Centre Feeding', CCF staff love to have Romeo demonstrate the size difference between male and female cheetahs. Females typically only weigh about 30-35 kilograms, while males weigh 40-45 kilograms. Romeo is much bigger than the girls that he lives with. Romeo is quite fluffy, which not only makes him look bigger, but also tricks some people into thinking he's younger. Romeo still has a thick fluffy mantle which most cheetahs usually lose as they grow up. Romeo's mantle has stayed thick, black and fluffy which makes him easy to identify.

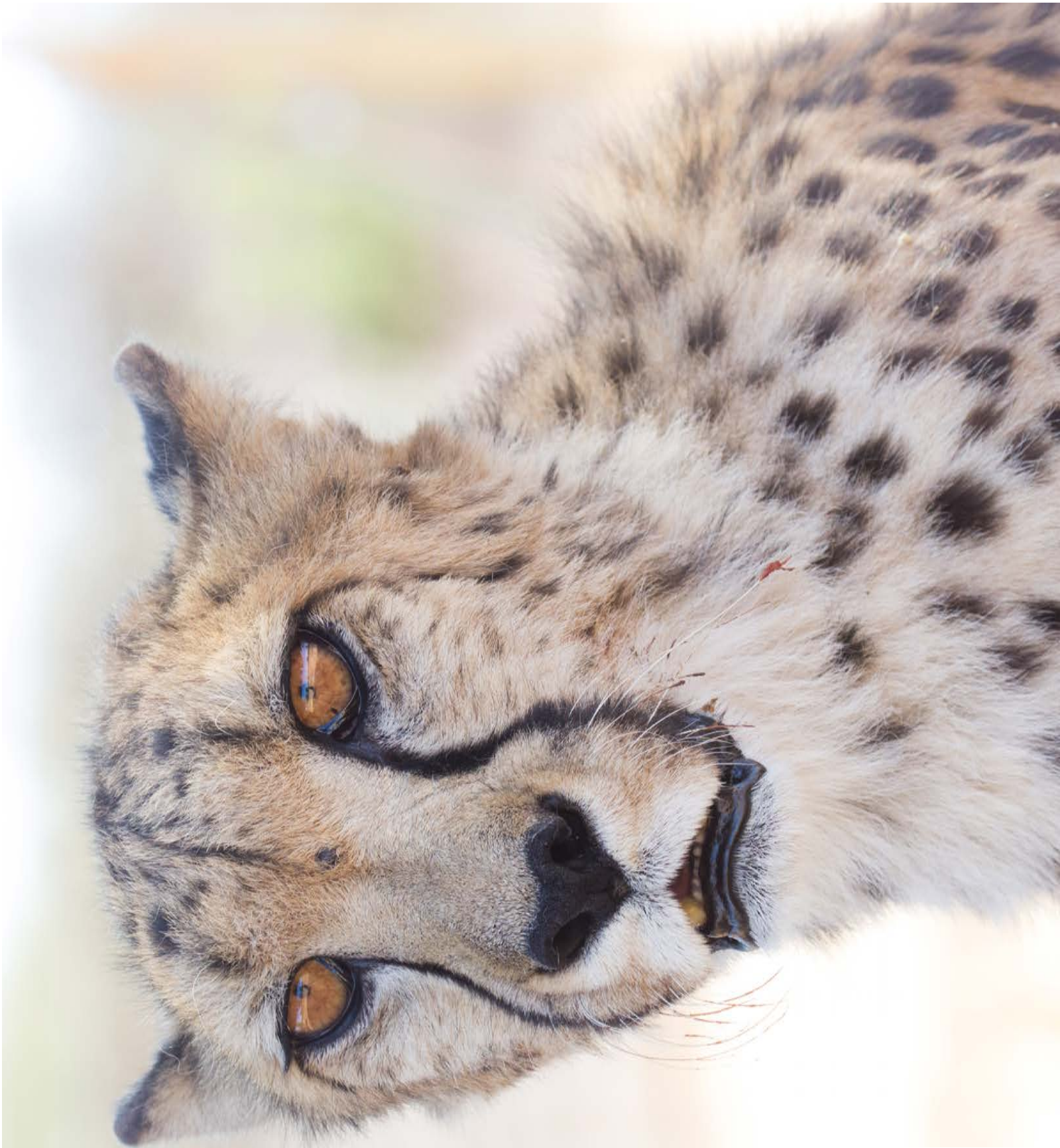
Romeo has had a lot of pictures taken of him recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. Romeo is one of the guest favourites as he is a gentle giant. He will always purr through the fence as soon as someone starts talking to him and the guests always find his strict routine amusing. Romeo loves structure and it's important that he is the first to be let in at feeding time and the last to go back out otherwise he becomes quite grumpy. His favourite thing to do is clean up all the bones left behind after feeding time. Romeo enjoys his pen mates and can always be found hanging out with the females under his favourite tree.

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ROMEO



Your Update for Ron

from Namibia!

Ron continues to live here at CCF in his male coalition group with his close friends Little C, Shunga and N'Dunge. Ron originally came to CCF with his two sisters (Harry and Hermione) also known as the "Harry Potter Trio" in 2005, as two-month-old orphaned cubs. CCF staff named them after the kids in the popular book and film series. Ron is now 13 years old and still doing very well. Ron and his coalition moved to an eight ha (20 acre) enclosure called "The Elands Pen" at the beginning of this year and have continued to live there ever since.

Ron loves this huge enclosure as he has a little more space out of the public eye, so he can enjoy his retirement. Ron continues to practise catch cage training, this is especially important now that he is getting older in case his keepers need to treat him quickly. We train all our cheetahs to enter a crush cage calmly and remain in there in exchange for treats, this is a method of positive reinforcement training. A crush cage allows the cheetah keepers to safely capture Ron without the need for anaesthesia and perform minor medical procedures such as taking blood, treating wounds or giving eye drops in a calm and safe environment for both Ron and his keepers. Ron and his coalition mates love the catch cage because they know they

get extra rewards for being inside there. Most of the time during training, all four males will try to squeeze into the catch cage together, there is never any fighting between them at this point as they seem to love being so close to each other. Usually their keepers must encourage them out of the catch cage to start training as they will all rush in for treats.

Ron has been going through some other training too, so that his keepers can take safari vehicles into his huge enclosure and guests can learn about his story and CCF from a distance. Ron has already mastered this training compared to his coalition mates and is always very calm and chilled out around the safari vehicles. He is the perfect cheetah for photographers as he will happily sit in a nice position and pose for them. Ron absolutely loves his treats and will constantly purr and dribble for his keepers to try and get as many as possible.

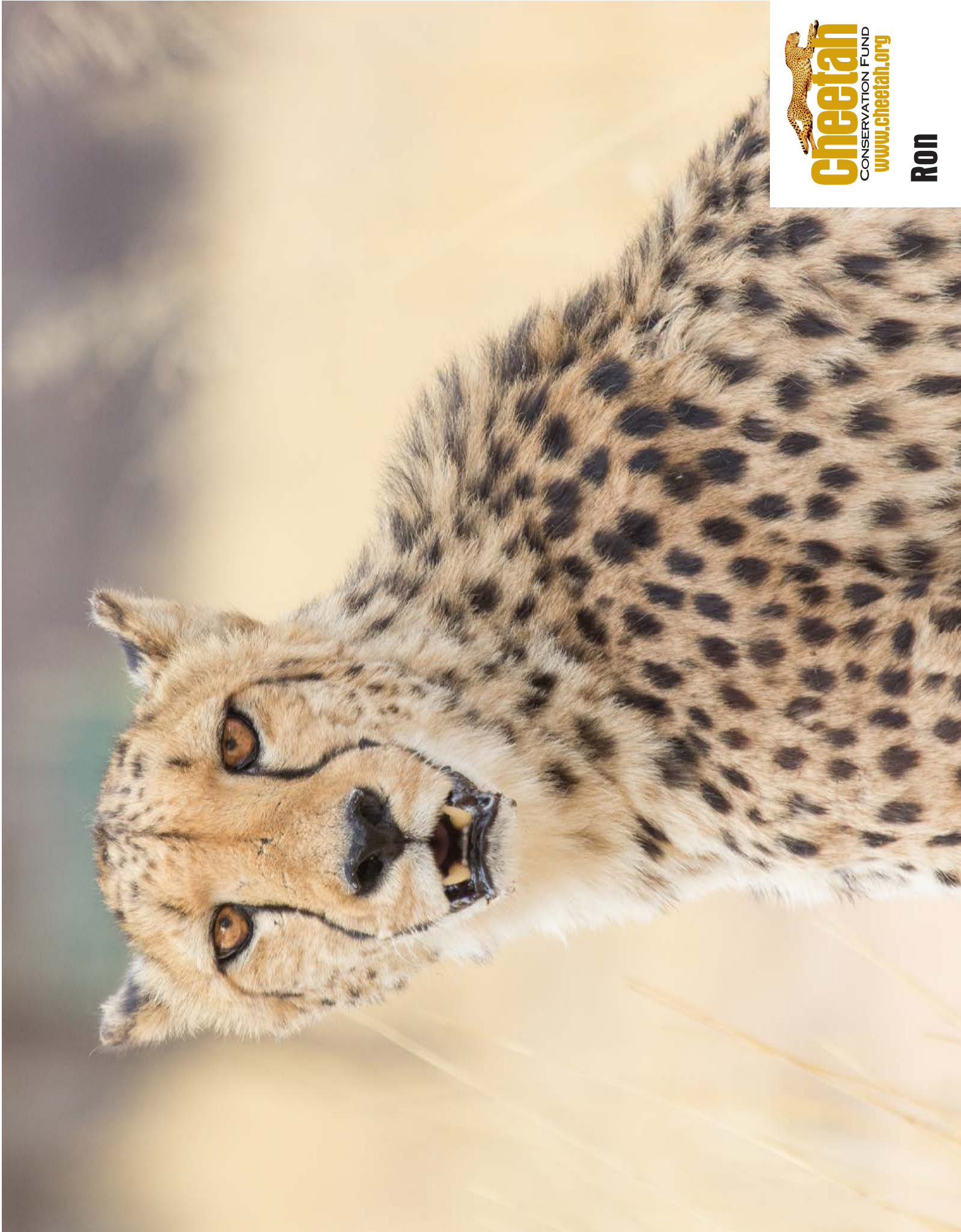


Everyone at CCF (especially Ron) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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RON



Your Update for Sasha

from Namibia!

Sasha came to CCF in January 2018 at around five months old. She was rescued by a farmer who found her on his farm incredibly sick and weak. She was turned over to us for rehabilitation. During her first few days at CCF, she had a routine check-up and a mass was found in her stomach. She had emergency surgery to remove it. After lots of rest and love from her keepers, she recovered very well.

Sasha has grown up incredibly fast the rest of this year. Unfortunately, her friendship with Bella (the other female she was paired with) did not work out and they were separated. There was a young male cheetah named Dominic who also needed a friend so the pair were introduced slowly at the beginning of September. They began by spending supervised play times together and when there were no conflicts, they were eventually left alone to live together. It took a little while for Sasha to get to know the younger cub as he was quite afraid of her at the beginning. All she wanted to do was play with him and would always try to initiate or encourage him. Eventually he learnt that she was the perfect cheetah to chase around as Sasha loves to run across her enclosure.

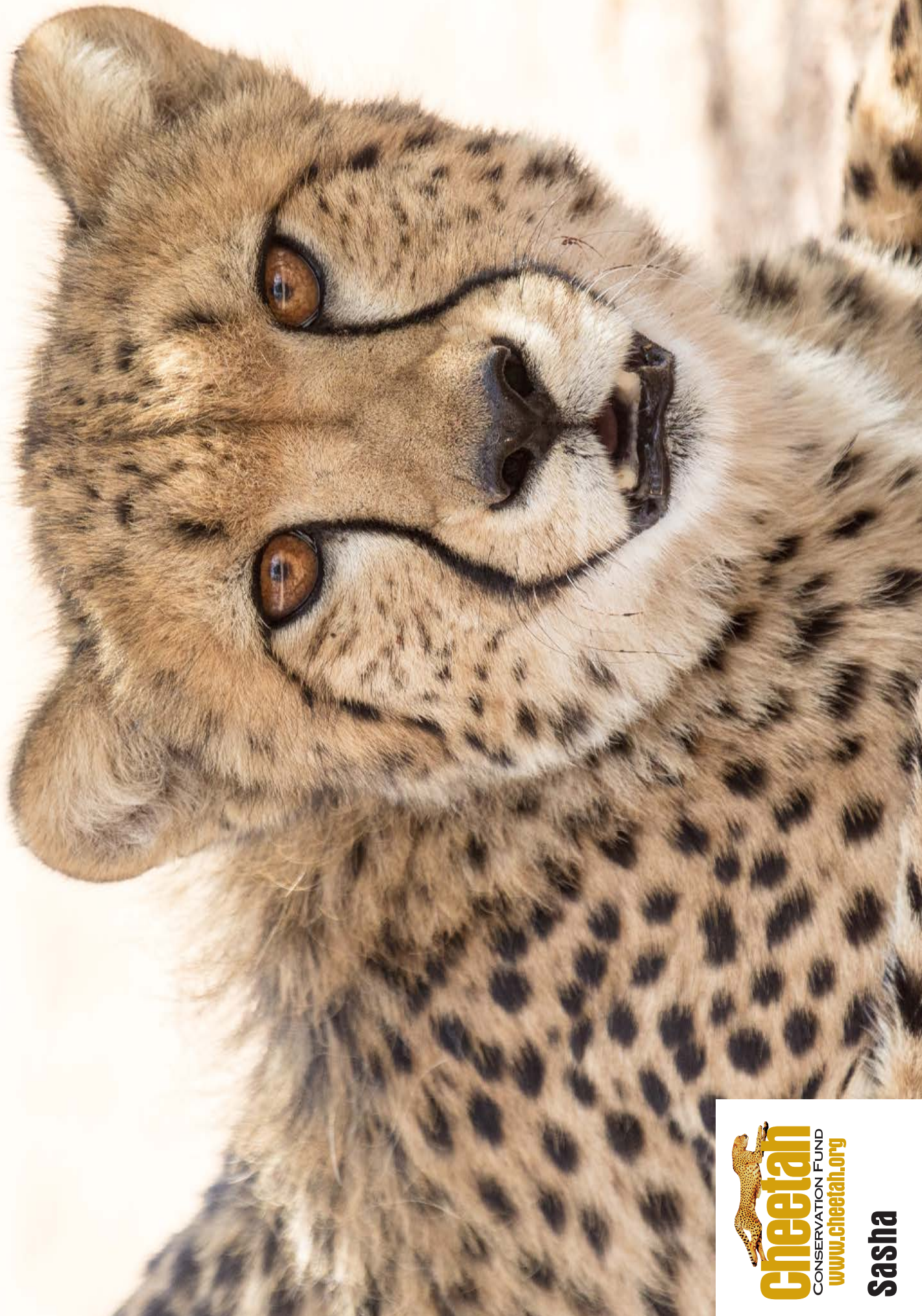
Sasha has now been moved to a much bigger enclosure closer to the centre where she is learning to participate in "Centre Feeding" where

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Sasha



Your Update for Senay

from Namibia!

Senay still lives with her three siblings Khayjay, Peter and Tigerlily; also known as the "Ambassadors". She is now eight years old and doing very well. The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just three weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised at our Centre. They are very accustomed to people and enjoy attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them. They purr loudly through the fence when they have visitors.

Senay runs on CCF's lure course a few times a week with her siblings. It is great way for her to exercise and stay lean! CCF visitors love her during the "Cheetah Run" because she will show off her speed once, then come and sit right by the viewing area posing for guests. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Senay is fed every day at "Centre Feeding", where people can watch her eat and learn about her story. The "Ambassadors" are always guests' favourite because of their routine during feeding. When they are let into the feeding camp, they dart to the first piece of meat they find, pick it up, and then run around, like musical chairs, but with bowls.

Everyone at CCF (especially Senay) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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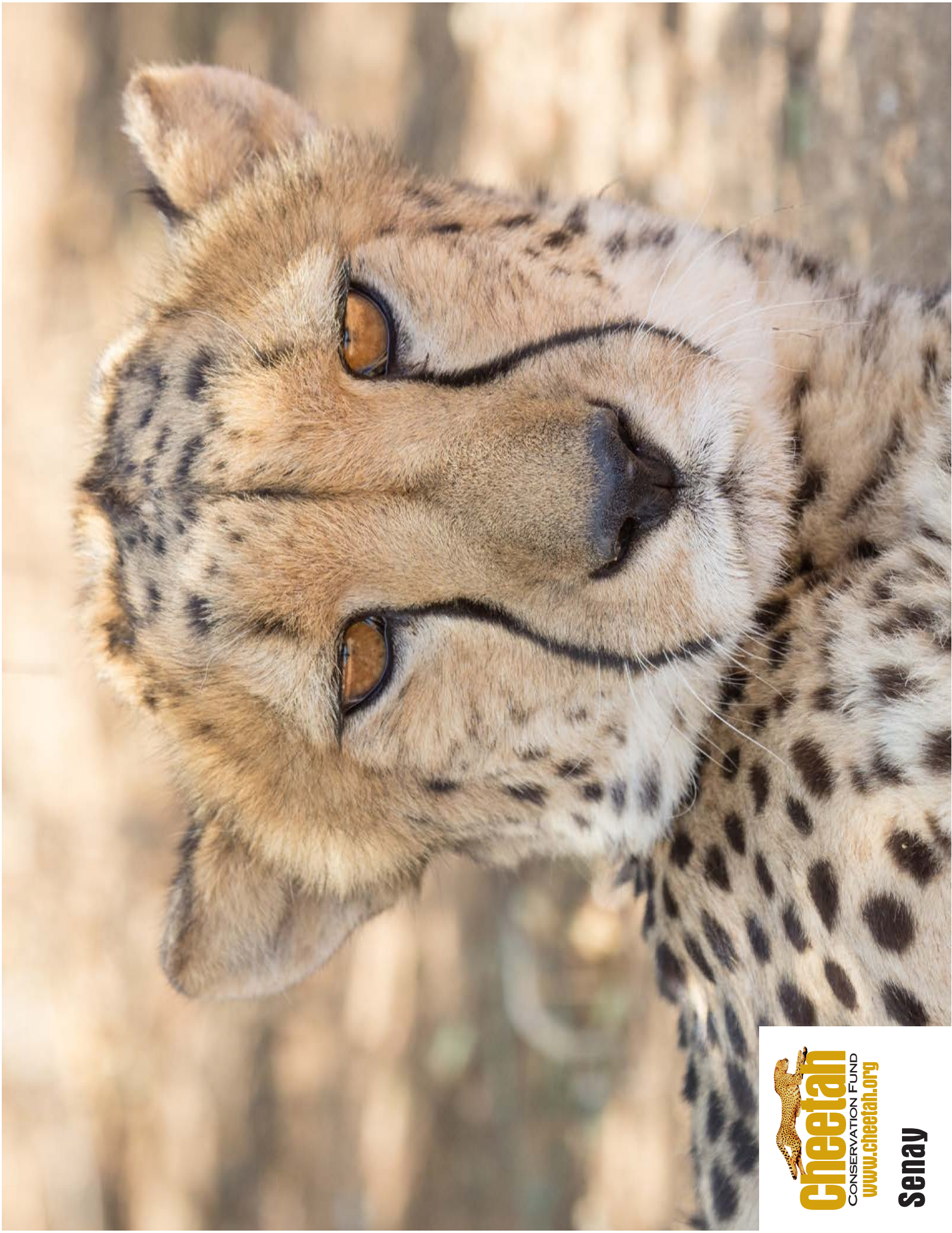
To see a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in co-existence with people and the environment.



Even though it looks like they are randomly running about, the four of them always end up eating in the same spot every single day. Even though it looks like they are randomly running about, the four of them always end up eating in the same spot every single day. Senay eats in the front-right corner of the pen between her brothers, Peter and Khayjay.

The Ambassador's enclosure, where Senay lives, is next to the Babson Guest House. Babson guests get to look out the window or off their balcony and see Senay and her siblings interact in their enclosure. One way to tell that the Ambassadors are related is that they groom one another. It is thought that cheetahs who live in coalitions together but are unrelated are less likely to participate in grooming. Senay's coat always looks great thanks to her brothers and sister.

Senay has had her picture taken a lot recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. One of her unique features is two symmetrical swirls of fur on her head. Senay is a very independent cheetah and everything is done on her terms and at her own pace. Senay can usually be spotted sitting on top of her mound with her paws crossed over each other, surveying her enclosure.



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Senay



Your Update for Shunga (Blondeman)

from Namibia!

(Hello)

Shunga continues to live here at CCF in his male coalition group with his close friends Little C, N'Dunge and Ron. Shunga and his brother N'Dunge were found without a mother in the Gobabis region. The two cubs were brought to CCF in July 2008 when they were three months old. During their first few weeks here at CCF their keepers noticed that Shunga wasn't the brightest cheetah and he gained the nickname "Blondeman". He is now 10 years old. At the beginning of this year Blondeman and his coalition moved to a much larger enclosure (eight ha - 20 acres) called "The Elands Pen" and have continued to live there ever since. Blondeman loves this huge enclosure as he has a little more space out of the public eye, so he can enjoy his retirement.

Blondeman continues to practise catch cage training, this is especially important now that he is getting older in case his keepers need to treat him quickly. We train all our cheetahs to enter a crush cage calmly and remain in there in exchange for treats, this is a method of positive reinforcement training. A crush cage allows the cheetah keepers to safely capture Blondeman without the need for anaesthesia and perform minor medical procedures such as taking blood, treating wounds or giving eye drops in a calm

and safe environment for both Blondeman and his keepers.

Blondeman and his coalition mates love the catch cage because they know they get extra rewards for being inside there. Most of the time during training, all four males will try to squeeze into the catch cage together, there is never any fighting between them at this point as they seem to love being so close to each other. Usually their keepers must encourage them out of the catch cage to start training as they will all rush in for treats.

Smartman has been going through some other training too, so that his keepers can take safari vehicles into his huge enclosure and guests can learn about his story and CCF from a distance. Smartman, along with his brother are the most inquisitive and like to give the vehicle a good sniff every time it comes in, so they are still working on their training to keep a bit of distance, his keepers think he is just looking for more treats!

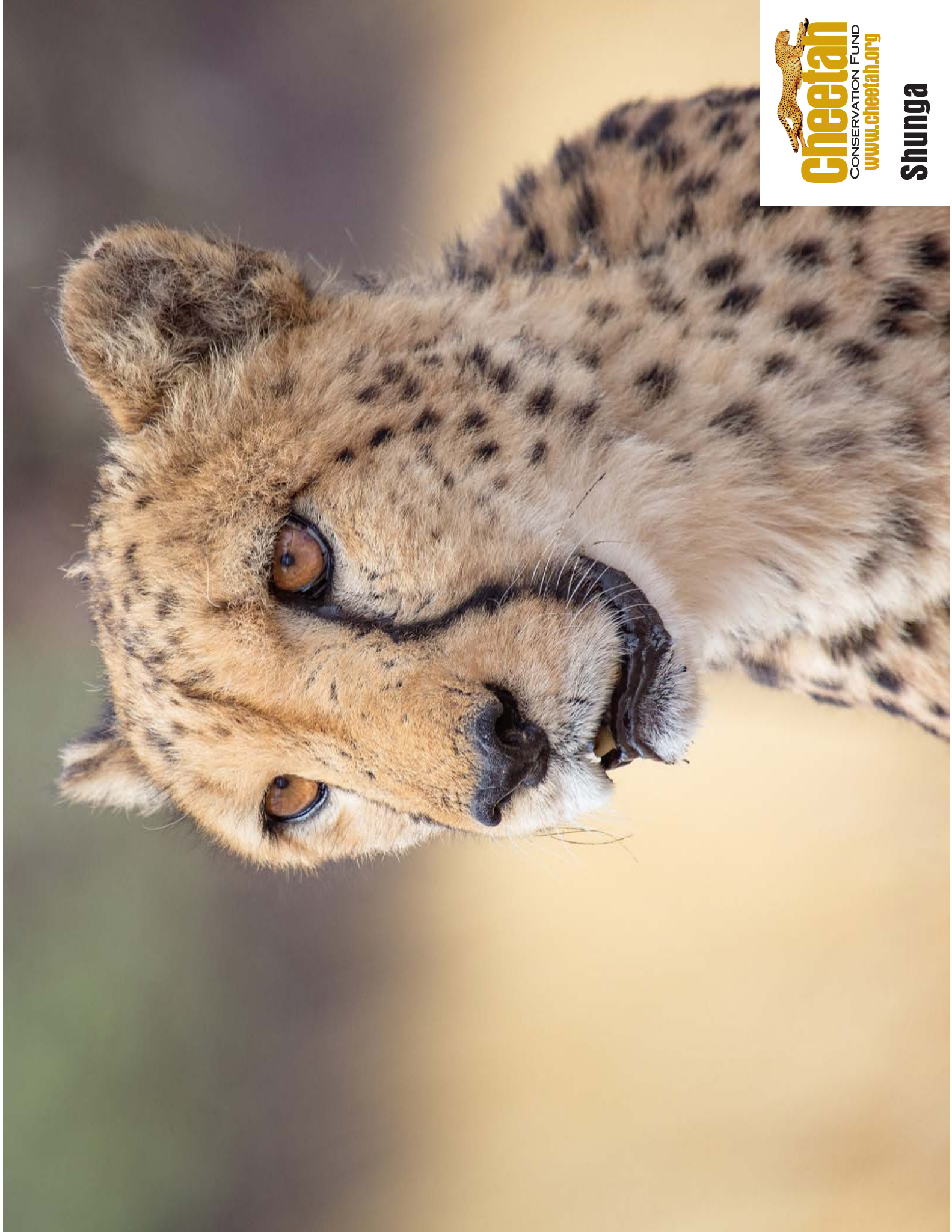


Everyone at CCF (especially Shunga) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Shunga



Your Update for Tiger Lily

from Namibia!

Tigerlily still lives with her three siblings Khayjay, Senay and Peter; a coalition known as the "Ambassadors". She is now eight years old and is doing very well. The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just three weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised at our Centre. They are very accustomed to people and enjoy attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them. They purr loudly through the fence when they have visitors.

Tigerlily runs on CCF's lure course a few times a week with her siblings. It is a great way for her to exercise and stay fit. CCF visitors love her energy during the "Cheetah Run" because she always puts in loads of effort and speeds past them. It is important that we exercise all our cheetahs here as they do not hunt for themselves. Not only is it good for their physical health but also their mental health. It is an enjoyable activity for them where they can engage in play and positive interaction and bonding with their keepers. Tigerlily is fed every day at "Centre Feeding", where people can watch her eat and learn about her story.

The "Ambassadors" are always guests' favourite because of their routine during feeding. When they are let into the feeding camp, they dart to the first piece of meat they find, pick it up, and then run around, like musical chairs,

but with bowls. Even though it looks like they are randomly running about, the four of them always end up eating in the same spot every single day. Tigerlily eats in the back-left corner of the pen between her two brothers Peter and Khayjay.

The Ambassador's enclosure, where Tigerlily lives, is next to the Babson Guest House. Babson guests get to look out the window or off their balcony and see Tigerlily and her siblings interact in their enclosure. One way to tell that the Ambassadors are related is that they groom one another. It is thought that cheetahs who live in coalitions together but are unrelated are less likely to participate in grooming. Tigerlily's coat always looks great thanks to her brothers and sister.

Tigerlily has had her picture taken a lot recently since CCF is updating their Cheetah ID Book so that interns, volunteers and staff can learn how to tell them all apart. One of her unique features is her light-coloured paws. She is still the most aloof cheetah we have here at CCF and is incredibly independent. Just like your typical house cat, everything happens on Tigerlily's terms and at her own pace. Her keepers love watching her be herself, but it can become difficult when they want her to move somewhere as she will just keep rolling over and over showing her belly before she decides to move.

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Tiger Lily



Your Update for Veepi

from Namibia!

Veepi will be two years old in February and has been with us for a year and a half, after he was surrendered by his owner and placed under our care in Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland. He has grown into a beautiful young male cheetah, although continues to be shy with people, probably as a result of the treatment he received as a pet.

His severe case of bone deformation known as Metabolic Bone Disease, or MBD, is slight now. It is difficult to believe that when he was turned over to our team in Hargeisa, his front legs were completely deformed due to poor nutrition and he had difficulty walking. Even though MBD is incurable, with the carefully-balanced diet he has been receiving there has resulted in much improvement.

Since his arrival in June 2017, Veepi had been living in a 'safe' house we rented for him and his companion Dhoobi, who came to us a day earlier. As the young cubs grew, we needed a better facility for them, as there was no soft ground for them; most homeowners in Hargeisa cover their yards with tile. In April of this year we moved him to our other facility where an older cheetah, Indie, had been living since his confiscation in July 2016. This facility house, unlike the other, has soil and even grass when it rains! We were hoping that

the three males would form a coalition. However, Veepi would have none of it. He and Indie ignore each other, even though they are only separated by a fence. As such, Veepi has an enclosure all to himself ever since his mate Dhoobi suddenly passed away in May. Fortunately, he and Indie have plenty of entertainment with the other confiscated animals at this facility under the care of our Hargeisa team, which currently include two kudus, a gazelle, a gerenuk and two vultures, in addition to two other cheetahs. Indie and Veepi stalk and watch their yard mates through their fences when they are not just resting in the sun. None of the other animals seem to mind, and occasionally they approach the cheetah enclosures for a mutual smelling session.

Veepi really seems to enjoy human presence. He purrs loudly and rolls over when his caretakers approach. This is good because it makes it easier to handle him when needed; however, this also lessens any chances of him going back to the wild. Sadly, most cheetah cubs stolen from the wild at a very young age for the pet trade must be hand raised and they lose their fear of humans. This has the potential of resulting in conflict if he were released into the wild, as he would most likely approach human settlements in search for food.

Everyone at CCF (especially Veepi) appreciates your continuous support as we continue to fight for the survival of cheetahs in the wild. Thank you!

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Veepi