

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Aurora**

Rainbow) and resident male Romeo (who very much lives up to his name!). She is now 7 years old.

Aurora was captured when she was a few weeks old. The farmer 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 the farmer called CCF; they found her claws had been cut and she was malnourished. She recovered incredibly well and is now one of our super star runners for the public.

Aurora is always easy to tell apart from the other females because of her facial expression and markings, she always looks angry! Aurora is a favourite amongst our guests as she loves to lay against the fence of her enclosure with her feet propped right up. It looks very uncomfortable but she does this same behaviour every day so it must be very comfortable for her! She's even been found

propping her feet up on other cheetahs such as her 'best friend' Rainbow.

The remainder of 2019 has been relaxing for Aurora, during the peak busy season she spent most of her time sitting along the fence watching guests as they learnt about cheetahs and her story.

Aurora is one of our main ambassador cheetahs as she lives at the main centre, so she gets to meet many guests every day. Aurora doesn't pay too much attention to guests, but she is more than happy for people to get very close to her and take photographs through the fence whilst she relaxes.

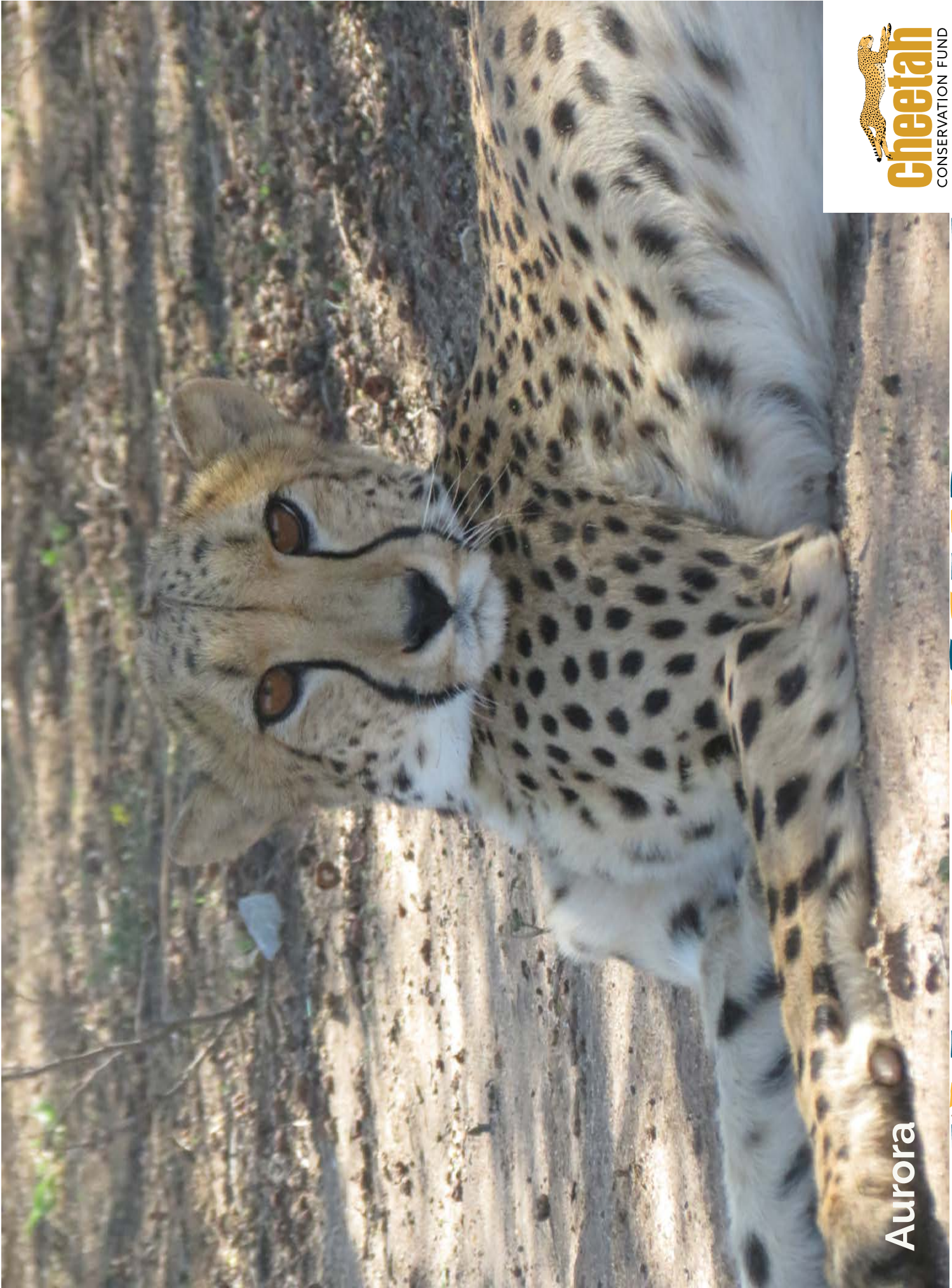
The rainy season has come early this year for Namibia and Aurora has been spending her time underneath her favourite bushy tree sheltering from the rain. Cheetahs really hate to get their fur wet, so Aurora makes sure she tucks herself into a tight ball and even hides her tail too!

**Happy Holidays!** Thank you for sharing our vision: To see a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in coexistence with people and the environment.

Celebrate CCF's Year of the Livestock Guarding Dog! We hope you will join CCF and hundreds of Namibian farmers in celebrating the 25th anniversary of CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog (LGD) program this year. Your sponsorship support ensures the future of our LGD program along with all of CCF's science-based, conservation focused, holistic programs across the cheetah's range.







**Aurora**



# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**B2**

B2 continues to live here with 'his best friend' and "older brother" Phoenix. He is now 5 years old.

Born in 2014 and orphaned at five months, B2 is still like a teenager – not quite sure what to make of the other sex, or even his handlers, come to think of it.

He has a unique way of expressing himself which range from burbles, chirps and growls (He usually sounds much like a baby crocodile!). You can always hear his noises from far away when it's feeding time! B2 continues to be great friends with Savannah, a young cheetah that he met at the beginning of this year. Generally, B2 is quite a shy and reserved cheetah all of his keepers were very relieved to watch him interact outside of his coalition.

B2 has had a quiet end to 2019 and is still in very good health. Due to a big influx of cheetahs this year, B2 and his coalition mate Phoenix are having a new enclosure built for them so that they can be moved a little further into the bush with more privacy. The new enclosure is perfect for them as it is built around a dam where many wild animals come to drink and it also is built around a huge embankment so both the boys will have a lovely view for the rest of their time here.

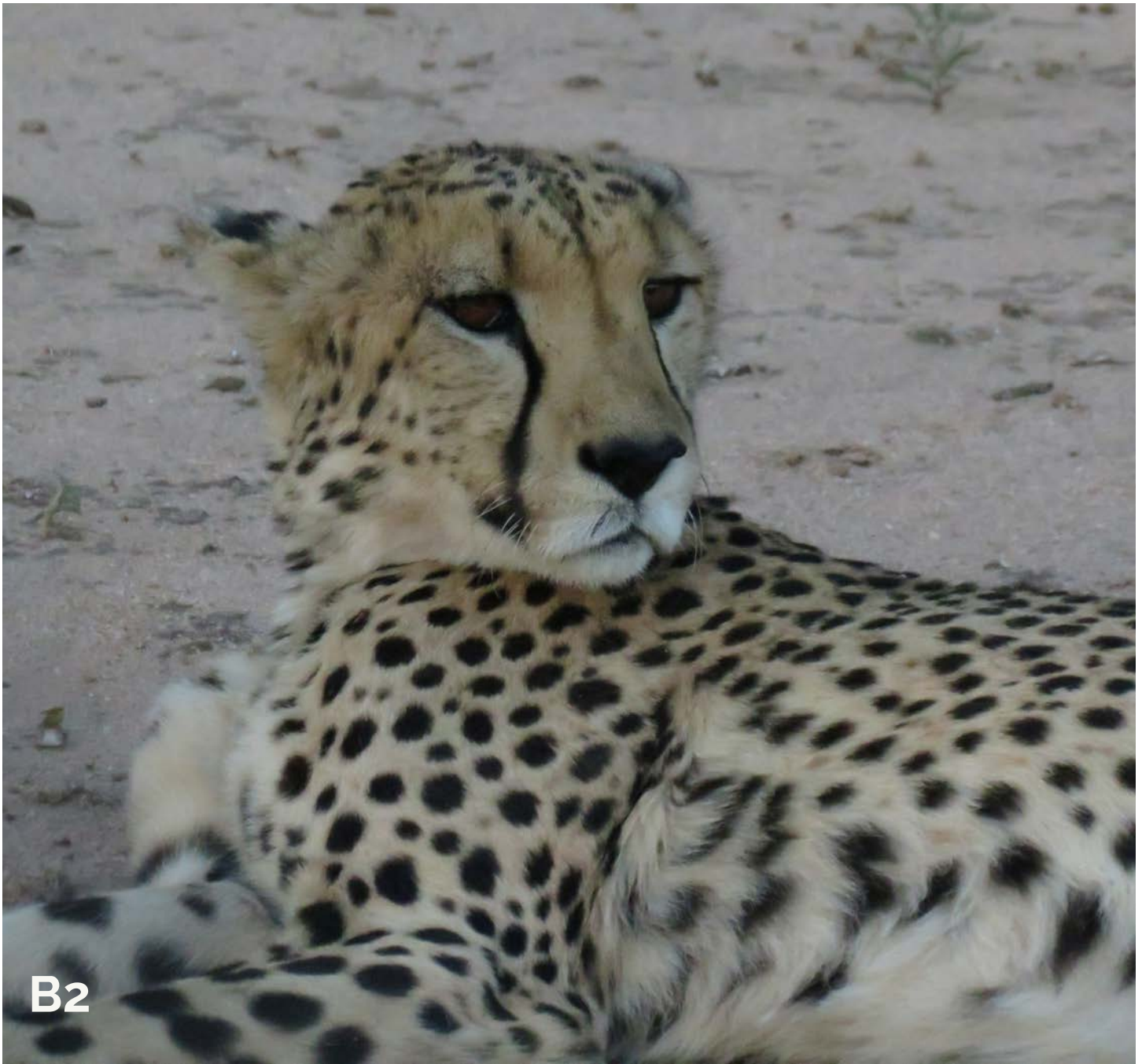
B2 has made some new friends this year, two cheetah cubs named Jaya and Rocket. One of B2's enclosures is next to the cheetah nursery pens, so he gets to interact with the young cubs as they are growing up, this is important for the cubs to be able to learn normal cheetah behaviours from adult cheetahs rather than just their human keepers. B2 is very gentle

and affectionate towards younger cubs, so he makes the perfect fence line match to help the cubs grow up.

B2 is very gentle but also very suspicious with the cubs, it's not known whether he has ever seen cheetah cubs before, so he seems to be keeping a bit of distance. But whenever he does come up to the fence, he will make an effort to touch noses with them both. His keepers hope in time he will vocalise to them and interact a little more.

**December 2019**





B2



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**Cheetah Conservation Fund**  
LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG PROGRAM

**25 Years**

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Bella**

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 pair had a poor diet of chicken necks so have been transferred on to a diet of horse/donkey 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. The end of 2019 busy season has been quiet for Bella, she is one of our main ambassador cheetahs as she lives at the centre. During the day, Bella gets to see many tour groups and the guests can learn about her story and what we do here at CCF. Bella loves human company because she was hand raised so she makes the perfect ambassador cat as it is not stressful at all for her to be around people. Our guests can get a nice close look at her and understand the unique anatomy of a cheetah and its special adaptations for speed!

Bella has a very fluffy tail which our guests always point out, it hides very well that a cheetah's tail is actually quite flat! Their tail is uniquely adapted to act like a rudder and counterweight during the high-speed chases in the wild. When the cheetah makes a sharp turn at high speeds its tail will go the opposite direction and act as a balance to stop them falling. This allows them to weave in different directions very quickly and still keep the pace of their prey.

Bella continues to be her normal affectionate and gentle self, consistently being perfect with all her training with her keepers. Because of Bella's gentle nature she is always very easy to work with, Bella lets her keepers perform many minor veterinary procedures on her such as blood draws, vaccinations and wound cleaning with ease. It's very important for all our resident cheetahs to trust their keepers to be able to handle them this way to minimise stress as much as possible in case they become sick or injured during their time here. Being able to give this level of preventative care to our cheetahs means they live long and happy lives here!





Bella



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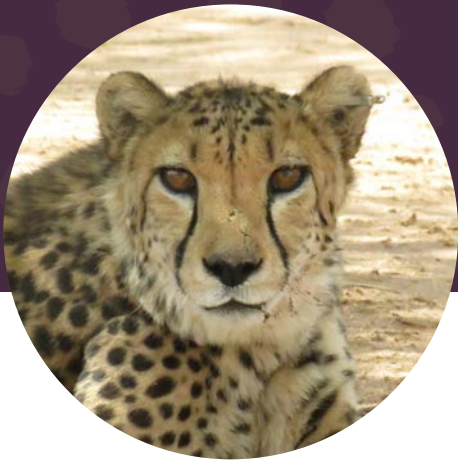
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(Hello)

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## Darwin

here at CCF with his brother Livingstone (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 one of the oldest cheetahs at CCF now, so his keepers are keeping a very close eye on him and his brother Livingstone. Due to his age, Darwin has more regular blood tests and health checks to be sure that his keepers catch anything as early as possible and he can be treated. The most common thing his keepers are looking out for is signs of kidney failure, old age cats are very prone to this, so his keepers want to make sure they catch it early if necessary.

At the moment, Darwin is in great health and for now, his joints are still not bothering him! Darwin's teeth are not as good as they used to be, so his keepers have changed his diet a little and now offer him more chopped meat instead of a large bone. This saves him from having to work his teeth too hard whilst still being able to give him a good healthy diet. He does still have bones a few times a week, but they are usually very simple and easy for him to chew and tear the meat from.

Darwin is still exercised regularly here using the feeding truck inside his enclosure, but

his keepers are now giving him the option to participate as much or as little as he wants dependant on the day and the weather. Some days he will sprint after the truck, receive his meal and take it to a shaded tree to eat. Other days, he only has a gentle jog for several metres and will start to slow down indicating to his keepers that he's had enough. It's important that Darwin still gets some exercise to keep him healthy, but it's also important for his keepers not to push him too hard.

Darwin continues to take regular supplements for his joints because his keepers are expecting to see them deteriorate after his poor start in life. He usually receives these in a small treat every day and is more than happy to approach his keepers and get his tasty reward, without realising they've hidden some tablets inside!

Last month, Darwin's sister returned to CCF after her old age became too much for the facility, she was living in. She is currently in quarantine to make sure she has no unknown diseases or illness' that could be spread to other cheetahs. Once she has completed her 4 weeks in quarantine, her keepers plan to mix the siblings back together so that they can live the rest of their days in retirement together! It's not always an easy process so Darwin's keepers will make sure to reintroduce them through a fence first until they remember/become accustomed to each other again!





Darwin



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(Hello)

December 2019



## Dominic

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 in to the wild and must remain at CCF as a resident ambassador. Dominic and his two female enclosure mates (Sasha and Savannah) have bonded a lot the end of this year. They're much closer than before and now happily sit together and sun themselves! His keepers are very happy that he has started bonding much better with other cheetahs as it is helping him exhibit normal cheetah behaviours and vocalisations after being raised by humans.

Feeding times are still a bit of a struggle for Dominic as he will always give up his food to the females. His keepers are now separating him until he has finished eating to make sure that he gets all the nutrition he needs, and he isn't missing out.

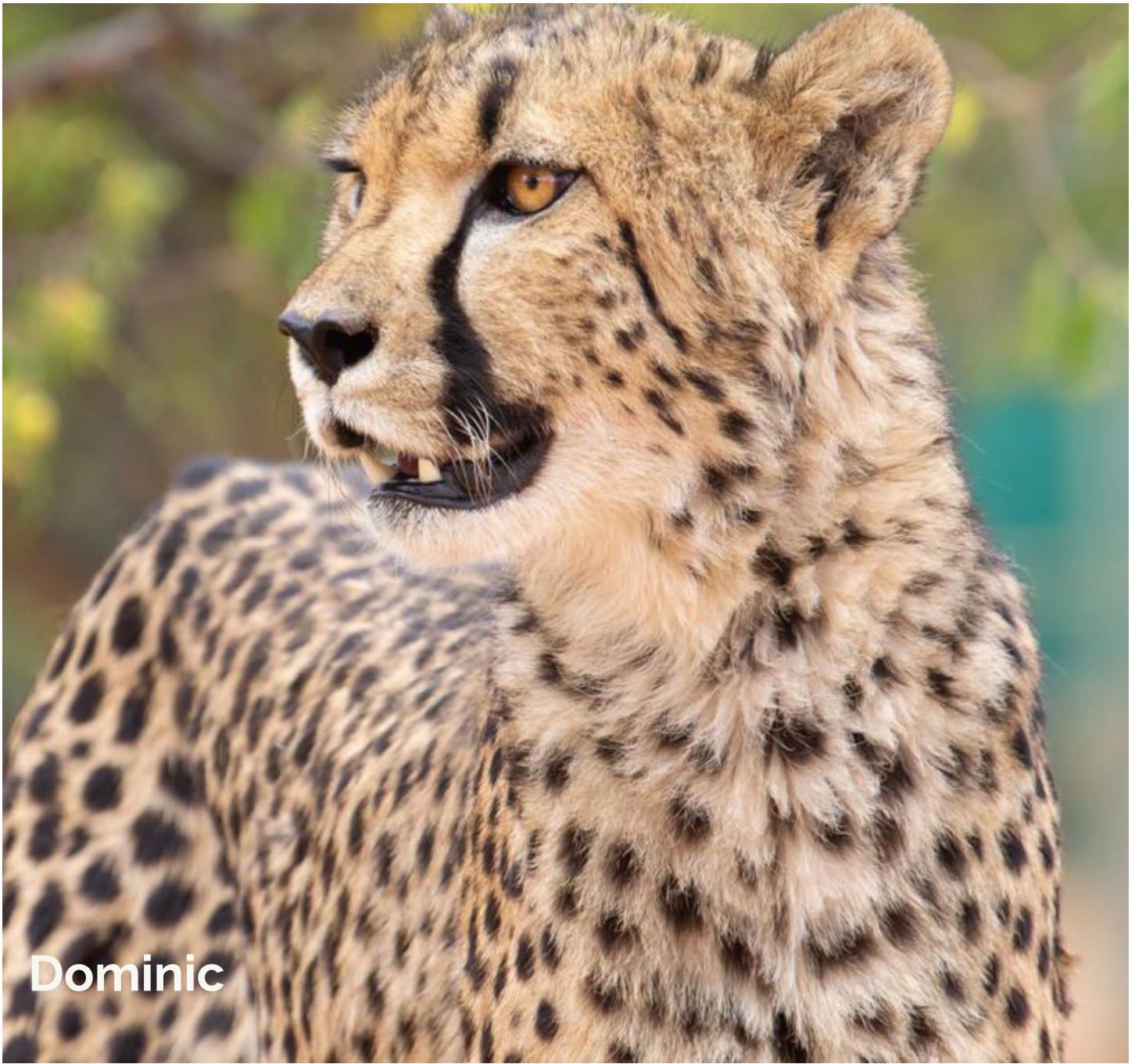
Due to Dominic being hand raised, he's a very affectionate but sensitive cheetah. He still very much needs attention from his keepers throughout the day and will sit and wait for them every morning expecting a greeting (which they will happily do!). He has had another growth spurt the end of this year, his fur

Dominic came to CCF in May 2018, he was taken in by a lady who's farm workers had found him orphaned and

has become smoother, his neck thicker and his general stature more adult. He's finally growing into his huge paws!

Dominic has made some new friends this year, two cheetah cubs named Jaya and Rocket. Dominic's enclosure is next to the cheetah nursery pens, so he gets to interact with the young cubs as they are growing up, this is important for the cubs to be able to learn normal cheetah behaviours from adult cheetahs rather than just their human keepers.

Dominic is incredibly gentle and affectionate towards younger cubs, so he makes the perfect match to help the cubs grow up. Most days, Dominic can be found lying against the fence with the two young cubs whilst they groom him through the fence. Eventually his keepers hope to introduce him to the young cubs once they are big enough as they are bonding so well and becoming fast friends. Dominic has been seen running along the fence playing with them, touching noses and purring loudly which are all great signs that he will bond well with the two orphans.



**Dominic**



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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Harry**

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 14 years old and doing 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.

Harry is one of the oldest cheetahs at CCF now, so her keepers are keeping a very close eye on her and her siblings (Ron and Hermione). Due to her age, Harry has more regular blood tests and health checks to be sure that her keepers catch anything as early as possible and she can be treated. The most common thing her keepers are looking out for is signs of kidney failure, old age cats are very prone to this, so her keepers want to make sure they catch it early if necessary. At the moment, Harry is in perfect health and her teeth are beautiful!

Her favourite thing to do after mealtime is to take her bone back outside into her large enclosure and chew on it for hours, keeping her teeth nice and clean! Harry is still exercised regularly here on our purpose-built lure course,

but her keepers are now giving her the option to participate as much or as little as she wants. Some days she will sprint a couple of times, take her reward and then snooze for the rest of the day. Other days, she only has a gentle jog once and then goes back to resting. It's important that Harry still gets some exercise to keep her healthy, but it's also important for her keepers not to push her too hard.

Harry has also started taking some new supplements to help her joints, she gets these hidden inside her favourite treat after mealtime. Harry is a very shy cheetah, so when her keepers first started she was very suspicious of this new routine, but after she realised she would get her favourite treats everyday as a bonus extra, she was very happy and now approaches her keepers after she's finished her meal ready for her treats.

Over the next few months, Harry and her sister Hermione are going to be moved to a new enclosure on the other side of CCF main centre. We describe this as our retirement area! Harry and her sister will get to live out the rest of their lives in a nice big enclosure with two females they previously lived with when they were younger. Their keepers decided it would be a nice change for them as the new area is much more peaceful and nicer for the older ladies!

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Harry



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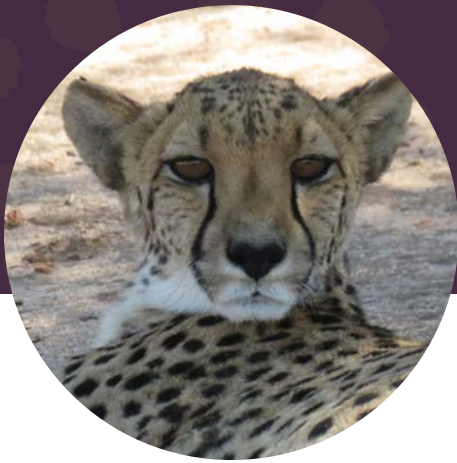
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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



## Hermione

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 14 years old and doing 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, Hermione and her group mates get along very well and enjoy one another's company.

Hermione is one of the oldest cheetahs at CCF now, so her keepers are keeping a very close eye on her and her siblings (Ron and Harry). Due to her age, Hermione has more regular blood tests and health checks to be sure that her keepers catch anything as early as possible and she can be treated. The most common thing her keepers are looking out for is signs of kidney failure, old age cats are very prone to this, so her keepers want to make sure they catch it early if necessary. At the moment, Hermione is in perfect health and her teeth are beautiful! Her favourite thing to do after mealtime is to take her bone back outside into her large enclosure and chew on it for hours, keeping her teeth nice and clean!

Hermione is still exercised regularly here on

our purpose-built lure course, but her keepers are now giving her the option to participate as much or as little as she wants. Some days she will sprint a couple of times, take her reward and then snooze for the rest of the day. Other days, she only has a gentle jog once and then goes back to resting. It's important that Hermione still gets some exercise to keep her healthy, but it's also important for her keepers not to push her too hard.

Hermione has also started taking some new supplements to help her joints, she gets these hidden inside her favourite treat after mealtime. Hermione is a very shy cheetah, so when her keepers first started she was very suspicious of this new routine, but after she realised she would get her favourite treats everyday as a bonus extra, she was very happy and now approaches her keepers after she's finished her meal ready for her treats.

Over the next few months, Hermione and her sister Harry are going to be moved to a new enclosure on the other side of CCF main centre. We describe this as our retirement area! Hermione and her sister will get to live out the rest of their lives in a nice big enclosure with two females they previously lived with when they were younger. Their keepers decided it would be a nice change for them as the new area is much more peaceful and nicer for the older ladies!

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**Hermione**



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**25 Years**



# Nabad from Somaliland!

(Hello)



## Illegal Pet Trade

I recently returned to the US from Somaliland, where I spent two months volunteering with the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). CCF manages a cheetah safe house in the capitol city of Hargeisa. This safe house is home to 38 young cheetahs, all rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. These cubs have been confiscated by the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development (MoERD) and then brought to the safety of our facility where they are cared for by our medical and support staff. These cubs have been stolen from their mothers somewhere in the Horn of Africa at a very young age, typically 3-6 weeks old. They are then smuggled through Somaliland to boats waiting on the shoreline to take them illegally to the middle-east where they will be sold illegally into the exotic pet trade. That is the back story: the reason why these cubs are in human care. Just about everyone is aware of the human war on wildlife., I must note how difficult it is to not allow the anger from these situations to become overwhelming. The important thing is to stay focused on the task at hand, which is caring for these young cheetahs. It is the job of Somaliland's MoERD to pursue, capture and bring to trial, the poachers who traffic these animals, and they have been doing their job quite well.

October 2019 was a devastating month for cheetah cubs born in the Horn of Africa. During that month we received 23 cubs from three separate confiscations at our safehouse. Twelve arrived on Oct 4, three Dead On Arrival (DOA), the other nine in critical condition: all starved,

dehydrated and many with injuries. Three others died the first night, then three more in rapid succession. When I arrived in Hargeisa on Oct 10 only three were still living. Two were in stable condition, but the third, little Shu-Shu was struggling. Severe starvation takes a big toll on the body and though she was a fighter, she was not able to overcome it. She lost her battle in the early morning hours of Oct 13th.

There are now two of the original twelve still living. They were the strongest from the beginning, so it's no surprise they were the survivors. All the cubs were in deplorable condition, the real surprise being that any survived. These two, Janet and DJ, are now thriving after overcoming a series of illnesses all stemming from their capture ordeal.

On October 17th we got word of two cubs being kept in a farmhouse near the Puntland border. This area of Somaliland is remote, with few passable roads to access the area. Mussa, one of our veterinarians, made the 30-hour round trip along with a wildlife officer from MoERD. The six-week-old cubs were being raised by camel farmers. They had been fed camel milk and meat, so were in moderately good condition. It is believed these two cubs are Somaliland natives. Most of the trafficked cubs originate in Ethiopia or Northern Kenya. Less than two hours after Mussa began his journey to retrieve them, another phone call came in. This one reporting that nine cubs had been confiscated by the Coast Guard and were in route to Hargeisa from the coast.

The two sets of cubs arrived at the safe house within hours of each other, late in the day on Oct 18th. We had barely caught our breath from the first twelve, and now another eleven would be joining us. Our safe house was already at

December 2019

capacity. The condition of the nine was unknown, but we expected the worst. CCF had recently rented a nearby house for staff and volunteers, and the decision was quickly made to move the survivors (Janet and DJ) of the group of 12 there, along with Mussa's two little females, called Blue and Green (from the ink mark used to tell them apart). We got those four settled into their new homes and returned to the safe house to receive the new nine cubs.

Neju Jimmy has been living at the safe house and caring for the cheetahs for the past year. She recently graduated from Hargeisa's veterinary school and heads the care of the safe house. It would be difficult to find anyone more dedicated to saving these cubs than Neju. When the cubs arrived, we quickly began the individual exams. We were pleased to discover that these cubs were in relatively good condition. All were extremely thin and dehydrated but had few injuries, like the last 12. All were alert and energetic. One cub, who we called Shaky Girl, had a neurological condition, likely from an injury sustained during capture, and she passed away within a few days. The other eight seemed to be stable. They were of similar age, approximately 6 weeks old. All had good appetite and plenty of spunk. Most though, had lost their mantles due to malnutrition. The mantle is a silver mane that runs along the cubs back, from its neck to rump, and gradually disappears as the cub ages. The mantle hair goes first on cubs with poor nutrition then the rest of the hair follows. Not only had they lost their mantles but had also lost most of their other fur as well. Being starved and nearly hairless made their eyes and ears look abnormally large. What struck me most profoundly, though, was the trust that could be seen in these young cat's eyes. It's unknown what these cats experienced at the hands of their captors, but it's obvious that they were handled cruelly with no regard to their wellbeing. Yet most were able to overcome their fear and allow us to handle them and treat their medical issues. Though I mentioned all were in relatively good shape, they were still a long way from healthy. That road towards good health will be long and bumpy for some, and one special little guy was not destined to make it. I left Hargeisa on Dec 8th to return to the US.

I said goodbye to 11 beautiful cubs I'd help care for during the past two months. During this time, we had received 23 cubs, more than half didn't survive.

Now I would like to introduce you to a few of the cheetah cubs who call CCF Hargeisa their new home.

### **Janet and DJ**

Janet and DJ had serious health issues when they first came to the safe house On Oct 4. Both had bouts with calici virus, severe diarrhea and vomiting. Janet had a bad cough with congested lungs and DJ had an eye infection. One illness cleared up and another would start. Through it all, these two cubs maintained a trust in us that was at once both heartwarming and heart breaking. They had suffered tremendously at the hands of humans, but somehow maintained a sweet and gentle demeanor. These two have become big sister and brother to the next batch of cubs that arrived on Oct 18th.

### **Fowzia and Faduma**

Fowzia and Faduma were originally called Blue and Green. These two Somaliland natives were given traditional names by Dr. Mussa, our assistant cheetah caretaker. They had been treated humanely by their captors and were in good condition (the story of how they came to be living with camel herders is unknown). Both cubs still had their mantles, and though thin, had the look of healthy cheetah cubs. Each of these little females have a distinct personality. Faduma was sweet and trusting from the start, but her sister, Fowzia, was much more fearful, and had a very strong, fighting spirit. She was unable to overcome that fear despite much effort put into an attempt to gain her trust. The two spent a month living separate from the other cubs. Once all the health issues were overcome, they were introduced to the others. The sisters are now living with the other cubs and have adjusted well to having a very large adopted family.

### **Azizi and Emmett**

It was clear from the beginning that Azizi and Emmett were brothers. We made educated guesses as to relatedness of the nine cubs



based on looks, size, and general condition (relatedness can be determined later through genetic testing at CCF's genetics lab). These two young males were in perhaps the poorest condition of the nine. They were nearly furless. It looked as though they might have had some sort of chemical burn, although that was not confirmed. All the hair was gone from their heads all the way down their sides and legs. The skin along their legs was brown and dry and had the texture of parchment paper. With no fur on their heads, their faces appeared angular with an extra-long muzzle, enormous ears and perfectly round, dark amber eyes. They looked a bit Egyptian. Both males had gentle dispositions. They had endured so much cruelty in their short lives yet maintained such sweetness. When it was time to name the cubs, the Egyptian name Azizi was chosen, meaning precious. Emmett was named for a longtime supporter of CCF. For more than a month these two males seemed to thrive. Their hair grew in, they put on weight, they began to look a bit more like cheetah cubs than ancient Egyptian cat gods. They looked good but looks can be deceiving. The poor nutrition that Azizi had received had taken its toll on his little body, and he passed away unexpectedly. We make every effort to save all their lives, but know

death is often inevitable. Keeping an emotional detachment is critical in a situation like this, but little Azizi was special to me, and his death hit me and all of us hard.

I believe it is as important to mention the losses as it is our successes. To read that 23 cubs were confiscated in October and that only 11 survived is devastating. But to put names to the faces, and to hear their individual stories, brings meaning to their lives. There are so many cubs being trafficked through Somaliland. These 23 are the known cases. How many others are there? With an estimated population of only 300 wild cheetahs in the region, it's clear to see that each of these animals is critically important to their species. The real goal of CCF is to work with Somaliland's Ministry of Environment and Rural Development to end the trafficking and keep these animals in the wild. That's a big job, and here's hoping that the New Year will bring success. In the meantime, there is a small group of dedicated people in Hargeisa working tirelessly to save every cub entrusted to their care. Thanks for all your support to help us.

- Toni Piccolotti, CCF Volunteer







Fowzia and Faduma



Janet

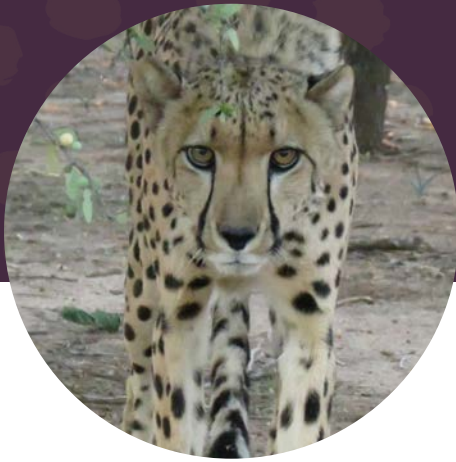


DJ



# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Katiti**

**December 2019**

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 horse/donkey meat with a vitamin and mineral supplement to help them grow and develop properly.

Katiti 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. The end of 2019 busy season has been relaxing for Katiti, he continues to be one of our main ambassador cheetahs as he lives at the main centre. He spends most of his time relaxing on top of his coalition mates purring as loud as possible for guests, during this time, our tour guides teach everyone about their stories and the work we do here at CCF.

Katiti has reached sexual maturity the end of this year, so he is now making sure he marks his territory consistently and all over everything. Some days his keepers must be sure to keep a distance away from him, so they don't get scent marked by him through the fence. It's very important for cheetahs to scent mark so that they can communicate to other cheetahs in the area. In the wild they would use low hanging trees called "play trees" as a way of communicating to other cheetahs about their age, sexual maturity and location. Since he has

become sexually mature, there has now been more competition between his coalition mates every time a female is in close proximity. The coalition are slowly learning to keep their nice tight bond even though there is a girl around. His keepers and guests always find Katiti's flirting techniques amusing, his current method is to run at the females as fast as possible and hiss at them. It still needs some work!

Katiti's bond with his keepers has improved so much during the busy season and he now is comfortable to approach his keepers and not show nervous behaviours. This has helped with his general training too such as catch cage training; it means his keepers are able to train more veterinary beneficial behaviours with him so that he can have a more stress-free life at CCF.



**Katiti**

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**Cheetah Conservation Fund**  
LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG PROGRAM

**25 Years**



# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



## Khayjay

known as the "Ambassadors". He is now 9 years old and doing well.

The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just 3 weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised here by the Director, Dr Laurie Marker. This means they are very accustomed to people and enjoy a lot of attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them whilst they purr as loud as possible through the fence.

Unfortunately, due to their love of people, they cannot be released into the wild so remain ambassadors for their species here at CCF helping educate the guests that come through every day!

The remainder of 2019 has been relaxing for Khayjay, during the peak busy season he spent most of his time sitting along the fence purring at guests as they learnt about cheetahs and his story. Khayjay is one of our main ambassador cheetahs so guests get to meet him every day as he lives at the main centre and participates in the "Cheetah Run" and many tours throughout the day. Khayjay is a favourite amongst guests as he will always come right up to the fence, purr as loud as possible and pose for photographs.

The rainy season has started early this year so Khayjay's enclosure is starting to blossom with lots of fresh, new plants. Khayjay loves a short busy tree close to the fence so he can lay in the shade all afternoon but still watch what the guests are doing! During the rainy season,

December 2019

Khayjay has access to an extra enclosure that has a large sheltered area so Khayjay and his three siblings can all fit in comfortably and watch the rain from a warm and cosy spot. Cheetahs don't like to get their fur wet if they can help it!

Khayjay hasn't changed much and continues to be affectionate and nosey. Whenever his keepers prepare treats behind the sink he will always come over and purr loudly to remind them he's still there and he would like extras! Khayjay is very popular during feeding time here at CCF as he eats his food as fast as possible, making himself into a huge mess and will then sit next to his siblings and stare at them until they're finished and he can steal their leftover bones. Generally, cheetahs like to keep their meat nice and clean so will eat from the inside of their kill in the wild, we try to replicate this behaviour at CCF by providing a small dish for them to place their meat if they want – which is what most of our residents chose to do!

Khayjay and his siblings have made some new friends this year, two cheetah cubs named Jaya and Rocket. Khayjay's enclosure is next to the cheetah nursery pens, so he gets to interact with the young cubs as they are growing up, this is important for the cubs to be able to learn normal cheetah behaviours from adult cheetahs rather than just their human keepers. Khayjay and his siblings are very gentle and affectionate towards younger cubs, so they make the perfect match to help the cubs grow up.



Khayjay



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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Koya**

Koya came to CCF in July 2017 after being captured on a farm at around 6 months old. Koya

and his brother (Nico) were kept on the farm for nearly 2 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.

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 Nico have recovered well here at CCF due to proper diet, exercise, and regular health check-ups.

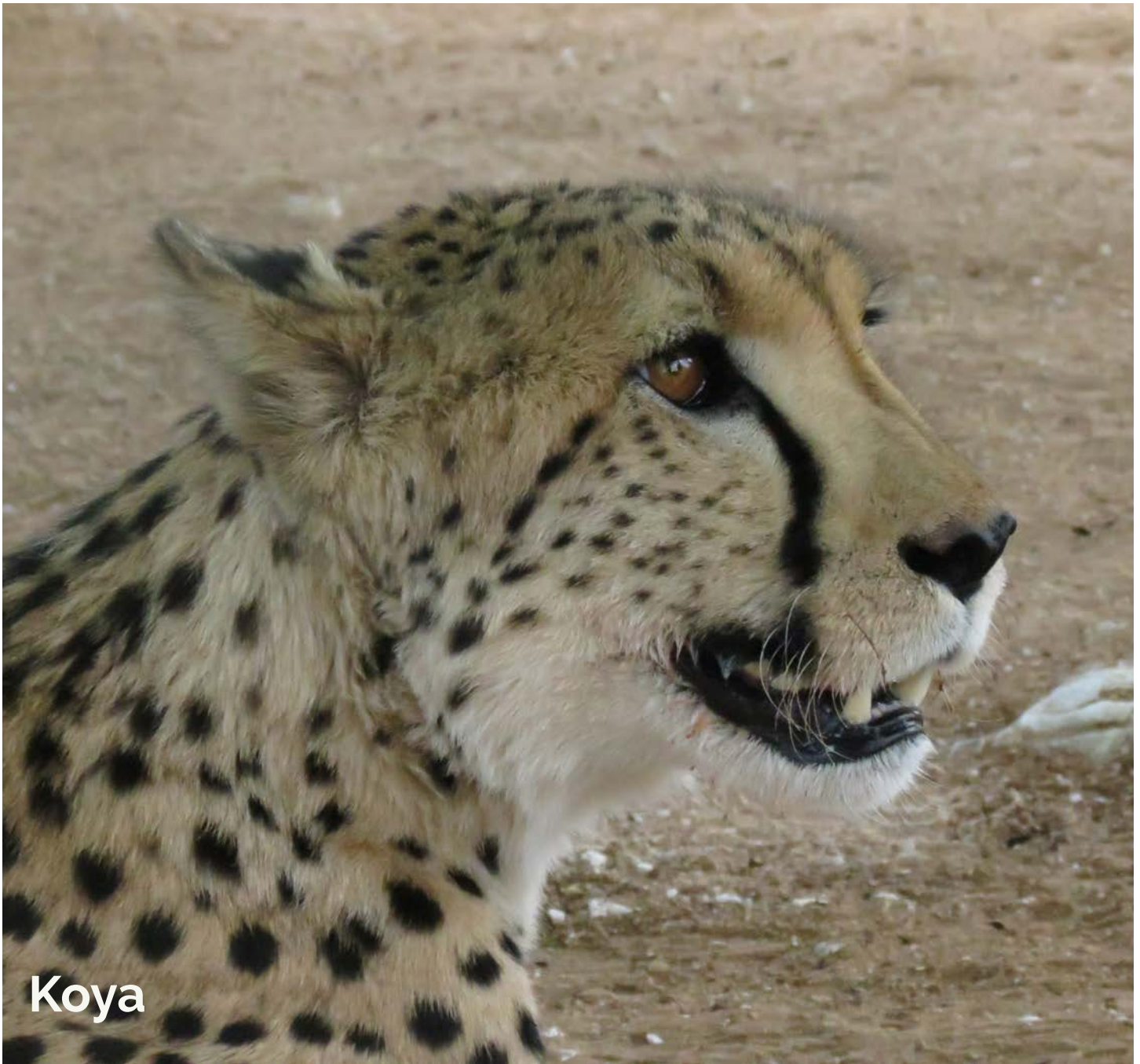
The end of 2019 busy season has been relaxing for Koya, he continues to be one of our main ambassador cheetahs as he lives at the main centre. He spends most of his time relaxing on top of his brother purring as loud as possible for guests, during this time, our tour guides teach everyone about their stories and the work we do here at CCF.

Koya has reached sexual maturity the end of this year, so he is now making sure he marks his territory consistently and all over everything. Some days his keepers must be sure to keep a distance away from him, so they don't get scent marked by him through the fence. It's very important for cheetahs to scent mark so

that they can communicate to other cheetahs in the area. In the wild they would use low hanging trees called "play trees" as a way of communicating to other cheetahs about their age, sexual maturity and location. Since he has become sexually mature, there has now been more competition between his brothers every time a female is in close proximity. The brothers are slowly learning to keep their nice tight bond even though there is a girl around. His keepers and guests always find Koya's flirting techniques amusing, his current method is to run at the females as fast as possible and hiss at them. It still needs some work!

Koya is improving on the lure course that he exercises on every day. At the beginning of this year he was becoming over excited and trying to swallow the rag used to encourage chasing, his keepers have worked very hard on this and have been doing a lot of one on one training to help him stay calm and wait for his reward instead of eating the rag straight away. Since November he has been doing very well and will patiently wait for his keepers to reward him, instead of eating the rag he will now grip it as tight as possible in his paws, so his brothers don't steal it.

**December 2019**



Koya



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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



## Livestock Guarding Dogs

CCF for a total of 693 puppies, of which 647 were placed throughout Namibia and other parts of Africa, and 186 are currently working on farms.

At CCF's Model Farm, 10 adult LGDs dogs are currently working. CCF has a number of retired breeding dogs as well being cared for by staff members.

Bolt, our newest actively breeding male was busy this year. He was bred to !Usi, Lady, Susie, and Repet and all the females gave birth to litters during the spring and summer. CCF placed a total of 20 of these puppies on a mix of commercial and communal farms in Namibia. 8 puppies were placed on commercial farms and 12 were placed with communal farmers.

This year we brought in three new female LGD puppies: Koda, the female puppy born at CCF to Lady; Lisboa-Bella who was donated to CCF in October by Baltazar Ramos with the help of the Jardim Zoologico de Lisboa in Portugal; and Mia who arrived in December from Cheetah Outreach in South Africa as part of an LGD exchange. These three females will join our LGD program once they reach breeding age at approximately two years of age.

CCF sent a breeding male named Delarey to

help with their Livestock Guarding Dog program. In addition, one of our adult breeding females named Dusty was given to Timm Miller, a breeder in the south of Namibia who has worked with CCF for years, helping to provide guarding dogs to his local area.

We had much to celebrate in the Year of the Livestock Guarding Dog, however, we did experience some losses and had to say goodbye to two of our retired breeding females, Penda and Karibib. Both dogs suffered unexpected illnesses and rapid deterioration, and were humanely euthanized.

CCF staff also saw some changes. We said goodbye to Paige Seitz, who managed the LGD program on our Model Farm for six years. We are so thankful for her many years of service to CCF and the cheetah. Calum O'Flaherty arrived in June to take over where Paige left off, as the new manager of the LGD program. He benefits from the assistance of Stella Emvula who has worked with CCF's LGDs for the past two years. Gebhardt (Gebs) Nikanor, who has been working with the farmers and dogs for over 10 years, continues his job placing dogs with farmers. In 2019, Gebs made 159 visits to farms monitoring the LGDs. Some of the dogs were visited multiple times to complete their required 3-month, 6-month, and 1-year visits. The dogs visited were vaccinated against rabies and canine diseases, provided a health check, and evaluated on their working success.

Our ambassador LGD, Kiri, continues to meet school groups that visit CCF's Research and Education Centre. Her gentle personality continues to make a big impression on all she meets. One group, of the countless she welcomed this year, was a group of 27 teachers - most were scared of dogs before they met Kiri



- 19 of the teachers applied for a LGD before they left and four were interested in adopting a retired LGD as a pet.

We are incredibly thankful for all the staff and volunteers who make our LGD program and Model Farm run. Thank you for your continued support of our LGD program.





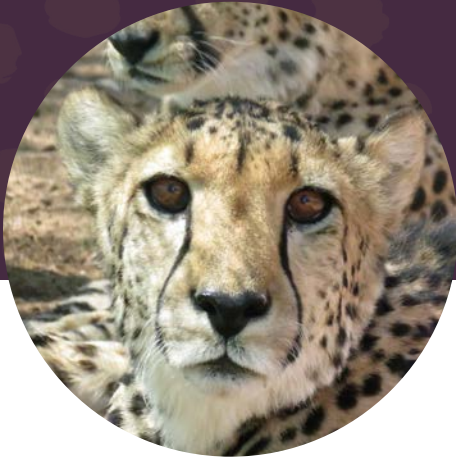




# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



## Little C.

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 12 years old.

Every morning he will come into the feeding camps purring as loud as possible to greet his keepers which they are very fond of. Little C has had a quiet end to 2019 and spends his time in a large enclosure for his retirement. Because his enclosure is so large, safari vehicles are able to drive inside and give guests an up-close personal experience of the cheetahs. Little C needed quite a bit of training to be able to have safari vehicles enter as he was always very interested in the tyres and shiny rims. His keepers continuously entered his enclosure in a safari vehicle and used positive reinforcement training to help him overcome his interest. Now he makes the perfect educational ambassador cheetah by lying close to the vehicle whilst our tour guides explain his story and what we do here at CCF.

Little C continues to be his affectionate and calm self, since moving to the retirement enclosure his behaviour has changed significantly. He is much calmer, easier to work with and generally less highly strung. His enclosure backs onto open bush land so he has a really nice view daily from the mounds in his

enclosure. In the wild cheetahs would use high points to investigate, scent mark and look for prey/predators. In captivity it's just as important to give them these high points whether artificial or naturally occurring so they can use their great long-distance vision to behave as naturally as possible. Inside Little C's enclosure his keepers have made large mounds from sand near the back so that he can look out into the bush and watch the wild prey species that pass by – or the occasional wild cheetah! Little C and his coalition spend most of their day on these mounds and only really come down to get their food for the day.

Because of Little C's age, he is given extra supplements in his diet to help his joints and overall health. This is either hidden in his daily meal, or if he spits out (which happens often) his keepers will hide the small tablets inside his favourite treat – heart





Little C.



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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



## Livingstone

here at CCF with his brother Darwin (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 one of the oldest cheetahs at CCF now, so his keepers are keeping a very close eye on him and his brother Darwin. Due to his age, Livingstone has more regular blood tests and health checks to be sure that his keepers catch anything as early as possible and he can be treated. The most common thing his keepers are looking out for is signs of kidney failure, old age cats are very prone to this, so his keepers want to make sure they catch it early if necessary. At the moment, Livingstone is in great health and for now his joints are still not bothering him!

Livingstone's teeth are not as good as they used to be, so his keepers have changed his diet a little and now offer him more chopped meat instead of a large bone. This saves him from having to work his teeth too hard whilst still being able to give him a good healthy diet. He does still have bones a few times a week, but they are usually very simple and easy for him to chew and tear the meat from.

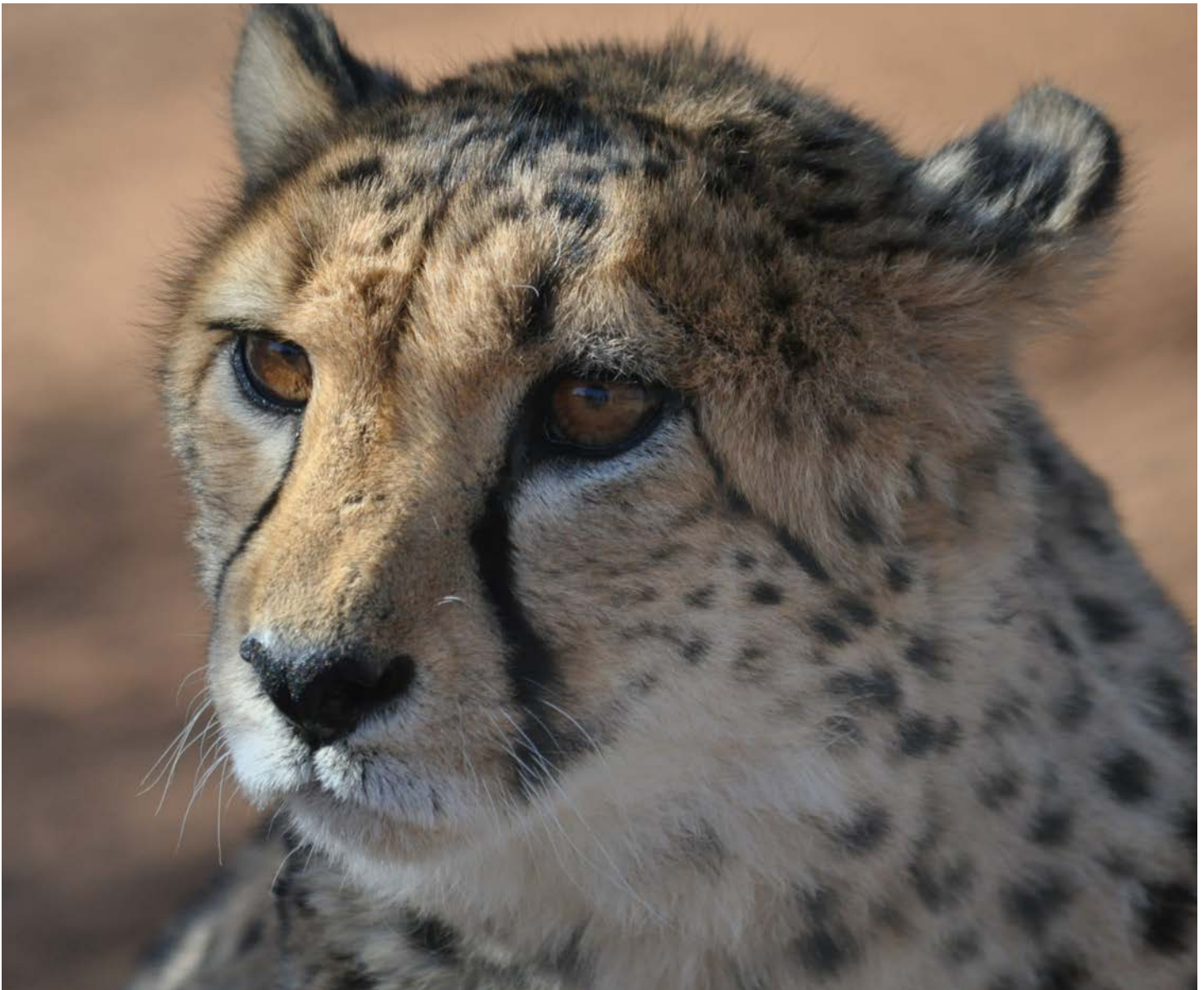
Livingstone is still exercised regularly here using the feeding truck inside his enclosure,

but his keepers are now giving him the option to participate as much or as little as he wants dependant on the day and the weather. Some days he will sprint after the truck, receive his meal and take it to a shaded tree to eat. Other days, he only has a gentle jog for several metres and will start to slow down indicating to his keepers that he's had enough. It's important that Livingstone still gets some exercise to keep him healthy, but it's also important for his keepers not to push him too hard.

Livingstone continues to take regular supplements for his joints because his keepers are expecting to see them deteriorate after his poor start in life. He usually receives these in a small treat every day and is more than happy to approach his keepers and get his tasty reward, without realising they've hidden some tablets inside!

Last month, Livingstone's sister returned to CCF after her old age became too much for the facility, she was living in. She is currently in quarantine to make sure she has no unknown diseases or illness' that could be spread to other cheetahs. Once she has completed her 4 weeks in quarantine, her keepers plan to mix the siblings back together so that they can live the rest of their days in retirement together! It's not always an easy process so Livingstone's keepers will make sure to reintroduce them through a fence first until they remember or become accustomed to each other again!





Livingstone



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**25 Years**

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Mischief**

**December 2019**

Mischief continues to live here at CCF and is now 10 years old. Mischief was one of a group of 2.5-month-old cubs trapped and brought to CCF after a radio-collared mother cheetah was found dead. He lives in a large enclosure with his brother Phil a little way out from our education centre in the African bush. These males have remained tightly bonded and are never found without each other!

Mischief is easy to tell apart from his brother as he is bigger and litter in coat colour. He also likes to vocalise as loud as possible before feeding time!

In August this year, Mischief's keepers went out to do their morning checks and found Mischief and his brother Phil had huge bellies and were covered in blood! Both of the brothers are classed as non-releasable due to them not spending enough time with their mother in the wild. Both brothers would have trouble knowing what to hunt, where to hunt, what predators to avoid and being too habituated to humans, therefore, CCF chose to keep them onsite and just give them a large enclosure to live the rest of their lives as ambassadors.

So that morning, to their keeper's surprise it turned out they had both killed a warthog that had pushed under the fence! Unfortunately for Mischief's brother Phil, during the hunting of the warthog, one of the tusks had ripped open the side of his belly and chest. His keepers immediately called the veterinarian and put him straight under anaesthetic to make sure it was only superficial damage and not anything life threatening. Luckily for Phil, the wound

was only superficial! The veterinarian and the cheetah keepers cleaned him up, stitched him and gave him a course of anti-biotics to be safe. During this time Mischief was locked inside the smaller enclosure whilst his brother healed to ensure there was minimal stress during Phil's healing time as we don't like to separate coalition males unless absolutely necessary. This meant that Mischief had to have just as many treats as Phil so not to cause any fighting. Mischief was very happy about this as he didn't have to do anything to be rewarded with his favourite treats for about a week whilst his brother healed.

Mischief continues to be adventurous and excitable, through out the busy season Mischief ran for VIP guests' multiple times a week. He would show off his super speed by running alongside the feeding vehicle as fast as possible for his meal. This is a great way for his keepers to exercise him and almost replicates hunting.



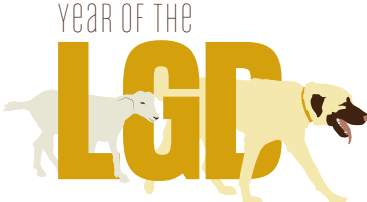


Mischief



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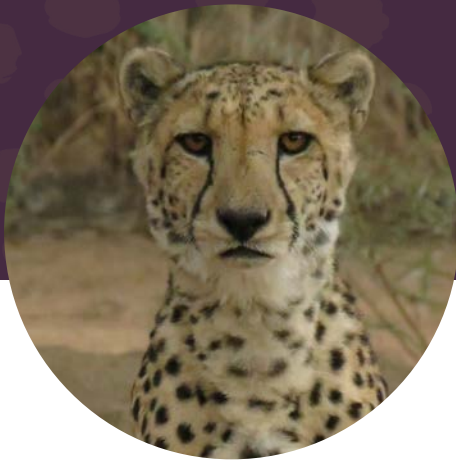
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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**N'Dunge**

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 11 years old. N'Dunge unfortunately now has no teeth left due to his old age, after a few of them started to cause pain and infection inside his gums, the veterinarian decided it was best for him to have them removed. Having no teeth doesn't affect his quality of life at all! To help him eat, his keepers give him a mincemeat diet, so he doesn't have to chew anymore. This also allows them to give him extra supplements hidden in the mincemeat to help him as he ages.

Because of this his routine is a little different from the other cheetahs, his keepers always bring him in separately and give him extra time to eat away from his coalition. He figured out this routine very quickly and wastes no time standing and waiting in front of his regular door that he comes in through, chirping as loud as possible if his keepers aren't fast enough!

N'Dunge has had a quiet end to 2019 and spends his time in a large enclosure for his retirement. Because his enclosure is so large,

safari vehicles are able to drive inside and give guest an up-close personal experience of the cheetahs. N'Dunge needed quite a bit of training to be able to have safari vehicles enter as he was always very interested in the tyres and shiny rims. His keepers continuously entered his enclosure in a safari vehicle and used positive reinforcement training to help him overcome his interest. Now he makes the perfect educational ambassador cheetah by lying close to the vehicle whilst our tour guides explain his story and what we do here at CCF.

N'Dunge continues to be his affectionate but mischievous self, always keeping his keepers on their toes during the day! He has moved to a retirement enclosure which backs onto open bush land, so he has a really nice view daily from the mounds in his enclosure. In the wild cheetahs would use high points to investigate, scent mark and look for prey/predators. In captivity it's just as important to give them these high points whether artificial or naturally occurring so they can use their great long-distance vision to behave as naturally as possible. Inside N'Dunge's enclosure his keepers have made large mounds from sand near the back so that he can look out into the bush and watch the wild prey species that pass by – or the occasional wild cheetah! N'Dunge and his coalition spend most of their day on these mounds and only really come down to get their food for the day.





N'Dunge



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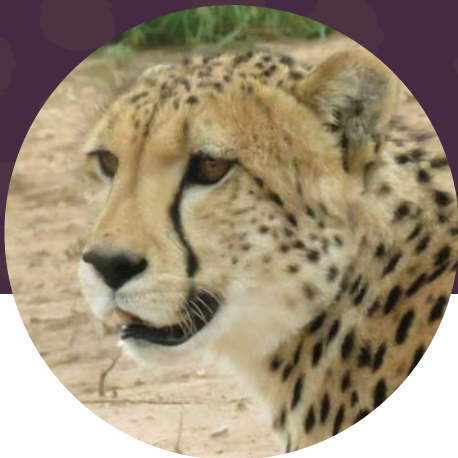


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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Niko**

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 2 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.

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 that both Niko and his brother Koya have recovered well here at CCF due to proper diet, exercise, and regular health checks.

The end of 2019 busy season has been relaxing for Niko, he continues to be one of our main ambassador cheetahs as he lives at the main centre. He spends most of his time relaxing on top of his brother purring as loud as possible for guests, during this time, our tour guides teach everyone about their stories and the work we do here at CCF.

Niko has reached sexual maturity the end of this year, so he is now making sure he marks his territory consistently and all over everything. Some days his keepers must be sure to keep a distance away from him, so they don't get scent marked by him through the fence. It's very important for cheetahs to scent mark so that they can communicate to other cheetahs in the area. In the wild they would use low hanging trees called "play trees" as a way of communicating to other cheetahs about their age, sexual maturity

and location.

Since he has become sexually mature, there has now been more competition between his brothers every time a female is in close proximity. The brothers are slowly learning to keep their nice tight bond even though there is a girl around. His keepers and guests always find Niko's flirting techniques amusing, his current method is to run at the females as fast as possible and hiss at them. It still needs some work!





Niko



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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Peter**

**December 2019**

Peter continues to live here at CCF with her three siblings Khayjay, Senay and Tigerlily; also known as the "Ambassadors". He is now 9 years old and doing well.

The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just 3 weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised here by the Director, Dr Laurie Marker. This means they are very accustomed to people and enjoy a lot of attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them whilst they purr as loud as possible through the fence. Unfortunately, due to their love of people, they cannot be released into the wild so remain ambassadors for their species here at CCF helping educate the guests that come through every day.

Peter, along with all our resident cheetahs is trained to do many things that help his keepers from a veterinary point of view. For example, he is trained to have injections, blood taken, wounds cleaned and much more. This helps his keepers alleviate as much stress as possible and takes away the need to anaesthetise him for every small problem.

There are only 3 people that handle the cheetahs to make sure there is maximum trust and safety for both the cheetah and keepers. Due to all this training, when Peter sustained a nasty wound across his face from his sibling – Senay, his keepers were able to immediately clean it and protect it from flies! Without his critical training he would have had to be anaesthetised and brought to the vet clinic for treatment. Much easier. The wound took over a week to heal and luckily because of his training,

his keepers were able to clean it twice a day and apply an insect repellent to protect him from further infection. Peter behaved perfectly and would come straight to his keepers when he was called.

During the process, Peter was continuously rewarded with his favourite treat – chopped heart – this kept him nice and distracted whilst his keepers cleaned his face. Peter's wound is fully healed now, it has left quite a big scar across his nose which has made him very popular among the staff and guests as he looks very tough now even though he is the baby of the group!

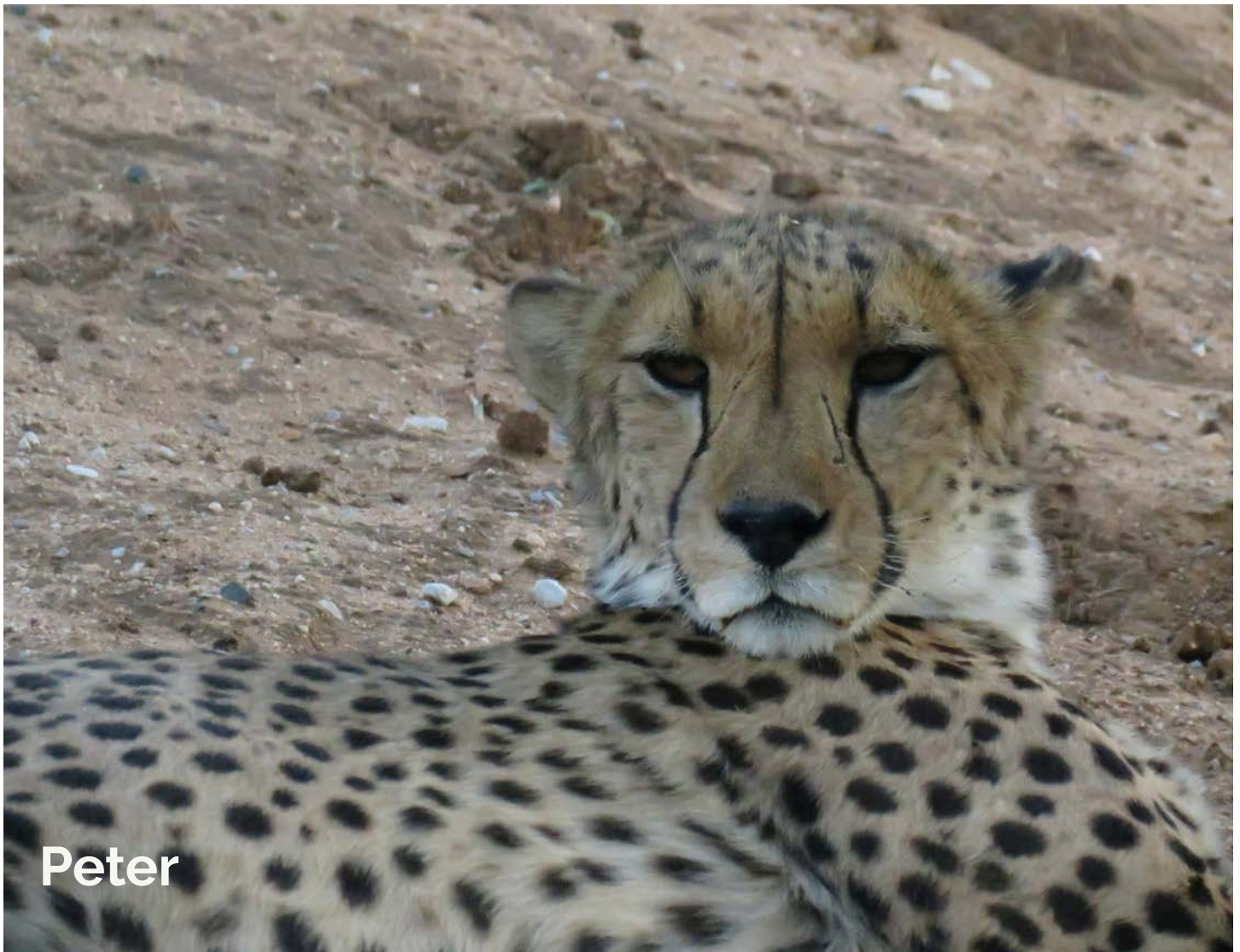
The remainder of 2019 has been relaxing for Peter, during the peak busy season he spent most of his time sitting along the fence purring at guests as they learnt about cheetahs and his story. Peter is one of our main ambassador cheetahs, so guests get to meet him every day as he lives at the main centre and participates in the "Cheetah Run" and many tours throughout the day.

The rainy season has started early this year, so Peter's enclosure is starting to blossom with lots of fresh, new plants. Peter especially loves a short bushy tree that he can lay under all afternoon in the shade. During the rainy season, Peter has access to an extra enclosure that has a large sheltered area so Peter and his three siblings can all fit in comfortably and watch the rain from a warm and cosy spot. Cheetahs don't like to get their fur wet if they can help it!

Peter continues to be the gentle, affectionate one in the group and is always the first to greet everyone in the morning. Peter and his siblings have made some new friends this year, two cheetah cubs named Jaya and Rocket.



Peter's enclosure is next to the cheetah nursery pens, so he gets to interact with the young cubs as they are growing up, this is important for the cubs to be able to learn normal cheetah behaviours from adult cheetahs rather than just their human keepers. Peter and his siblings are very gentle and affectionate towards younger cubs, so they make the perfect match to help the cubs grow up. Peter loves to sit and watch the cubs from a distance intently, occasionally he will come up to the fence if his keepers are there with him to take a closer look.



Peter



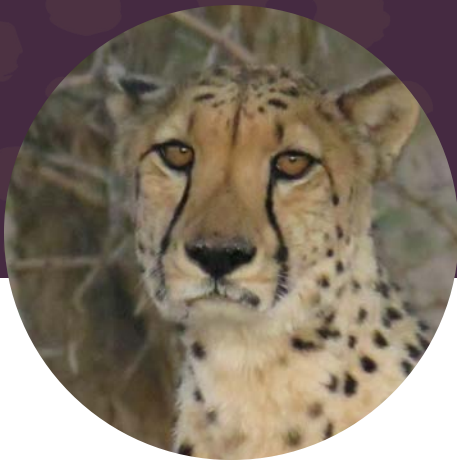
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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Phil**

**December 2019**

Phil continues to live here at CCF and is now 10 years old. Phil was one of a group of 2.5-month-old cubs trapped and brought to CCF after a radio-collared mother cheetah was found dead. He lives in a large enclosure with his brother Mischief a little way out from our education centre in the African bush. These males have remained tightly bonded and are never found without each other!

Phil is easy to tell apart because he is missing a canine in the front of his mouth. This was from a very old injury and his tooth needed to be removed, so whenever you look at Phil from the front, his upper lip is usually stuck in the gap and it looks as though he's constantly snarling!

In August this year, Phil's keepers went out to do their morning checks and found Phil and his brother Mischief had huge bellies and were covered in blood! Both of the brothers are classed as non-releasable due to them not spending enough time with their mother in the wild. Both brothers would have trouble knowing what to hunt, where to hunt, what predators to avoid and being too habituated to humans, therefore, CCF chose to keep them onsite and just give them a large enclosure to live the rest of their lives as ambassadors.

So that morning, to their keeper's surprise it turned out they had both killed a warthog that had pushed under the fence! Unfortunately for Phil, during the hunting of the warthog, one of the tusks had ripped open the side of his belly and chest. His keepers immediately called the veterinarian and put him straight under anaesthetic to make sure it was only superficial

damage and not anything life threatening. Luckily for Phil, the wound was only superficial! The veterinarian and the cheetah keepers cleaned him up, stitched him and gave him a course of anti-biotics to be safe. Phil was a little uncomfortable for a few days and kept him inside a smaller area to make sure he didn't rip his stitches open. During this time, he had many extra treats because he needed medication throughout the day which he was very excited about.

His brother Mischief was also locked inside during this time to make sure there was minimal stress during Phil's healing time as we don't like to separate coalition males unless absolutely necessary. This meant that Mischief had to have just as many treats as Phil so not to cause any fighting. Mischief was very happy about this as he didn't have to do anything to be rewarded with his favourite treats for about a week. Phil has now healed perfectly, and his keepers are hoping he doesn't get into anymore scuffles this year with wildlife!





Phil



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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Phoenix**

Phoenix continues to live here at CCF with his 'best friend' B2. Phoenix had a tough start in

life, in 2008 a farmer 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 2 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 is one of the bigger males we have at CCF weighing nearly 50kg, even though he's big he's a very gentle giant. Phoenix is one of our oldest cheetahs at CCF now, so his keepers are keeping a very close eye on him. Due to his age, Phoenix has more regular blood tests and health checks to be sure that his keepers catch anything as early as possible and he can be treated. The most common thing his keepers are looking out for is signs of kidney failure, old age cats are very prone to this, so his keepers want to make sure they catch it early if necessary. At the moment, Phoenix is in perfect health and his teeth are beautiful!

Phoenix is also having more regular training inside a catch cage to ensure that he is as comfortable as possible in case any treatment is needed in his older age. Because Phoenix is hand raised, he is usually very easy to work with and will let his keepers do almost anything they want in exchange for some tasty treats.

He is one of the resident cheetahs that is more than happy to have blood drawn without any fuss. It is important for the keepers to train this behaviour with all our resident cheetah so that they can monitor their health easily and stress free. This training starts as soon as possible, so Phoenix was trained when he was only a few months old. He can then grow up with consistent training and not be afraid of anything his keepers ask him to do.

Phoenix continues to be is gentle affectionate self and has been very gentle with the cheetah cubs that are currently in the nursery near his fence line. He has been seen purring at them when they've been vocalising!





Phoenix



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**Cheetah Conservation Fund**  
LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG PROGRAM  
**25 Years**

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Polly**

Polly continues to live here at CCF and is now 10 years old. Polly was one of a group of 2-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 5 years now with "The Scientist boys". Polly has had a very relaxing end to the year, during the busy season Polly was exercising for guests and showing off her super speed most days!

Polly is one of our most popular cheetahs as she always comes right up to the vehicle to greet the guests that come out with the cheetah keepers! Polly is exercised a little differently to the other cheetahs at the centre as she is still wary of humans even though she was raised here.

Polly's keeper will use the feeding vehicle and drive into her large enclosure and encourage her to chase them. This is a gentle and easy way to exercise her without being too intrusive. Once Polly has run the length of her enclosure she is then rewarded with her meal for the day, in a way, her keepers are trying to replicate hunting.

Due to Polly's bad start in life, she lacks the necessary skills to be a wild cheetah as she never had the chance to learn from mum. This doesn't ever stop Polly from attempting to still be a wild cheetah at heart, a few months ago an unfortunate duiker (small antelope) wandered too close to Polly's fence line. To

everybody's surprised and amazement she managed to kill the small antelope through the fence! When her keepers arrived in the morning to feed her, she was nowhere to be found, her keepers immediately drove around to look for her to check she was ok. To their shock they found Polly with a huge belly sat next to the duiker she had managed to drag through the fence to eat. It's safe to say she didn't need feeding for a few days after that, as she was very fat and happy, purring away!

Polly has always been a greedy cheetah and loves to eat as much as possible! This comes in handy when her keepers need to give her any medication or supplements, they can be easily hidden in a small piece of meat and she will immediately take it without any suspicion! Over the next month or so Polly is going to be introduced to two new females that have been brought to the centre after confiscation. Her keepers think the females will be a perfect match to join Polly and Rohini in their large enclosure. Fingers crossed the mixing goes well!





Polly



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**Cheetah Conservation Fund**  
LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG PROGRAM  
**25 Years**

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



## Rainbow

Aurora) and resident male Romeo (who very much lives up to his name!).

She is now 7 years old and is as bouncy as ever! A farmer near Otjiwarongo found Rainbow on the side of a road and decided to try nursing her back to health. Rainbow was abandoned, 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 is still one of the most energetic cheetahs here at CCF and continues to love running on our lure course, well, running anywhere! During the end of the 2019 busy season, Rainbow was running on our lure course for guests every few days.

As the weather was getting hotter, Rainbow needed a little more encouragement from her keepers to get started in the mornings. She would be rolling around upside down until she was called, after a big stretch she would start zooming around again!

Rainbow continues to be a very chirpy and vocal cheetah, no matter what her keepers are doing with her or around her, she will let them know how she's feeling with a variety of chirps and meows. She has become quite a favourite among our guests during guided tours at CCF due to her vocalisations. This year Rainbow has

made it very obvious how she feels about a male cheetah that lives in the enclosure next door to her. Every time she bumps into him or sees him, she will chirp as loud as possible at him and squeak to get his attention. Her keepers think she is in love!

In Namibia, it is illegal to breed captive cheetahs and even if we had the option, CCF would not breed from its resident females that have not been reared by their mothers as they would lack the necessary skills to teach their young to be wild. Therefore, the cubs would also stay in captivity. Even though Rainbow won't mate with her newfound love, it's very healthy for her to go through the process of coming into season, mentally and physically.

December 2019





Rainbow



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**Cheetah Conservation Fund**  
LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG PROGRAM  
**25 Years**

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Rohini**

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 4 years with "The Scientist boys". Rohini has had a very relaxing end to the year, during the busy season Rohini was exercising for guests and showing off her super speed most days!

Rohini is one of our most popular cheetahs as she always comes right up to the vehicle to greet the guests that come out with the cheetah keepers! Rohini is exercised a little differently to the other cheetahs at the centre as she is still wary of humans even though she was raised here. Rohini's keeper will use the feeding vehicle and drive into her large enclosure and encourage her to chase them. This is a gentle and easy way to exercise her without being too intrusive. Once Rohini has run the length of her enclosure she is then rewarded with her meal for the day, in a way, her keepers are trying to replicate hunting.

Even though Rohini is one of the residents at CCF, she remains fairly wild and aloof with her keepers. Because of these traits she became part of a "play back" experiment this year. This involved a post-doctoral candidate playing familiar cheetah sounds, unfamiliar cheetah sounds and human sounds to Rohini through a speaker and noting her responses. Rohini

behaved perfectly and interestingly responded to familiar cheetah calls (from cheetahs that she knew previously) by either calling back or searching from a high spot to investigate where the call was coming from. On the flip side of things, she ignored all recorded keeper calls, typical Rohini and her selective hearing! Over the next month or so Rohini is going to be introduced to two new females that have been brought to the centre after confiscation. Her keepers think the females will be a perfect match to join Rohini and Polly in their large enclosure. Fingers crossed the mixing goes well!

Rohini is one of the favourites amongst guests and keepers because she is very calm and patient but very wild at heart! She always poses for any photographer than comes to CCF, so she makes the perfect cheetah model.





**Rohini**



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**Cheetah Conservation Fund**  
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**25 Years**

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Ron**

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 14 years old and doing very well. Ron is one of the oldest cheetahs at CCF now, so his keepers are keeping a very close eye on him and his siblings (Harry and Hermione). Due to his age, Ron has more regular blood tests and health checks to be sure that his keepers catch anything as early as possible and he can be treated. The most common thing his keepers are looking out for is signs of kidney failure, old age cats are very prone to this, so his keepers want to make sure they catch it early if necessary. At the moment, Ron is in perfect health and his teeth are beautiful!

Ron is quite a shy cheetah and likes to have a very strict routine and structure to his daily life. Because of this, Ron's keepers practise regular catch cage training with his so that it becomes part of his daily routine in case he needs any long-term treatment in his old age. Ron's routine involves coming inside the catch cage for his main meal of the day. When he enters the cage, both doors either end are open, as he settles down to eat his keepers slowly shut both doors and let him finish eating. Once Ron has finished, one door is opened, and he is able to leave calmly. This simple practise allows Ron to become accustomed to a stress-free

environment where his keepers can work with him safely for things such as blood draws or fluid therapy.

Towards the end of this year, Ron has become very submissive within his coalition which affects him during feeding time. His keepers have now started to separate him so that he has more time and some peace and quiet whilst he eats. It hasn't affected his standing within his coalition, in fact it has made everything much calmer and less confrontational. It also helps his keepers out because they can give him extra supplements and a more specialised diet without worrying about the other males stealing from him.

Ron has had a very quiet end to the year, busy season has ended, and he spent a lot of his time being visited by guests in a safari vehicle. Ron is very lucky and has a large enclosure that our tour guides are able to drive into and educate guests about cheetahs from an open vehicle. Ron doesn't mind this at all and usually lays happily near the vehicle so people can get a good look at him.





Ron



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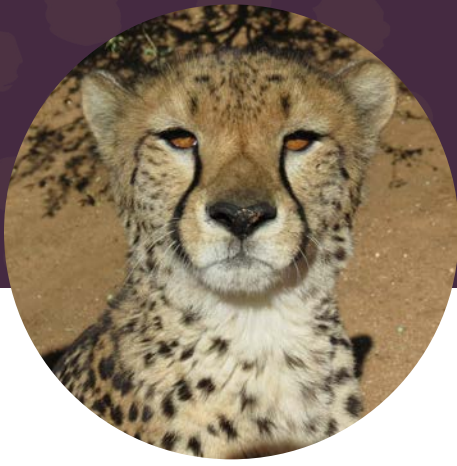
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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Sasha**

Sasha came to CCF in January 2018 at around 5 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 week 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 matured a lot the end of this year and is growing up very fast. She's bonded nicely now with Dominic and Savannah who are around the same age as her. Normally cheetahs don't have a hierarchy within their groups but it's very clear that Sasha is the most dominant member within this group and what she says goes!

Sasha is a very confident but gentle cheetah and can be very affectionate at times. Sasha can normally be found lazing in the sun with her group mates near the horse stables, one of her favourite past times is to watch the horses come in every evening. She never shows any bad behaviour towards them, she just sits quietly on her mound and closely watches each one come in at the end of the day.

Sasha has made some new small friends this year, two cubs named Jaya and Rocket. Sasha's enclosure backs on to the nursery pen where orphaned cubs are raised here at CCF. Sasha is the perfect neighbour for the cubs to have as she can teach them how to be cheetahs, from vocalise properly to behaving like a cheetah. The cubs adore Sasha as she will always come right up to the fence line and let them interact

with her. She's incredibly gentle with them both almost like a mother cheetah, Sasha has even been seen letting the cubs suck on her ears through the fence and a lot of grooming. This is perfect for the cubs as they rely much less on their human keepers.

Once the cubs have fledged the nurse, Sasha is going to be moved to a much larger adult cheetah pen. This is much further into the bush away from the centre so that she can see more wildlife and have that extra space she needs.

The rain has come early this year to Namibia which means our bird populations are flourishing, especially hornbills. Even though Sasha has never been a wild cheetah, she has perfected the art of hunting these hornbills perfectly and now supplements her own diet with them. Her keepers don't mind too much as this is a perfectly natural behaviour that brings out her wild side!





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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



**Senay**

as the "Ambassadors". She is now 9 years old and doing well.

The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just 3 weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised here by the Director, Dr Laurie Marker. This means they are very accustomed to people and enjoy a lot of attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them whilst they purr as loud as possible through the fence. Unfortunately, due to their love of people, they cannot be released into the wild so remain ambassadors for their species here at CCF helping educate the guests that come through every day!

The remainder of 2019 has been relaxing for Senay, during the peak busy season she spent most of her time sitting along the fence purring at guests as they learnt about cheetahs and her story. Senay is one of our main ambassador cheetahs so guests get to meet her everyday as she lives at the main centre and participates in the "Cheetah Run" and many tours throughout the day. Senay is a favourite amongst guests as she will always come right up to the fence, purr as loud as possible and pose for photographs.

The rainy season has started early this year so Senay's enclosure is starting to blossom with lots of fresh, new plants. One plant has a very strong smell and Senay loves to rub herself against it making sure that she smells the same as the plant! During the rainy season, Senay has access to an extra enclosure that has a

large sheltered area so Senay and her three siblings can all fit in comfortably and watch the rain from a warm and cosy spot. Cheetahs don't like to get their fur wet if they can help it, especially Senay. During the rainy season, if Senay becomes even slightly wet her entire attitude will change towards everyone and she becomes very grumpy. Her keepers can always tell if she has been rained on by the expression on her face!

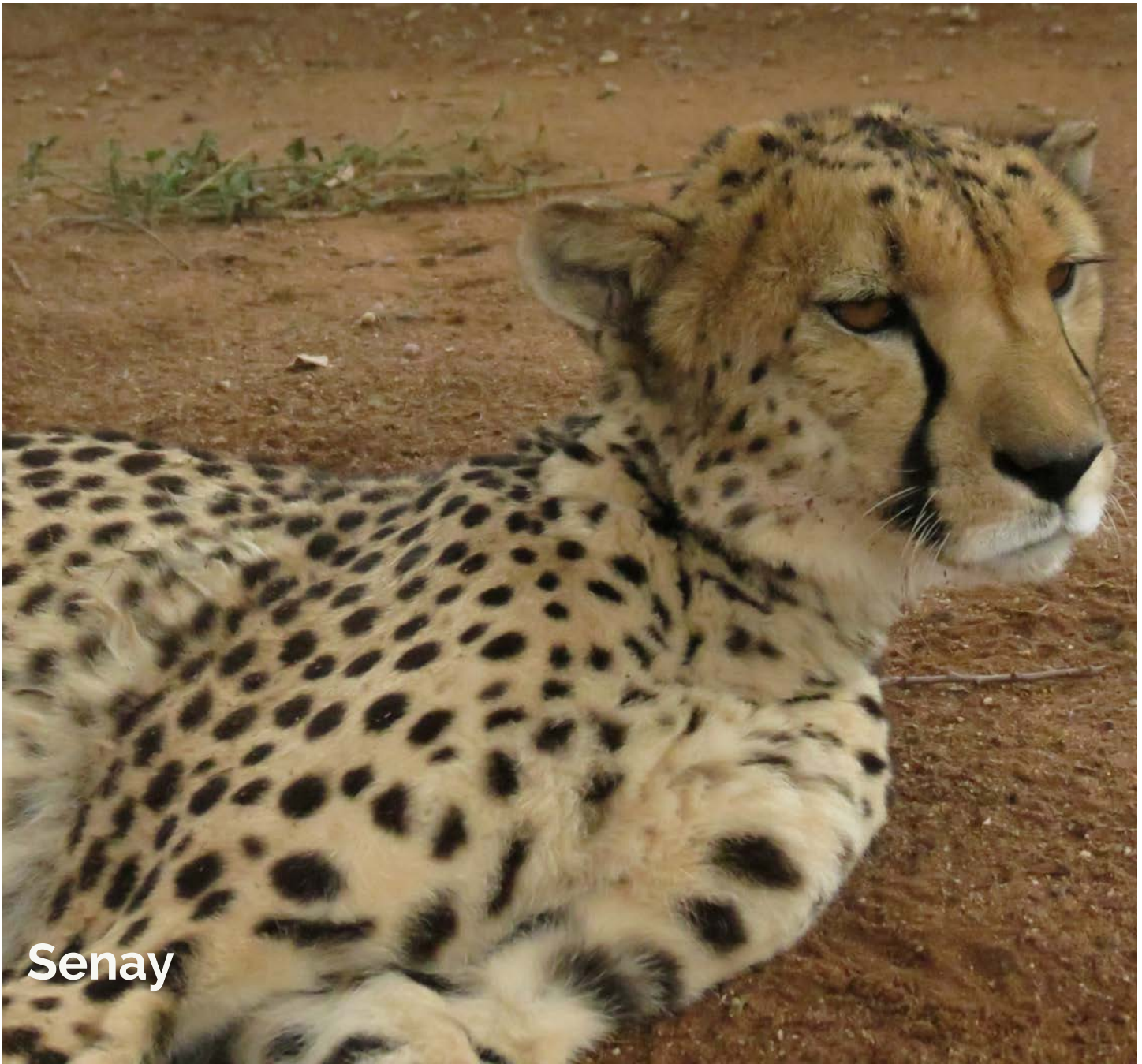
Senay hasn't changed much and continues to be very independent and aloof. Senay has a very small group of people that she likes and will always be overly affectionate towards them, everyone else usually gets her back or absolutely no attention from her at all. Senay and her siblings have made some new friends this year, two cheetah cubs named Jaya and Rocket.

Senay's enclosure is next to the cheetah nursery pens, so she gets to interact with the young cubs as they are growing up, this is important for the cubs to be able to learn normal cheetah behaviours from adult cheetahs rather than just their human keepers. Senay and her siblings are very gentle and affectionate towards younger cubs, so they make the perfect match to help the cubs grow up.

Senay especially likes the female cub "Jaya" and has been seen trotting up and down the fence playing with her, which is a shock to all her keepers as she generally tries to avoid other cheetahs.

**December 2019**





Senay



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# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)

December 2019



**Shunga**

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 11 years old. Shunga is loved by any guest that visits him because of his chatty nature. He loves to vocalise to everyone to let them know how he's feeling! Every day he comes into the feeding camps for his keepers, he will chirp and meow as loud as possible until he is fed!

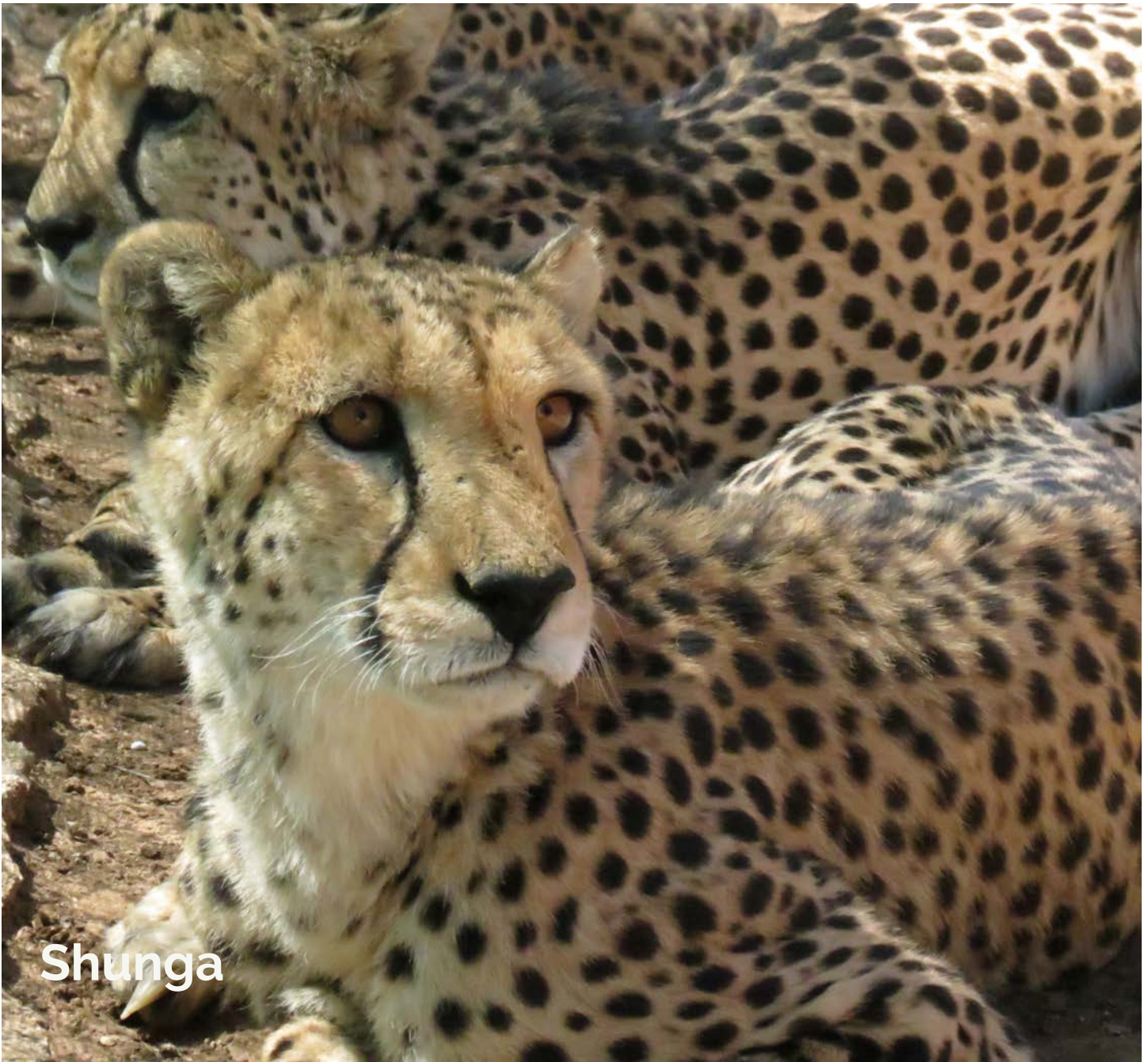
Shunga has had a quiet end to 2019 and spends his time in a large enclosure for his retirement. Because his enclosure is so large, safari vehicles are able to drive inside and give guest an up-close personal experience of the cheetahs. Shunga needed quite a bit of training to be able to have safari vehicles enter as he was always very interested in the tyres and shiny rims. His keepers continuously entered his enclosure in a safari vehicle and used positive reinforcement training to help him overcome his interest. Now he makes the perfect educational ambassador cheetah by lying close to the vehicle whilst our tour guides explain his story and what we do here at CCF.

Shunga continues to be mischievous and nousey, although since moving to the retirement enclosure his behaviour has changed a lot.

He is much calmer, easier to work with and generally less highly strung. His enclosure backs onto open bush land so he has a really nice view daily from the mounds in his enclosure. In the wild cheetahs would use high points to investigate, scent mark and look for prey/predators. In captivity it's just as important to give them these high points whether artificial or naturally occurring so they can use their great long-distance vision to behave as naturally as possible. Inside Shunga's enclosure his keepers have made large mounds from sand near the back so that he can look out into the bush and watch the wild prey species that pass by – or the occasional wild cheetah!

Shunga and his coalition spend most of their day on these mounds and only really come down to get their food for the day. Because of Shunga's age, he is given extra supplements in his diet to help his joints and overall health. This is either hidden in his daily meal, or if he spits out (which happens often) his keepers will hide the small tablets inside his favourite treat – heart.





Shunga



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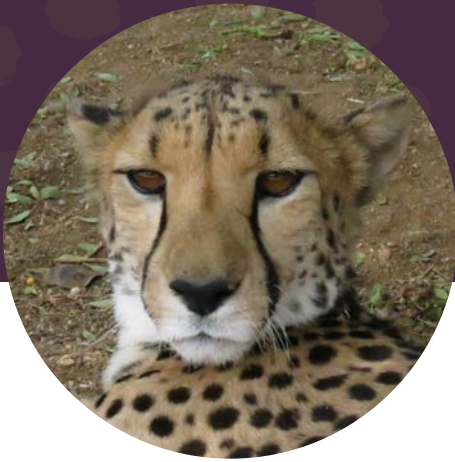
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LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG PROGRAM  
**25 Years**

# Ongeyipi from Namibia!

(Hello)



## Tigerlily

known as the "Ambassadors". She is now 9 years old.

The Ambassadors were brought to CCF at just 3 weeks old and were bottle fed and hand raised here by the Director, Dr Laurie Marker. This means they are very accustomed to people and enjoy a lot of attention from the staff, or anyone willing to talk to them whilst they purr as loud as possible through the fence. Unfortunately, due to their love of humans, they cannot be released into the wild so remain ambassadors for their species here at CCF helping educate the guests that come through every day!

The remainder of 2019 has been relaxing for Tigerlily, during the peak busy season she spent most of her time sitting along the fence purring at guests as they learnt about cheetahs and her story. Tigerlily is one of our main ambassador cheetahs so guests get to meet her everyday as she lives at the main centre and participates in the "Cheetah Run" and many tours throughout the day. Tigerlily is a favourite amongst guests as she will always come right up to the fence, purr as loud as possible and pose for photographs.

The rainy season has started early this year so Tigerlily's enclosure is starting to blossom with lots of fresh, new plants. One plant has a very strong smell and Tigerlily loves to rub herself against it making sure that she smells the same as the plant! During the rainy season, Tigerlily has access to an extra enclosure that has a

large sheltered area so Tigerlily and her three siblings can all fit in comfortably and watch the rain from a warm and cosy spot. Cheetahs don't like to get their fur wet if they can help it!

Tigerlily hasn't changed much and continues to be very independent and aloof. Earlier this year her keepers noticed she started selectively hearing commands and would only respond to keepers when she wanted to, making everyone's lives quite difficult. Tigerlily's keepers did some top up training with her to keep her on the right track. For now, she is coming every time she is called and rewarded with her favourite treat – chopped up heart.

During feeding time, Tigerlily likes to eat on top of a small rock in her enclosure. Her keepers always provide her with a dish to eat from, but she always takes it out and puts it on the shaded rock regardless. Because of this behaviour, she's quite popular with the guests at feeding time! Generally, cheetahs like to keep their meat nice and clean so will eat from the inside of their kill in the wild, we try to replicate this behaviour at CCF by providing a small dish for them to place their meat if they want – which is what most of our residents chose to do!

Tigerlily and her siblings have made some new friends this year, two cheetah cubs named Jaya and Rocket. Tigerlily's enclosure is next to the cheetah nursery pens, so she gets to interact with the young cubs as they are growing up, this is important for the cubs to be able to learn normal cheetah behaviours from adult cheetahs rather than just their human keepers. Tigerlily and her siblings are very gentle and affectionate towards younger cubs, so they make the perfect match to help the cubs grow up.

December 2019



Tigerlily especially likes the female cub "Jaya" and has been seen trotting up and down the fence playing with her.



**Happy Holidays!** Thank you for sharing our vision: To see a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in coexistence with people and the environment.

Celebrate CCF's Year of the Livestock Guarding Dog! We hope you will join CCF and hundreds of Namibian farmers in celebrating the 25th anniversary of CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog (LGD) program this year. Your sponsorship support ensures the future of our LGD program along with all of CCF's science-based, conservation focused, holistic programs across the cheetah's range.

