

CHEETAH SPOTS

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia

| Summer 2017/18

International Cheetah Day 2017

December 4th, celebrate International Cheetah Day with your friends, family, and co-workers. Zoos and schools around the world will be hosting cheetah awareness events. If you decide to host your own event, register it at: www.internationalcheetahday.org. In addition to being financial supporters, many zoos have CCF's work and programs featured at their cheetah exhibits. Visit your local zoo and learn about their conservation efforts.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Australian chapter of CCF, please visit www.cheetah.org.au

Thanks to you!

Since last year, when CCFA acquired DGR status (donations are now tax deductible), we have collected more than AU\$ 25,000 and sent this to CCF in Namibia! Thank you to all who made donations, large and small, and a special thank you to an anonymous donor who contributed \$15,000.

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Five Little Balls of Fur Born at Monarto

by Kathleen Ager, Director, Cheetah
Conservation Fund Australia



Waiting for Mamma!

On Melbourne Cup Day, I was privileged to meet the "The Famous Five" Monarto cubs. In human years, they are teenagers now, still a bit timid and attached to Mum, but starting to show some forays into independence and a few brat behaviours.

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CCF Brings Forth Comprehensive Textbook on Cheetahs

After over three years' worth of work, bringing together a network of cheetah researchers and conservationists from her lifetime in the field of conservation, Dr. Laurie Marker is very excited to bring forth the most comprehensive book on cheetah conservation. Cheetahs – Biology and Conservation Biodiversity of the World: Conservation from Genes to Landscapes is set to release in November, by science publishers, Elsevier, but is now available for presale!

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/cheetahs-biology-and-conservation/nybus/978-0-12-804088-1>

Cheetahs, Biology and Conservation reports on the science and conservation of the cheetah both in situ and ex situ. The 500 page volume includes 40 Chapters on a broad range of topics, demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of cheetah research and conservation efforts. The book begins with chapters on the evolution, genetics, physiology, ecology and behavior of this species, leading into the challenges facing their survival, and the conservation solutions being employed by dedicated conservation scientists, followed by chapters on captive management and the methodologies used in the study of this enigmatic fast cat.

Distribution reports from around the regions are included as well as a better

understanding of how international conventions (CITES, CMS, etc.), and enough. The majority of people will



never know what goes on behind the scenes of Africa's beautiful but fragile wildlife. The hard work, the sacrifice and at times the risk that rangers take in protecting the magnificent animals from the greed of mankind.

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Thanks must also go to Zoos SA, whose open range campus at Monarto houses a very successful cheetah breeding program; they donated a substantial amount. And pride of place should also go to young Bethany Pfeiffer, who raised \$342 for us, through her friends and school. Another Australian cheetah fan, Xander Plooy, has emblazoned his leg with a cheetah tattoo, raising awareness and funds through his workplace. Unfortunately, donors are too numerous to mention individually, but thank you to you all! Without you, we would not have achieved what we have today!



With uninterrupted views of the Waterberg Plateau, the five room Cheetah View Lodge is the ideal setting for travellers who want to witness a world class conservation facility at work.

New visitors' accommodation at CCF Namibian headquarters

The new Cheetah View Lodge has five private rooms and a communal dining room overlooking a waterhole with views of the Waterberg Plateau.

Accommodation fees include breakfast and dinner plus a 15% discount off all cheetah activities, from cheetah drives to the popular cheetah runs. All proceeds from the lodge support the CCF's continuing efforts to save the cheetah, promote ethical farming and teach coexistence in Namibia.

The Meal House offers a full service restaurant with an open-air veranda for lounging and wildlife viewing at the purpose-built waterhole. The large family room situated below the Meal House also overlooks the waterhole with similarly breathtaking views of the Waterberg Plateau in the distance.

The two guestroom buildings are split into individual suites each with their own private entrance and porch area.

The four standard suites include a double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and a lounge with sofa to accommodate up to two adults. The family room is larger and comfortably takes up to two adults and two additional children in one double and two singles beds.

Remember, a visit to CCF makes a valuable contribution to our work and the conservation of the cheetah, not only in Namibia but across its range.

To book, please go to <http://www.cheetahecolodge.com/overnight-booking/>

Cheetah Wine Better Than Ever!

Make sure you order your celebratory drinks at www.goodwillwine.com.au. Select a charity, Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia of course, then select your case of wine - these are superb vegan wines and, in view of the quality, represent good value! Every case you buy puts \$20 in our coffers!



Cub Update from Monarto Zoo South Australia 2017

by Michelle Lloyd, Carnivore Keeper at Monarto Zoo

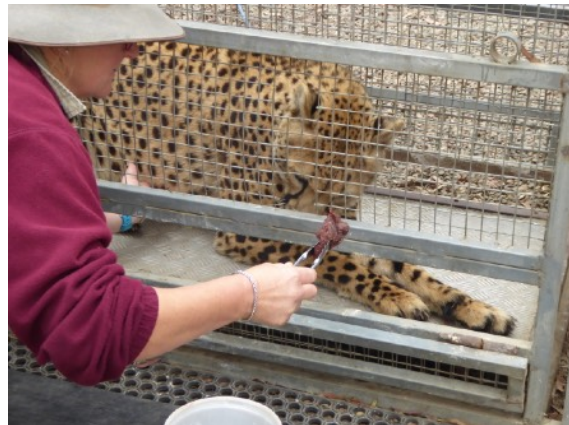
Monarto Zoo, a 1,500 hectare Open Range Zoo in South Australia, has successfully bred four generations of cheetah cubs. The current litter of five cubs, born on 24 March 2017, to breeding queen Kesho, is six months old.

Kesho, a five year old who was also bred at Monarto Zoo, successfully mothered this litter. Cheetah queens are notorious for mis-mothering their first litter and it is believed that they need to learn the first time round to get it right from then on. So it is amazing that Kesho has done such a great job with her first litter.

Kesho's cubs were born in one of the breeding dens at the rear of the breeding yards. Solar powered cameras in the den captured the births, and subsequently any issues that may have occurred.

Kesho was conditioned, a long time before any pregnancies, to come down the front of her yard, into her lock away, and then into a small training area where she is completely comfortable to have the gates shut either end and then be trained on cue to be touched on the stomach (to check teat development), on the leg (for intramuscular injections) and have her tail brought out through a small opening at the bottom (for blood extraction). While the blood is being

taken Kesho receives a bigger piece of meat to chew and distract her.



This conditioning has been vital to keep a close check on how the females have been progressing through pregnancy and post-partum, and enabled us to pick up Kesho's urinary tract infection and treat her rapidly.

The cubs had their first catchup at six weeks of age. While Kesho came down to her lock away to receive her breakfast as normal, she was closed in and I was able to enter into the yard where the cubs scurried safely into their den, I then shut the door. Our vet team came in with other members of our carnivore team to help. We were able to quickly grab a cub and bag it, then sex, microchip, health check and vaccinate. It all went very smoothly and was a great testament to the conditioning and training that had been put in place. Every month for the next six months the cubs needed follow-up vaccinations and of course we were never able to catch them like the first time. So for



Photograph Adrian Mann

the continuing five vaccinations that needed to be administered each month, So, when Kesho was brought into her training area and fed as normal, I was able to enter the yard with the cubs waiting alongside mum, place their meat down and, while they huddled around the large meat piece completely fixated on food. I was able to go sit beside them, scruff them and give them their vaccination successfully without stressing them at all. We are proud that this practice was so successful yet again.

We were quite surprised to find that we had four females and only one male, given males usually form a coalition with their brothers. As part of the Australasian region, we work closely with other zoos like Taronga's Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo which also breed cheetah, to swap and

change to ensure best genetic diversity. Fortunately, Western Plains Zoo had a litter born where there was a single male approximately five or so months older than our male. So we hope that, in the near future, we can integrate the two males, to create a possible breeding coalition.

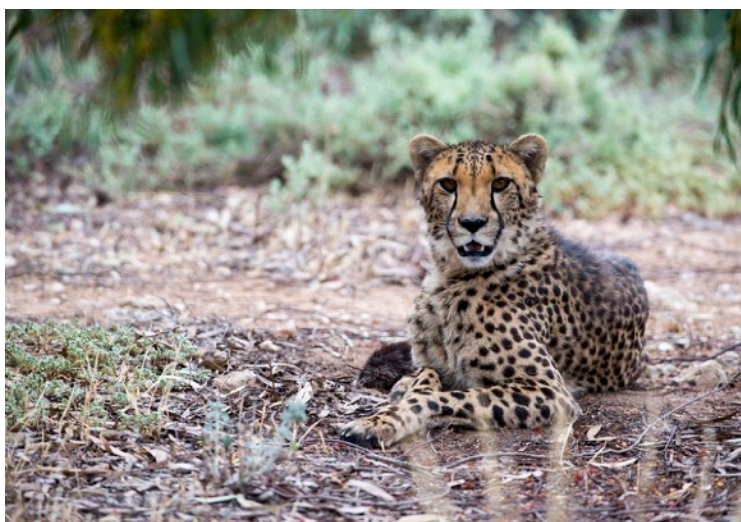
Our cubs have grown very fast. They are no longer little round fluffy balls but are starting to get the distinctive lean structure of the adult cheetah. During our cheetah encounter. Kesho and all her cubs come happily over to our encounter area and take treats through the fence. Our cheetah encounter has been a very successful tour, raising vital funds for the preservation of cheetah in the wild. With this goal in mind, Monarto work in collaboration with Cheetah Fund Australia.

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I regretted having not taken a trip to Monarto earlier, as I had clearly missed their childhood and only a shadow of their mantle remained. However, it was lovely to see them still interact like true siblings, lying down to eat in a perfect star formation.

A competition was run to name the cubs, and the winning names are as follows: the sole male is called Akiki, Swahili for friend, (as he clearly needs one in order to form a coalition)! And the females are Imani (faith), Ayana (happy), Tafara (pretty flower) and Zari (golden).

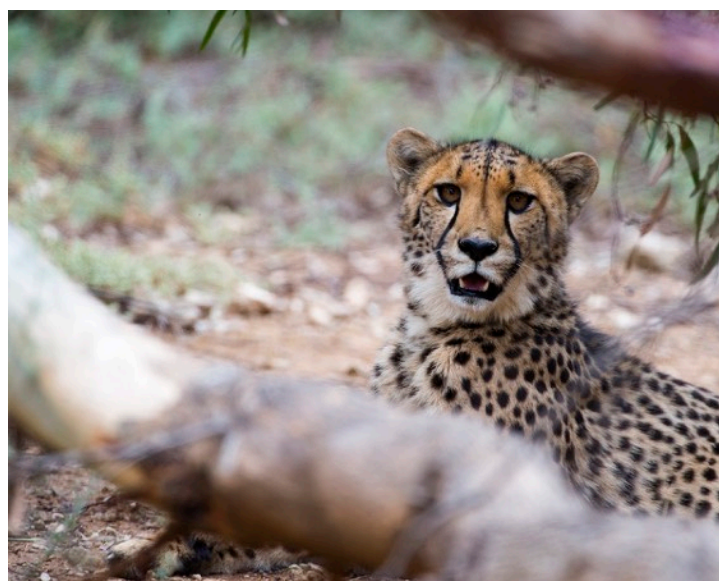
Qailee, photographed by Adrian Mann



We also got to meet the new two-year old girls who arrived four months ago from the Cango Wildlife Ranch in South Africa, Quella and Qailee, to become future breeding queens. They are both going through a period of adaptation to a new environment and regime. They are super, super friendly, and, at this stage, appear more interested in human contact than in contact with cheetah males! Nevertheless, the future of Monarto

breeding program rests in their paws.

Breeding programs, such as Monarto's, are vital to the survival of the wild cheetah. Although the primary goal of cheetah conservation is to ensure that cheetahs survive untouched in the wild, careful captive breeding ensures that a genetically healthy stock remains available to reintroduce into the wild should a catastrophic event lead to the cheetah's extinction. Monarto is an ethical zoo and a charity, which always ensures that its cubs are kept in conditions as close as possible to those they would experience in the wild. Thank you Michelle and all the staff at Monarto for their great work.



Quella, photographed by Adrian Mann