

CHEETAH SPOTS

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia

| Summer 2018/19

International Cheetah Day 2018

This year, December 4th falls on a Tuesday. This is a work day for most of us, so please take the opportunity to celebrate with your work mates..Zoos and schools around the world will be hosting cheetah awareness events.. 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

What you can do on 4 December?

Here are some things you can do to celebrate International Cheetah Day on December 4th:

- Learn about cheetahs - check out www.cheetah.org.au for cheetah facts.
- Wish everyone you meet a very "Happy International Cheetah Day!".

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The Pitter Patter of Tiny Cheetah Paws...



The Monarto foursome (photo Jaimee Foote)

We were so excited last year when five little balls of fur were born to Kesho, a five-year-old cheetah at Monarto Zoo. It had been five years since there had been cubs born in South Australia.

But 2018 has surpassed all expectations with an amazing 10 cubs born in Australia, four to Kesho at Monarto (two years in a row - what a busy mother) in May and another six to Kyan at Dubbo in June.



Australia's largest open range zoo

Kesho is a six-year-old whose first litter was born last year to ?. However, the father of the new litter is Saadani, a seven-year-old cheetah imported from the Netherlands to bring new genes to our Australian captive-bred cheetahs. Saadani has been rather shy with the ladies in the past, but it seems he has finally found his mojo! The new cubs include one male, Thumani, and three females Mapenzi, Kuishi and Mara.

Kyan is a special cheetah as she is a King cheetah.



Kyan with three of her cubs

Kyan is a four-time mother, and this time, again, the father was Jana, Kesho's brother, born in Monarto.

All the cubs are doing well. To visit them, please go to <https://www.monartozoo.com.au> and <https://www.taronga.org.au/dubbo-zoo>

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Here are some things you can do to celebrate International Cheetah Day on December 4th:

- Read *Freeda The Cheetah* by Picklefish Press! The Kindle version is free to download on Amazon.
- Download the Conservation Passport. When you finish the activities print out your very own Certificate of Cheetah Achievement!
- Join the conversation on Twitter by using hashtags #Loud4Cheetahs, #SaveTheCheetah, & #IntlCheetahDay. Use our Tweet Sheet to send tweets simply and easily. Just log in to your Twitter account and then open the Tweet Sheet. Click the TWEET button to instantly post to your Twitter page.
- Share a cheetah image on your social media profile for the day, week or month.
- Watch and share this special International Cheetah Day video message from Richard Wiese.

“Light as a Feather” A rescue story

Somaliland is a little-known self-declared state bordered by Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia. Crucially, it is in the Horn of Africa, close to the Middle-East regions where cheetahs are sought-after status symbol pets.

The Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Rural Development confiscate cubs from poachers and hand them over to a team of two carers.

Two cubs had been illegally removed from their mother at about three weeks old - way too young to be taken away from the sole being capable of providing the right nutrition and care. Imagine a human baby being removed from its mother at that age. It would have to fight immune and nutritional deficiencies, possibly for its whole life.

Six other cubs had been confiscated a couple of weeks earlier. The two-people team in Somaliland was suddenly in charge of 12 cheetahs and other confiscated animals. They were overwhelmed

So Patricia Tricorache and Laurie Marker went on emergency trips to Somaliland to help out. Both cubs were delicate and needed constant care. They were too young for vaccines. For almost a month, first Laurie, then Patricia, spent days and nights in a room at the Adams Inn, providing round-the-clock care.

Sadly, one of the two cubs died. Laurie did everything she could to keep her alive to

no avail. She attempted CPR for a couple of hours and called a human doctor who brought oxygen. Nothing worked and after a few hours the little cub was gone. Her sister, whom Laurie named Light as a Feather, became a cause of constant concern. Little Feather was well one moment and bad the next. Laurie and Patricia were constantly adjusting her formula and meat intake to get her to gain weight and improve her digestion.



As for the other six cubs confiscated earlier in August, of different ages between three and six months old, they also began to improve but needed a better space. They had been kept in an office building. Luckily, a rental house with a very large yard was secured. Feather seemed to enjoy her new “digs” and did not show any signs of stress and two weeks later, she has doubled her weight.

Shortly afterwards, three more cubs were confiscated by the Somaliland authorities. Just as Light as a Feather and her sister, these cubs were very young, approximately four weeks, and very skinny. The arrival of these three cubs represented a huge concern as they would require intensive care. Luckily, a former CCF volunteer, Jessica Martin, made herself available to help.

The cubs at first seemed to be in better shape than little Feather and her sister. They were very skinny and dehydrated but had an appetite and their digestion appeared to be working fairly well. Everything seemed to be more or less steady. But a week after their arrival, the smallest of the three, Kulan, collapsed suddenly, with her temperature dangerously low. Efforts to warm her up and to hydrate her with warm fluids and glucose were in vain. Within 3 hours, at 1:30 am, she was gone.

By morning, the remaining female, Kidi, collapsed and became completely unresponsive and comatose. The male,

Galol, was not completely well but definitely better than Kidi.

Laurie in the US and Patricia in Russia were in contact with the Somaliland team nonstop, as well as with vets around the world, trying to help. One of the vets suggested getting protein into her body and to attempt tube feeding. This was the first time for the Hargeisa team tubing a cub, but they did a great job and Kidi was fed. This seemed to immediately make a difference and tubing was not needed again as she quickly became more alert and began eating without assistance. But then Galol, the healthiest of the three, who was eating regularly and gave less reasons to be concerned, also collapsed suddenly and died the next morning.

The team in Hargeisa has gone through all this tension and sadness, but yet continue to look after all the other cheetahs. Jess is looking after Kidi, who was close to dying but is showing slight improvement. Neju continues to look after Light as a Feather as well as the six cubs from early August and four other cheetahs confiscated in previous months.

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!

