

# CHEETAH SPOTS

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia | Autumn 2019

## Monarto Special

There are currently 16 cheetahs (including cubs) at Monarto Zoo, something certainly worth celebrating - hence this special edition of our newsletter. Wonderful Monarto-bred mother, six-year-old Kesho, has produced nine offspring in the last two years, and accounts for ten of those individuals.



*Kesho, with two of her younger cubs, 10-month-olds Mapenzi (front) and Thumani (right).*



The six others are: male and father of Kesho's second litter seven-year-old Saadani; Milele, Kesho's sister; two imports from the Cango Wildlife Ranch in South Africa, Quella and Qailee, who are destined to become breeding queens; and ex-ambassador Kwatile, who was hand-raised due to being a singleton. Obi, from Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, has formed an independent coalition with Akiki, male from Kesho's first litter.



*The cheetabs have plenty of space to roam in their paddock, as demonstrated by Ayana.*

The two-year-olds are very different in appearance and personality: Zari is really big (44kgs and super tall); Tafara is smaller and more timid; Imani has recovered well from an early crippling case of septic arthritis, requiring surgery, so is a little sheltered. Ayana is very dominant and aggressive, and definitely the leader of the little pack. They behave as they would in the wild, and Michelle Lloyd, their keeper, keeps at a distance, yet, thanks to their conditioning, they are very easy to treat when bloods need taking or medication administered.



*The younger cubs licking Michelle's fingers through the wire.*



*Eleven-month-old male Thumani, and females Mapenzi, Kuishi and Mara, eating in star formation.*

Monarto's cheetah population is now at capacity, but there are plans afoot to extend their compound further... More to come



*Two-year olds Zari (left) and a yawning Tafara, enjoying the shade on a hot day.*

## Update on Somaliland illegal cheetah trade from Patricia Tricorache

Over the past two months, there has been a lot of illegal wildlife trade activity in Somaliland. Three cubs were confiscated on February 19th and are currently being cared for at the Cheetah Conservation Fund's safe house. The cubs were extremely young at about 6 weeks old but are recovering, although young cubs will often become ill in spite of the best care. Their long term prognosis remains guarded. Less than a month later, on March 11th, four approximately 10-week-old cubs were handed over. When they were confiscated, they were on their way to be sold in Hargeisa. The cubs were quite scared and presented a few health issues, as young cubs in transit to market often do. They were fed and given a work-up and seem to be doing much better. Two days after that confiscation, on March 13, two more cubs were brought in. This pair were about 12 weeks old and came from the Erigavo region in eastern Somaliland. Erigavo is quite far from Hargeisa, so it took an overnight trip to get the two cubs to the safe house. They were fearful, and also presented with digestive issues, requiring hydration

and careful hand feeding. They too are now slowly improving.



*Three cubs confiscated in February from Hargeisa*

There are now a total of 23 cheetahs living in the safe house in Somaliland, and more are currently under investigation. We continually get reports of new cheetahs being offered for sale, the majority followed by an influx of incredibly ill animals. We are disappointed to see that no arrests have been linked to any of these recent confiscations. The lack of penalty is concerning because it means that poachers who lose cubs to confiscation are simply free to go out and get more.

However, CCF is very keen to keep our relationships strong in the region and will continue to work with the authorities to encourage stricter enforcement of the law. We have spent many years building trust and confidence with the regional governments where poaching is most prevalent and also within the international community through involvement with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and cooperation with fellow NGOs.

One of our biggest challenges now is reaching the communities where poaching is part of the income

stream. To prevent poaching for the illegal pet market we need to raise awareness on a community level and educate people about the destructive impact of the trade. Cheetahs have a long history of being kept as pets and regional cultures still view the practice as acceptable. People are not fully aware of how the trade impacts the wild population and they are not always aware that for each cub they buy, several more died in the process of being taken from the wild and transported to be sold. Unless we are able to stop the poaching of cubs on the ground, we will continue to see sick and frightened young animals that need our help.

## Cheetah Wine Has New Labels

Make sure you order your wine at [www.goodwillwine.com.au](http://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 very good value! Remember that 50% of profits go to our charity.

