

Spring 2006

No. 23

International Effort Saves Ethiopian Cheetah Orphans

Thanksgiving 2005 will remain a memorable day for many cheetah friends around the world. It was the day two orphan cheetahs' lives were saved in a remote corner of Africa; a true demonstration of the power of people across the globe combining their efforts to achieve a goal.



AP Photo/Boris Heger

The cubs, five months of age, were illegally purchased at a local market for 50 birr (\$6 US) by a local hotel owner. The U.S. Military Civil Affairs in Gode reported that the cubs were severely mistreated by the owner who tried to sell the cubs for \$1000. This infraction resulted in the U.S. Military personnel to call upon CCF for guidance.

Through our extensive CCF network, we were able to organize a group of Ethiopian officials, helped by representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Addis, the U.S. military unit, and the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program, to confiscate the cubs and fly them to Addis for veterinary attention and proper care and housing.

(Continued on Page 3)

Who Won the Audi TT Coupe?

Audi of America joined CCF last October in sponsoring the *Drive to Survive* Tour and Sweepstakes to raise awareness and funds to save cheetahs in the wild. Audi donated an Audi TT Coupe to CCF, and the renowned New York artist and cheetah supporter, Lynn Chase, created a spectacular "cheetah" makeover for the car.

The lucky winner of this one-of-a-kind car was Gregor Freund, a San Francisco Bay area CCF supporter. But the story continues - as Gregor wishes to donate the car back to CCF. A big thank you to Gregor! And a big thanks to the *Drive to Survive* team and Trustee Susan Babson, without whom none

of this could have been possible. Every ticket purchased contributed to CCF's efforts in saving the cheetah from extinction. Thank you all for this successful tour.



A Note from Dr. Marker

Dear CCF Friends,

Accomplishing our mission at CCF stands first and foremost in our minds, and in our efforts, to keep the cheetah wild and free from our Centre in Namibia. Very few facilities worldwide offer the "hands-on" training that students receive here. This year, the clinic was a hive of activity as groups from as far afield as Canada, New York and Mozambique watched CCF's resident cheetahs undergo annual physical exams and health checks. The clinic's procedures and practices, accompanied by CCF's interns, veterinarians and staff, proved to be a most exciting observation experience for the students involved.

To support all the programs of survival for the endangered cheetah and its ecosystem, we continually count on the contributions of our donors and our fund-raising efforts; therefore, I must mention that this past fall's *Drive to Survive* Tour sponsored by CCF and Audi of America proved to be a great national awareness vehicle for Cheetah Conservation Fund.

I appreciate so much everyone's involvement from the CCF/Audi crew to our stakeholders and Sweep-

(Continued on Page 2)



A Note from Laurie Marker (continued)

stake donors, in particular Tour leader and CCF Trustee Susan Babson.

There is always so much to glean from all my travels and journeys, and this past October I had the pleasure of presenting Cheetah Conservation Fund's 2005 Lifetime Conservation Award to Bwana Philip Osborne, in Atlanta, for his dedication in helping to get CCF started back in 1991. Phil

was one of CCF's dearest supporters and one of the original donors of the land where CCF's Research and Education Centre resides in Namibia. Phil has always been a staunch supporter of cheetah conservation, never tiring in his generous scope of efforts in Namibia and through all of Africa.

Please check the calendar of events on our web site for my 2006 East to West Coast tour this spring at www.cheetah.org.

Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF Executive Director

Namibian Orphan Cheetahs Arrive at CCF

Speaking of orphans, three more cheetah cubs are now at CCF. We have named them after the Hogwarts' trio in the Harry Potter stories: Harry, Ron and Hermione. A farmer who had become aware of the three cubs calling in vain for their mother, captured them and called CCF. The fate of their mother remains unknown, but they are adapting very well to their home at CCF and remind us daily of our cheetah conservation calling.

Funding for our research and conservation programs for the wild cheetahs are our primary concern at CCF. For this reason, I would like to ask all of you, our cheetah friends from all over the world, to help us share the responsibility for the care of cheetahs such as these. As we begin 2006, I would like to invite you to help cheetah conservation by giving a live gift to a loved one by sponsoring one or more of the orphan cubs at CCF. To learn more on how to sponsor a cheetah, please visit the Sponsorship page at www.cheetah.org.



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For more information about CCF, contact:

CCF USA, PO Box 198072, Cincinnati, OH 45219-8072, USA.

Telephone: (513) 487-3399

Email: info@cheetah.org

Editorial Committee:

Dr. Laurie Marker
Gregg Hudson
Greg Hanson
Lynda Gearheart
Patricia Tricorache

Contributors:

Bonnie Schumann
Paula Martin

Southern African Regional Cheetah Workshop

In December 2005, 32 people from eight countries attended the Southern African Regional Cheetah Workshop hosted by Cheetah Conservation Fund Namibia. The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) of South Africa helped to facilitate this workshop with the assistance of Dr. Christine Breitenmoser, co-chair of the International World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Cat Specialist Group. Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe participated in the regional workshop which was sponsored in part by Classic Safaris and Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN).



This was the first regional cheetah meeting of its kind held under the auspices of the Global Cheetah Forum, bringing together researchers, conservationists and stakeholders to develop strategies to ensure cheetah survival in the 21st century.

A Cheetah Compendium, which combines all known information on cheetahs into a web-based program, has been set in motion. The Cat Specialist Group (CSG) will manage the compendium with its aim to be finished in six months. CCF's Director, Dr. Laurie Marker, will coordinate the compiling of the Namibian status report.

Namibian President Expresses Support for CCF's Work

The newly elected Namibian President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, expressed his support of CCF's work during a speech at The Explorers Club luncheon on September 13, 2005. "Nature conservation and the sustainable utilization of our natural resources stand at the core of our socio-economic development efforts. It is for this reason that we will continue to encourage the good work that the CCF has been doing in Namibia over the years," President Pohamba stated.



International Effort Saves Ethiopian Cheetah Orphans *(continued from front cover)*

We wish to thank everyone involved in the coordination of the orphan cubs' rescue, especially the U.S. soldiers, their families and all the Ethiopian officials.

CCF has received hundreds of inquiries and by checking our Cheetah News page at www.cheetah.org, you can follow the progress of the cheetah cubs' condition.

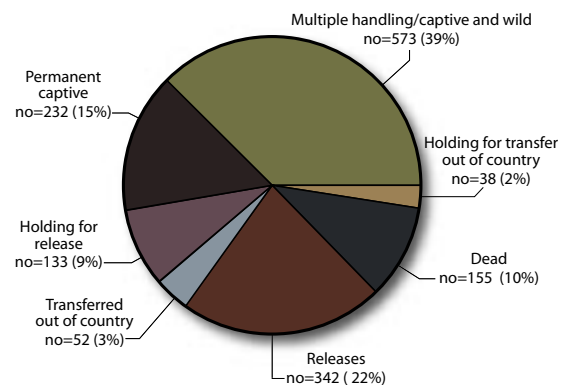
Number of Cheetahs Worked on from 1991-2005

Between 1991 and 2005, CCF has worked on 676 cheetahs in 1,525 handlings. Many of the cheetahs were attended to numerous times during their captivity for annual physicals. Mostly all the cheetahs were tagged, released, and later recaptured. See overview below:

- 500 (74%) were wild caught animals
- 100 (15%) were already in captivity
- 76 (11%) were dead animals from the wild
- 316 (47%) were caught on livestock farms
- 259 (38%) came from game farms

From the 676 animals that CCF handled over the years, 342 (50%) were released back into the wild and 52 (8%) were transferred out of country, both into the wild in South Africa and Zambia; others went into captivity in South Africa and the United States.

Reason for cheetah handlings in CCF database (n = 1525)



CANAM Update

Dr. Marker continues to work as the Chairperson for the Conservancy Association of Namibia (CANAM), which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in April 2006.

At the end of 2005, through the support of The Nature Conservancy to CCF for CANAM, CANAM developed a document detailing collaborative initiatives that would allow the commercial and communal conservancies to work closer together in conservation initiatives.

Dr. Marker is currently planning a March CANAM workshop that will focus on bringing the country's stakeholders together in order to focus on the economic benefits of wildlife.

International Youth Inspired by Namibia

This past January, 18 young people from Canada, Mozambique and Namibia were hosted in their visit to CCF by the Namibian National Youth Council Environmental Program. This program was a collaboration with other international youth institutions to focus on the research and conservation initiatives of CCF.



Dr. Laurie Marker met with the youth group to explain the mission and programs behind CCF's approach to save the endangered cheetah from extinction. Her focus was not only on the needs of the cheetah population alone, but on the livelihoods of the Namibian people as well.

While they were at CCF, annual cheetah work-ups were being performed giving the group the opportunity to participate in this investigative process. The Namibian representatives shared the environmental wealth of Namibia with their foreign peers and all were inspired by CCF's vision.

Mozambique has a cheetah population of just over 100 cheetahs. Representatives from this country said their experience at CCF really had a tremendous impact on them, and they will research funding initiatives to help save the cheetah in their home country.

In March 2005, Cheetah Conservation Fund Canada received its official charitable status, giving the Canadian students the opportunity to continue supporting CCF long after they have left Namibia.

Training Courses Planned for Namibian Farmers

CCF is once again offering training courses on "Integrated Livestock and Predator Management" to Namibian farmers in cooperation with the Smithsonian's National Zoo, Wilderness Safaris Namibia, and the Ministries of Environment and Tourism and Agriculture. The week-long courses include topics on herd health, factors affecting production, predator identification and ecology. CCF ran five courses for communal conservancy farmers in 2005 and, based on the positive response from the farmers, will be expanding the program this year.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma in Working Dogs

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) has been diagnosed in several Anatolians in Namibia. This is cause for concern as it is a very high incidence rate. This emerging problem will require further investigation in the coming year, including research to establish if other populations have reported the same problem, notably South Africa and Australia, as it is speculated that exposure to the sun could be the cause. Two out of nine mongrels examined during the Anatolian health survey in October 2004 had the same problem, and one additional dog owner reported three of her working mongrels developed the same problem over the years. CCF will be working with vets from Namibia, South Africa and Holland to investigate this problem.

CCF Gets Forest Stewardship Certification for CCF Bushblok

CCF Bush project has received its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification thanks to the management plan developed by CCF's research assistant, Matti Nghikembua and Dr. Bruce Brewer. In December, CCF was inspected for FSC certification and it passed. In addition to CCF Bush being certified, all of CCF's farms and the Research and Education Centre were inspected to ensure that they too conformed to the appropriate environmental accountable management principles.

We are pleased with how our Bushblok project has progressed through the year. It's a slow process getting the business up and running, but since October, our first two shipments of fuel logs arrived in the UK (over 400 tons). This will enable us to sell our fuel logs to a wider target market while helping save cheetah habitat. In 2006, students from the Worcester Polytech in Massachusetts will be helping to develop a web site; until then, visit www.cheetah.org for more information and updates on this exciting endeavor.



Namibian Director of Forestry, Mr. Joseph Hailwa; Dr. Marker; CCF's Research Assistant, Matti and local Otjiwarongo Forestry officer.

“The Dawning of the Year of the Cheetah” Japanese Cheetah Conservation Society (JCCS)

During the last week of 2005, a representative of the Japanese Cheetah Conservation Society, Kumiko Watanabe, and her advisor and translator, Reiko Itoh, visited Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia. Her visit to CCF brought about the signing of a memorandum of understanding resulting in JCCS now being the official Japanese Cheetah Conservation Fund affiliate. JCCS, active primarily in Tokyo, has 80 members and volunteers meeting with other conservation organizations in Asia, and spreads the word of the plight of the cheetah.

Dr. Laurie Marker introduced Ms. Watanabe to Chewbacca, CCF's ambassador cheetah. This was Ms. Watanabe's first visit to CCF and also the first time she has ever seen a live cheetah. During her visit, Ms. Watanabe helped with the feeding and the care of the cheetahs and intently learned more about the research, education and conservation programs of CCF, and the needs of the organization in terms of funding, exposure and support.



Dr. Marker with Kumiko Watanabe and Reiko Itoh.

Internationally Recognized Geneticists Visit Namibia

World-renowned geneticist and CCF's USA new Board of Director's Chairman, Dr. Stephen O'Brien, visited Namibia in November 2005. Dr. O'Brien brought with him Professor Michael Bennish, the first Director of the Wellcome Trust-funded Africa Centre for Health and Population Research in Mtubatuba. These scientists were hosted by CCF, and presented talks in Windhoek and Otjiwarongo on conservation genetics and HIV/AIDS, Aids surveillance, education and treatment in Southern Africa.



Dr. Stephen O'Brien and Prof. Michael Bennish with Otji doctors in Namibia.

CCF Kenya Moves to New Headquarters in Nairobi

From 2001 through July 2005, the CCF Kenya project team was based on the Delamere Estates. It was with the support of the Delameres and other friends on Soysambu - especially Tom and Sally Cholmondely, and the late Simon Combes and his wife, Kat - that allowed CCF to work within the network of Kenya's farming communities. The need to be closer to the Kiu project site, coupled with the bad roads, triggered finding a new home base in Nairobi. CCF Kenya's base of operations is now in the Mt. View Estate just 3km north of Westlands, Nairobi.

CCF Kenya continues affiliation with the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) and Kenya Project Director, Mary Wykstra, who continues to conduct research and education projects.

Algerian Cheetah Scat Samples Yield Their Secrets

Last year, Dr. Laurie Marker and researchers from Algeria and the Sahelo Saharan Interest Group (SSIG) collected scat samples in the Ahaggar National Park thought to be those of cheetah. CCF volunteers have been busy over the last few months carefully washing these scat samples and extracting the hair in them. Of the 48 samples, 30 had cheetah hair in them. The next step will be to have the confirmed samples analyzed for genetic material in order to evaluate the Algerian cheetahs at a genetic level. This will be done at the Zoological Society of London. The remaining hair can also, at a later stage, be identified to establish the prey base of cheetahs in Algeria, as each hair can be identified to species level. This technique has been used here in Namibia to document cheetah prey selection.

ICA, Independent Charities of America, has recently renewed CCF's membership which carries the "Best in America" seal of approval. This renewal states that we are part of the top 5% of all fund-raising agencies in the country. Congratulations CCF for this honor!

CCF Chapter News & Fall Review

Dr. Laurie Marker's 2005 Fall Tour proved to be doubly exciting with the *Drive to Survive* Tour running simultaneously this year. In September, Laurie traveled first to New York to meet with the new President of Namibia, **His Excellency President Pohamba**, at The Explorers Club for a luncheon hosted by CCF Trustee **Susan Babson**. From there, off to Chicago for AZA's conference and lectures on cheetah conservation and the survival of the species. Jackson Hole Film Festival was the next



Susan Babson and the Audi TT Coupe prior to the Drive to Survive Tour.

grand event with **Cathryn Hilker** and CCF supporter, **Darlene Anderson**. Laurie then flew back east again for the kick-off party for the *Drive to Survive* Tour at the CCF/New Jersey Nature Conservancy Gala held at the famed Doris Duke Estate.

As October ensued and both tours in full force, Laurie found herself in Vermont with Orvis Grant supporters, and later on the West Coast for a special evening at Safari West. She then lectured at WCN Expo's annual Gala affair while the CCF/Audi team met in New York for the Columbus Day Parade. Newly elected Chapter Head,

Richard Goold from Northern California held a surprise reception for Laurie at CCF Trustees **Bill and Pat Miller's** house with two cheetahs from Leopards, Etc.

Laurie then flew to Portland to witness its first and very successful Run for the Cheetah with over 625 runners! It proved to be a complete success thanks to **Teresa Delaney**, National Chairperson for the Run, and her staff of volunteers and Oregon sponsors. For more information on this year's Runs, check out our web site at www.runforthecheetah.org – Phoenix, April 23rd, Portland in October and other race cities to come.



Laurie at her stop in Portland for the Run for the Cheetah visiting with the Lion King crew.

Before flying home to Namibia, Laurie traveled to Washington, DC to attend a special thank you dinner for Congress and legislators who supported the USAID/ Bushblok grant. CCF Trustee **David Barron** from the International Conservation Caucus, planned the dinner for the legislators and friends of CCF. Along for the ride was **Kagio**, an ambassador cheetah from the Columbus Zoo. So for a few days, Capitol Hill was a buzz about cheetahs!

Laurie's last night in DC was spent with DC Chapter Head and host, **Beth Wallace**, and crew at Land Rover's special cheetah event held in Alexandria, VA. Truly, it was a most exciting and uplifting way to end another successful tour for Cheetah Conservation Fund. Many thanks to all the fall supporters, donors and volunteers who participated and made Laurie's travels safe and rewarding for the sake of the cheetah.



Margaret and Richard Schmidt with Beth Wallace at Land Rover's fund-raising event.



CCF volunteer with Richard Goold at the CCF booth during the WCN Expo.



At the Legislative Dinner in DC last October - Gary Lee, Cathryn Hilker, Ambassador Ipinge, Laurie Marker and Stephen O'Brien.



Laurie with Chris Johns at National Geographic Headquarters.

THE FASTEST ANIMAL ON EARTH IS RACING TOWARD EXTINCTION. WILL YOU HELP SAVE THE CHEETAH?

**JOIN TODAY!
CCF'S MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

The Importance of Membership

How do you place a monetary value on the importance of saving an entire species of wild animals from extinction? You cannot, and nobody else can either.

What you can do is join with other people around the world who believe as you do. Together, you join in a loud and single voice to spread the word that species conservation can be accomplished if enough people who care, care enough to get behind it.

"We Can Live Together" is CCF's motto. It embraces the core concept of successful cooperation between humans and predators. CCF is taking this positive message to a world audience to help save the cheetah—with ramification for other predators worldwide.

Join Dr. Laurie Marker and her team to help save the wild cheetah. Your help is needed in order to ensure the ongoing work of CCF. Now, for the first time ever, Charter Memberships in the organization have been authorized by its Board of Directors. Please consider joining today. Your tax deductible membership dues will help Dr. Laurie Marker and CCF continue their efforts to save the wild cheetah from extinction.

To become a member of CCF, visit www.cheetah.org.

Want to do More?

Check out the Cheetah Adoption Program

When you adopt a cheetah through this program, you receive: a CCF adoption certificate, a color photograph of the same classification of wild cheetah you "adopt" and a large CCF sticker. Your valued donation (in the form of "adoption"), is not tied to a specific animal, but is used entirely for the care and protection of all the cheetahs we work for in Africa and elsewhere.

Adoption categories:

- Adopt an Anatolian Guard Dog to Save the Cheetahs - \$500.00
- Rescue a Cheetah Trapped by a Rancher - \$350.00
- Adopt Group of Six Cheetahs - \$270.00
- Adopt Female with Three Cubs - \$180.00
- Adopt Female with Two Cubs - \$135.00
- Adopt Female with One Cub - \$90.00
- Adopt Adult Pair - \$90.00
- NEW! Adopt Cub Pair - \$90.00
- Adopt Single Adult - \$45.00
- Adopt Single Cub - \$45.00



NEW!

Sponsor one of CCF's non-releasable cheetahs or Anatolian Shepherd dogs.

You can Adopt or Sponsor online at www.cheetah.org

The Cheetah Conservation Fund would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support

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| Kenneth and Gabrielle Adelman | Richard Flintoff | The New Jersey Nature Conservancy |
| Albuquerque Biological Park/
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**In Memory of Sally Bell and Mark Hendricks.
In Honor of Susan Babson, Stewart & Mary Gunn, and Kelly Wilson.**

Donor list is based on donations in excess of \$500.

*Every effort has been made to recognize all donors at this level of giving.
Our sincere apologies for any omissions. Many thanks to everyone who has supported CCF.*

Dr. Marker's Spring USA Tour 2006

April 1-2

Dr. Marker departs Namibia for USA
Little Rock Zoo - 80th Celebration
CCF/Audi Drive to Survive Tour

April 3-5

New York/New Jersey

April 6-9

Washington, DC Chapter Events

April 10-11

Syracuse University

April 12-16

Washington, DC
Conservation Meetings
The Madeira School
Orvis - Reno Grand Opening

April 17-18

Florida Fund Raiser

April 19

University of Tennessee

April 20

EarthWatch 35th Anniversary,
New York

April 21

North Carolina State University

April 22-23

Phoenix, Arizona - Run for the
Cheetah

April 24-30

NO CA Chapter Events
Occidental College, LA

May 1-2

San Antonio, TX

May 3-5

Colorado College

May 6-7

Portland, Oregon

May 8-15

Fly to UK for Tour/Return
to Namibia

For a complete list of CCF events, please visit
www.cheetah.org

Orvis honors CCF with First-Ever International Conservation Grant!

Dr. Laurie Marker, Lynda Gearheart and Teresa Delaney traveled to The Orvis Company's international headquarters in Manchester, Vermont to thank Orvis for their first-ever international conservation grant to CCF. The Orvis Company is featuring CCF in various catalogs throughout 2006 with a matching donations program for their customers. CCF is thrilled with the response from Orvis customers, which has been very generous. For more on this program, visit www.orvis.com/cheetah.



Orvis headquarters (left to right): Tom Murray, Lynda Gearheart, Kimberly Bellamy, Dave Parker, Jim LePage, Dave Perkins, Laurie Marker, James Hathaway and Teresa Delaney.

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