

CHEETAH STRIDES

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

FIELDWORK

ORPHANED CUBS

FALL TOUR

GOAT EXPERT

WHY WILD DOGS?!

See pages 2 - 3 for details on CCF's involvement in helping save this endangered predator.



HELP US SAVE THE CHEETAH IN THE WILD.

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR



So far, 2018 has been one of our busiest years at the Centre. Our work is accelerating at a rapid pace as we double down on our efforts to mitigate increasing conflict in the communal conservancies of the Greater Waterberg Landscape (GWL) and expand our expertise to include the care of orphaned African wild dogs. CCF has been requested by Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism to help mitigate conflict with farmers and predators in this area. We have been working in this rural area adjacent to CCF for years, and we have the staff and the expertise to assist with the conflict. Our Community Development and Ecology teams are staging themselves in the region to be able to respond quickly to emergency situations. At the same time, we are testing new technologies, including Fox Lights and e-Shepherd Collars, as conflict mitigation tools.

Our eight candidates for cheetah rewilding efforts are progressing through our program and are poised to return to the wild soon. Right now, all eight candidates are in holding at Erindi Private Game Reserve. Myself and CCF staff, in particular CCF Curator Eli Walker, have spent time working with these cats and the staff at Erindi, to get them acclimated to their new surroundings. We will note their progress and will be doing the releases in small groups when we are confident they can hunt successfully.

June through August is always our busiest time at the Centre, and this year it's been even busier due to Cheetah View Lodge! Our five-suite accommodation has been open a full year as of June, and it was booked almost solid during July and August. We are so grateful to our supporters – the families, the couples, the small groups -- who have visited us to witness cheetah conservation in action. According to our guest reviews and positive word of mouth in the tourism industry, Cheetah View Lodge is a smashing success. Thank you to our tourism staff – you are doing a great job helping CCF deliver its promise of a cheetah adventure of a lifetime. What a fantastic first year!

In addition to tourists, we had some very special guests recently including Cristiana Pasca Palmer, UN Assistant Secretary General, and Claire Bodonyi, the French Ambassador to Namibia and her Economic and Commercial Officer Léa Zambrano. All visited CCF to learn more about all we do so they can share information in their official capacities. We also hosted students from Dartmouth and Stanford universities in the U.S., Merdock University from Australia, and two Earth Expeditions groups from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In addition, interns from around the world as well as Namibia University of Science and Technology and University of Namibia are assisting in all aspects of CCF's programs. I love having all these brilliant young minds here at CCF. Their energy and enthusiasm is inspiring.

I'll be leaving Namibia and heading your way for our 2018 U.S. Fall Tour. Don't forget to order one of our publications including our newest books, *Cheetah: A Celebration of Speed and Elegance* and *Cheetahs: Biology and Conservation*. Books are available on our website, I am happy to sign your copies at tour events!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Marker".

Dr. Laurie Marker
Founder & Executive Director

DR. MARKER'S DISAPPEARING SPOTS FALL TOUR

New York
World Premier Screening
of *Born to Explore's*
Namibia: Land of the
Cheetah
September 27

Oregon
Big Cat. Big Party.
September 30

California
Meetah Cheetah
Celebration & CCF's
Open Session of the
Board Meeting
October 4

Dr. Marker at Safari West
October 11

WCN Expo
October 13

Ohio
A Cheetah Connection
October 18

Oklahoma
Meetah Cheetah OKC
October 19

Texas
Dallas Zoo Lecture
October 25

Indiana
Cheetah Gala at the
Conrad
October 26

Virginia
DC Gala
October 29

For more info and to see the up-
dated schedule,
www.cheetah.org/events/

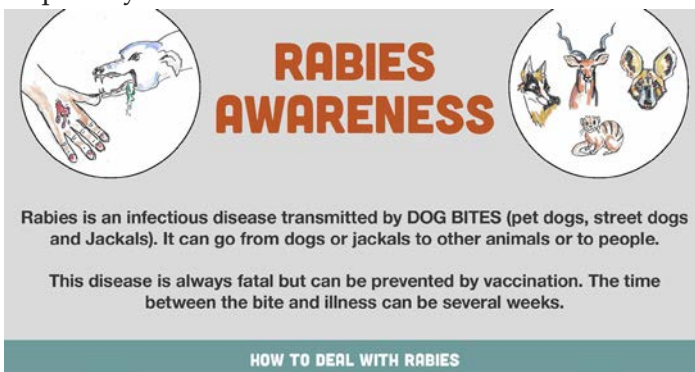
International Cheetah Day is December 4th!
How will you celebrate the cheetah this year?
www.internationalcheetahday.org
#SaveTheCheetah #IntlCheetahDay

CCF ECOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAMS IN GREATER WATERBURG LANDSCAPE



CCF has been studying human-wildlife conflict in the communal conservancies of the Greater Waterberg Landscape (GWL) for many years, capturing data on conflict hot spots and carnivore species, specifically cheetah and African wild dogs. Our research has found particularly intense conflict in the Otjozondjupa and Otjinene regions, and wild dogs are being persecuted. It appears that the dogs' presence used to be seasonal, but since 2014, a small, unknown number or packs of African wild dogs are now permanent residents there.

Because of these changes in species behavior and the growing need for conflict mitigation, CCF has increased its efforts in the GWL. CCF staff is being positioned in remote communities to help farmers protect their young calves and vulnerable livestock, with the goal of reducing the killing of all predators. Nadja le Roux, CCF Community Development Manager, is working with the farmers and their families, and CCF Ecologist, Willem Briers-Louw, researches wildlife presence in the area as part of the 'Go Green' camera trap study.



Dr. Monique Kuypers, a visiting veterinarian from the University of Dronen in The Netherlands, focused her time with CCF on livestock care in the communal conservancies as part of CCF's One Health initiative.

Dr. Kuypers prepared a livestock health assessment and the farmers were given score cards to record their progress, with suggestions for improving their livestock management. In addition, fecal samples of their livestock were collected and analyzed to assess the level of parasites. Dr. Kuypers shared, "Working on the farms is really interesting. I got to see how communal farming works and how the Herero communities live."

Working with the Foundation for Human Rabies Education & Eradication (FHREE), the CCF team has developed a poster for rabies prevention awareness to help farmers and residents of rural communities know about rabies. The posters will be distributed throughout the GWL as well as at livestock shows and schools across Namibia. Funding to print the posters and flyers was provided by FHREE.

"CCF will continue to expand our work in the GWL as our resources permit," said Dr. Laurie Marker. "This area is critical for some of the world's rarest species, and we must learn how to live together."

CCF TAKES IN ORPHANED AFRICAN WILD DOG PUPPIES

For the second year, the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) has been working with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to assist with orphaned African wild dog puppies. In July, MET transferred nine orphaned puppies from the Eastern communal area of Namibia to the CCF Centre. CCF is assisting with the nine puppies because it has the expertise to manage them, along with a veterinary clinic and staff trained to care for orphaned baby animals. The pups' health has steadily improved since arriving at CCF due to the excellent care they are receiving from two visiting veterinarians and a group of dedicated interns looking after them.

"As a member of the Global Cheetah and Wild Dog Range Wide Group, it is important for CCF to address survival of Namibia's African wild dogs as well as cheetahs. Both species face the same threats, and their ranges overlap," said Dr. Laurie Marker. "Through the good work of CCF's staff conducting our 'Go Green' camera trapping research, Future Farmers of Africa trainings and community work in the Eastern communal area, livestock farmers are learning more about

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photo this page top: Farmers attending a CCF educational training exercise, bottom: A portion of a rabies informational poster for distribution to local farming community.

these predator species, and how they encourage greater biodiversity and healthier landscapes.”

African wild dogs occur in the northeastern regions of Namibia, ranging between national park land and communal conservancies. Recent CCF research into a lesser-known population of African wild dogs living in the Eastern communal area reveals extreme conflict with the livestock farmers. With the year-round presence of African wild dogs creating increased conflict, CCF is expanding its efforts to mitigate conflict in this region.

CHEETAHS AT ERINDI

Several resident cheetahs are progressing through CCF’s rewilding program and have reached the point where release is pending. Eight CCF cats are in holding at Erindi Private Reserve, four male and four female, where they are getting acquainted with their

new surroundings. Over the next few weeks and months, they will be released in small groups and monitored closely.

The first cheetah to be released is a wild male caught by a farmer and brought to CCF three months ago. The cheetah had been kept in a small cage, but the duration of captivity is unknown. Because the farmer had livestock loss – despite the fact the farmer could not say for certain whether this animal was responsible – the cheetah is being released at Erindi and not being put back on farmlands.

The next group for release will be three male cheetahs that have already been through the first stages of rewilding and know how to hunt, Elwood, Kamin and Cyclone. Elwood is the sibling of the four females also taken to Erindi, and the other two are Zinzi’s boys. Zinzi was a rewilded cheetah that gave birth on CCF land, only to be killed by a leopard when her cubs

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AFRICAN WILD DOGS: NAMIBIA’S HIDDEN GEM - BY DR. LAURIE MARKER



The African wild dog is one of the most endangered carnivores in southern Africa and one of the iconic species still found in Namibia. Smaller and less visible than elephant, lion, buffalo and leopard, wild dogs are an exceptionally adapted predator. They can maintain a consistent speed of 48kph for 5km while hunting, running down their prey to exhaustion by taking turns at the chase. The cheetah

may be the fastest mammal on earth, but

the African wild dog is the winner in a long-distance endurance running competition.

The biggest threats to African wild dogs internationally are lack of habitat, human wildlife conflict and the reduction of genetic diversity due to isolated populations and persecution. Worldwide, populations are estimated to be between 3000 and 4000 individuals. The species has gone extinct in 23 countries. Namibia hosts no more than an estimated 250 of these elusive animals.

Wild dogs cover huge distances and packs are always on the move, making it hard for farmers to track them down. Conflict is at its peak when the dogs raise their puppies in dens from April through August, making them most vulnerable to persecution. Farmers seek out the dens, either destroying them or removing and

killing the puppies and adults. The remaining dogs will then move on but can still kill calves while moving into new area. The GWL has very small numbers of wildlife due to historical degraded areas and illegal hunting, which is why the wild dogs have adapted to preying on livestock, favoring calves between four and 18-months-old.

The growing conflict between African wild dogs and the GWL’s communal farmers will only get worse, unless mitigation measures are swiftly put in place. CCF staff have been working with farmers to research e-Shepherd Collars, which emit a high pitch sound and flashing lights when a collared livestock animal runs, to deter predators. In addition, Fox Lights are being researched on livestock corrals, as a deterrent to predators entering corrals at night.

African wild dogs are one of Namibia’s hidden gems, and they have the potential to attract tourists to the GWL to observe them in the wild. Tourism is a main driver of the national economy, bringing in millions of dollars of revenue annually and creates direct revenue for local rural communities, through employment and benefit distribution from co-management of wildlife. It is imperative we value and protect our natural resources. Our collective futures – human and wildlife -- depend on it.



were just a year old. Kamin and Cyclone are now almost three years-old, and they are ready to go back to the wild after training earlier this year at CCF.

The group of four female cheetahs, Georgia, Susan, Daenarys, and Tatjana, moved to Erindi. together with their brother, Elwood. The siblings originally came from a game-fenced farm, where their mother had been shot. They have been at CCF for two years. These female cheetahs will be monitored closely by CCF's Curator, Eli Walker, and Erindi staff as they learn to hunt and live in the wild.

NAMIBIA: LAND OF THE CHEETAH

CCF partnered with CCF Trustee and Born to Explore Host Richard Wiese to produce a one-hour special for PBS Television, *Namibia: Land of the Cheetah*. The show will premiere Friday, October 12, 2018 in prime time and features interviews with Dr. Laurie Marker and gorgeous footage of cheetahs shot at Cheetah Conservation Fund. Check your local listings for the PBS station your market. Set your DVR now so you won't miss it!

A world premiere screening event will be held Sept. 27 at the Explorer's Club in New York City. Richard Wiese and Dr. Laurie Marker will be present. A limited number of tickets for the event are available. Please check the events page of the CCF website, www.cheetah.org, for details.

ALSO - Watch the Special premiere – *Namibia: Land of the* on your local PBS station on October 12. Check local stations for availability.

DOM & HERC



Dominic is growing by leaps and bounds, and he spends much of his days with his dog companion, Hercules, CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog ambassador.

PUPPY PENS



To be able to care for the African wild dog puppies at the Centre, CCF had to build puppy pens and a major new enclosure approximately 20 acres in size. The project has been underway for the past two years. CCF is fortunate enough to have the expertise of Dr. Greg Rasmussen, Founder of the Painted Dog Research Trust, who is consulting with CCF on the facilities and puppy care. Dr. Rasmussen was also the Keynote Speaker for the CCF 2018 Namibian Gala, and he spoke to our supporters about the species' plight. Special thanks to the Columbus Zoo and the Dallas Zoo for providing emergency funds to build the puppy pens.

cheetah.org/donate/sponsor/

*photo opposite page: Dr. Laurie Marker with African wild dog pup
photos this page: left: Released cheetah in Erindi - Photo by Bart Balli, right top:
Dominic and Hercules at play, right bottom: African wild dog puppy pens under
construction.*



NEW RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP



CCF recently announced an alliance with Langston University, a school of agriculture and applied sciences in Langston, Oklahoma, centered on dairy goat farming. Researchers from Langston University’s E (Kika) de la Garza American Institute for Goat Research are partnering with CCF researchers and farm staff to pursue the Institute’s mission, which is to develop and transfer enhanced goat production system technologies, at state, regional, national and international levels.

“We are excited about this collaboration and the benefits for Namibian goat farmers, as well as the possible long-term impact on wildlife,” said Dr. Laurie Marker.

CCF received grants from the Oklahoma City-based Kirkpatrick Foundation and Richard L. Sias of Oklahoma to launch the collaboration. The two institutions were introduced by Vicki Clark Gourley, an Oklahoma media executive and CCF USA Trustee

**DR. TERRY GIPSON
INTERNATIONAL DAIRY GOAT EXPERT
VISITS CCF**

In August, Dr. Terry Gipson from Langston’s American Institute for Goat Research visited the CCF Centre. Dr. Gipson conducted trainings for CCF Model Farm staff and a goat seminar for 40 local farmers and University of Namibia (UNAM) students. He also spent time lecturing on the UNAM campus in

Windhoek.

The highlight of Dr. Gipson’s visit was the goat seminar. The day-long event emphasized dairy goats, and the topics included improving goat flocks/herds, artificial insemination in dairy goats, breeding strategies and objectives for small ruminants, and genomics in small ruminant production with breeding objectives emphasized.

“This was the best workshop I have ever presented on artificial insemination in goats. CCF’s dedicated staff and exemplary facilities made the training easy. The eagerness and willingness of the CCF staff was the key component in our success. I look forward to follow-up training and to a fruitful partnership with CCF in the years to come,” said Dr. Gipson.

Improving livelihoods for farmers is central to CCF’s approach to cheetah conservation, through it Future Farmers of Africa program that carefully considers the needs of humans and livestock sharing farmlands with wildlife. Much of CCF’s work involves helping small stock (goat and sheep) farmers mitigate conflict, improve livestock health and enhance their livelihoods.

“Few people know much about dairy goats, but we are fortunate to host Dr. Gipson, a world-renowned goat expert, so he can transfer his knowledge to our local famers.” said Dr. Laurie Marker. “Dairy goats can be a very good small business, and having greater knowledge will create a strong foundation and encourage success.”



In September, CCF’s Small Livestock Manager, Toivo Tyapa, will travel to the Langston campus to share information about goat farming in Namibia and study with experts at the Institute.



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CCF INTERN WILSON SHERMAN



Every summer, CCF hosts great interns from colleges and universities all over the world. Each are exceptional in some way, but every now and then, there is one intern who stands out from the rest. It is difficult to pinpoint why, but you instinctively know this person is special. This summer, 18-year-old Wilson Sherman from Southern California who joined us for five weeks was that intern.

Interns assist with general tasks in multiple areas at CCF, so they are exposed to different aspects of cheetah conservation. In addition, they contribute to CCF through individual projects based on their own interests and skillsets.

“What I learned working at CCF is that there isn’t just one job called ‘wildlife conservationist.’ A wildlife conservationist can be a farmer, a dog trainer, a ranger, a chef, a hospitality manager, an ecologist, an educator, a biologist, or a veterinarian. Everyone plays a role in protecting biodiversity,” said Wilson Sherman.

Wilson took to the role of CCF Educator, excitedly sharing CCF’s work with visitors from around the world. Wilson gave cheetah feeding presentations and answered endless questions from visiting groups of Namibian high school students. It did not seem to matter that Wilson himself graduated from high school only a few short weeks prior.

“I recognized how important this work is when I realized I could be talking to the next generation of Namibian wildlife stewards. If I could inspire some compassion for cheetahs during the tour, I could change the way they interact with their ecosystem,” said Wilson.

“When Wilson arrived at CCF, he didn’t know what job he wanted to do, so he tried a little bit of everything,” said Dr. Laurie Marker. “He very quickly realized he was good at education and communication

and talking to people. He is also skilled as a videographer and is a natural storyteller. I think he has figured out where he belongs in conservation.”

“My background in media arts and video production spurred my personal projects at CCF, which involved making promotional videos about CCF’s programs. In the process, I interviewed some outstanding conservationists and videoed interesting things like Dominic (the cheetah cub), cheetah checkups, dental surgeries and Livestock Guarding Dogs,” said Wilson.

Wilson is now enrolled at UC Berkeley as a freshman.

photos pposite page: left: Logo for the American Institute for Goat Research at Langston University, right: Dr. Gipson with CCF’s Small Livestock Manager Toivo Tyapa

photo this page: left: CCF intern Wilson Sherman

CCF GUESTS ENJOY CHEETAH VIEW



CCF NY Chapter member Ron Pagano recently returned from a remarkable journey exploring Namibia’s different regions, ending at of course, CCF. According to Ron, “My favorite was the Behind the Scenes Cheetah Drive where we got to feed resident cheetahs while driving in the back of a pickup truck zipping along at 40mph.”

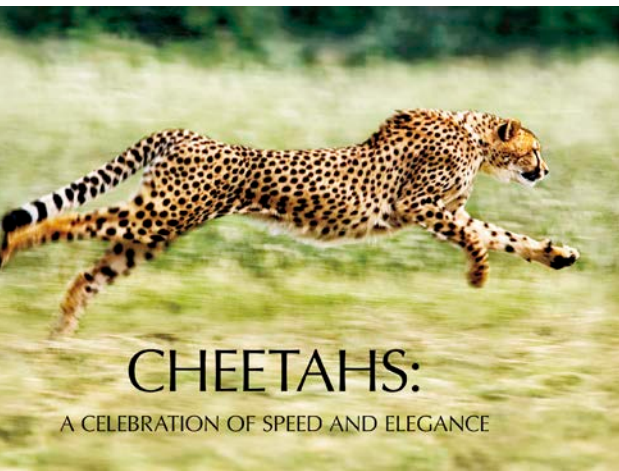
From L to R: Robert Peck, tour guide Elias, Jinny Slyfield, Michael Dewson, Benjamin Wisener, James Wisener, Jenny Wohlfarth, Vanessa Dewson (tour host), Maria Pantazi Peck, Ann Atkey and Ronald Pagano. Photo by Andre Rosario

@ccfcheetah #SaveTheCheetah



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NEW GIFT BOOK AVAILABLE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dr. Laurie Marker and Suzi Eszterhas have teamed up once again to create a beautiful photo gift book that's great for holiday gifts.

Pre-order *Cheetahs: A Celebration of Speed and Elegance*, for \$20 before September 15, 2018 and shipping and handling will be waived. Pre-orders will begin shipping on September 20th.

Don't forget our other books make great gifts too!
www.cheetah.org/books/

Photo by Suzi Eszterhas



A GLIMPSE OF THE NEXT GENERATION

Savanna, daughter of rewilded cheetah Jacomina, has cubs of her own. Savanna is hunting and doing very well at Erindi. If reproduction is the key indicator of rewilding success, Jacomina and her offspring are CCF rewilding program standouts

Photo by Bart Balli



www.cheetah.org