



# emdoneni Catnews



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## From the Editor's desk...

Emdoneni was again blessed with good rains recently, with the roads being flooded with large puddles just as they always have in the past.



Below: The good rains have allowed these huge tadpoles to grow in the pools of water.



  
**Emdoneni Lodge**  
WITH ANIMAL CARE & REHAB CENTRE  
Touch the Wild where the Waterberry Grows



Khaya showing off his beautiful eyes to guests.



## African Wild Cat

At last the storm has settled... **Grumpy** is with **Michael** and he is taming the beast! He is showing a lot of patience by looking after her and giving her the love she needs.

**Khaya** has found his true love in **Houdini**. They can be seen playing together every day, showing that a perfect match can be made at Emdoneni Lodge!

Michael still keeps a close eye on Khaya to make sure that he looks after Houdini.



Houdini planning her next great escape



Michael marking his territory - he is still boss!

## Congratulations!



Mel & Corné (above) were married in December, while Christian and Christine Erfman tied the knot in January 2014. The bottom pic shows how the ceremony was hosted at Emdoneni in the outdoors.





Moya relaxing in the sun.



## Cheetah

**Sky and Shadow** are growing into such nice young boys. They are probably the best out of the cheetah to take great 'selfies' with during a visit.

**Zera** is ready for the real deal! She wants to live in real wild Africa, showing us every day. Stalking the impala, only a fence prevents her from making that kill.

**Autumn** is the real lady of Emdoneni! Always pleasant and never naughty, she does not grab her food but allows you to hand it to her just like a well-mannered lady. She is always friendly to the guests and loves their full attention.

**Juba and Moya** - everyday is a fun day as they continue growing into they own. They are always showing us their own personalities and what they made of. Being gentle with kids and playing rough with the rangers!



Above and below: Veterinarian Dr Mike Toft treats the cheetah while sedated and clips their nails.



Dr Mike Toft (a wildlife Vet in Zululand) paid a visit and darted all cats to perform liver, kidney and other organ tests. He also checked if the females are fertile or not, for which we wait results. All cats in the project were injected against rabies and received other important medications.

This all left Emdoneni with a substantial vet bill, which thankfully we are able to pay due to continued support from the public through the day visits.



Juba and Moya still love riding on the back of the farm bakkie, as they did when young.



The two boys still love Louis' bakkie. As soon as they see it they go crazy as they want to climb in the back for a ride. It is quite special to us as their 'human' parents that they still remember the time when they went for drives on the farm when smaller.

Juba managed to get out of the enclosure the other day and went for a walk around the farm. It seemed that no one could get him back. But as soon as Louis stopped with the bakkie, he climbed in and went for a drive back to Moya. That is special, is it not?



ZZZZZZ....

Everyone goes through a lot of stress when the cats are put to sleep for vet treatments and it is an anxious wait until they wake up again.





Noah looking to see where the food is



Where do we begin?

The day had come for **Bruce** and **Muhle**. They were released into Mkhuze Nature reserve. What a great achievement for the project!



Louis and Cecillie Nel with the crate transporting the serval to the release.



Opening the crate...



The dash to freedom in the wild.



Spotty giving visitors a smile from the treetop

**Sheila, Jane & Spotty** have been stealing the hearts of visitors during tours. Spotty catches her food in mid-air, Sheila picks out her own dinner from the basket and Jane lifts her back to make herself look big!

**Noah** has been giving guests a fright when he runs past them to collect his food. But he is actually quite harmless and just showing off how elegantly he runs.

**Canessa, Mafuta and Cassidy** are all growing up and looking very well, still playing with every insect that they discover. Plus they investigate every Amarula fruit that falls and gets in their way! They have moved into a bigger enclosure where they can climb trees and have more room to move and hone their natural skills.

**Summer** is showing everyday that when she grows up, she will go back into the wild. She shows all the natural abilities that she needs to have to be able to survive on her own, which is very encouraging.

A guest makes friends with one of the serval



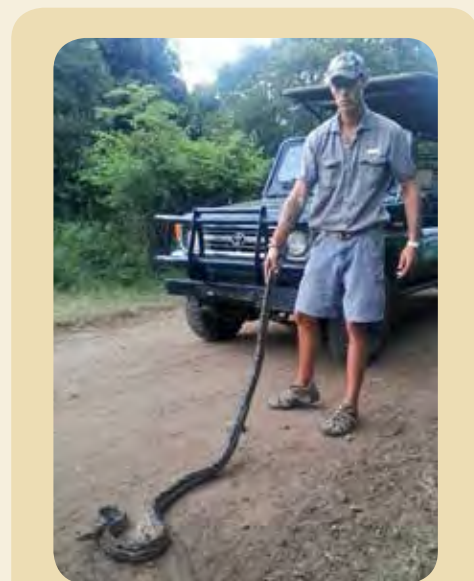
Spotty showing us her agility in the tree



Jane running after her food



Muhle showing that she is ready for release!



An endangered African Rock Python (the largest snake species found in Southern Africa) was discovered on the farm and later released back into its natural habitat. They are not considered dangerous.



Welcome to all new parents.

We really value your support!

- Hanna Alexander – Kaylee (African Wild Cat)
- Ngaire & Russell Booth – Summer (Serval)
- The Nimmo's – Summer (Serval)
- S & P Annetta – Mafuta (Serval)
- Scott & Fraser Peters – Houdini (Wild Cat)
- Amy & Lauren Peters – Kia (African Wild Cat)
- Dylan & Robyn Sander – Grumpy (Wild Cat)
- Bel Cevallos - Caracal
- Murthy's - Cheetah
- The Werrett – Summer (Serval)
- Gillian & Jeanette – Skye (Cheetah)
- Liesl Robinson – Sheila (Serval)
- MMEN – Cassidy (Serval)
- CJ O'Neill - Popeye (Caracal)
- Bryna & Graham Joynt – Grumpy & Michael
- Family Ruitter – Sinnesa (Serval)
- Paul & Denise – Bruce - Serval
- Ben & Taz – Max (Caracal)
- Ryleigh & Gunner Seth – Grumpy (Wild Cat)
- Paolo & Clece – Summer (Serval)
- Tanisha Beaudry – Serval
- Paul van Loan – Juba (Cheetah)
- Sonday – Summer (Serval)
- The Ansara's – Juba (Cheetah)
- Stewart Family – Cassidy (Serval)
- Lara and Arthur Bahia – Sheila (Serval)
- Lundsson Family – Mafuta (Serval)
- Daniel Dunn-Stuart – Peaches (Caracal)
- Peggau Family – Juba (Cheetah)
- Cleary, Keet, Warren – Sheila (Serval)
- Judy Mack – LuLu (Caracal)
- Mark & Diann – Canessa (Serval)
- Lawrence West & Marilyn Craig – Mafuta (Serval)
- 5x Caracal Energy Canada - 5 Caracal – Lulu, BarOne, Popeye, Max and Peaches
- Garth & Jackie Blakely – Autumn (Cheetah)
- oan Dalton – Popeye (Caracal)
- Thorbecke Family – Adigo (Caracal)
- June Edwards – Yamrick – Cassidy (Serval)
- Parker Family and Ella – Shadow (Cheetah)
- Danie & Veronica Barnardo – Mafuta (Serval)
- Carole Hills – Michael (African Wild Cat)



Max shows off his large paws



**Bar-One** and **Lulu** are one of a kind. They pretend to be all nice and calm during the day, but when dinner time comes, the claws and teeth come out! In the end, Lulu shows Bar-one that she is still the boss and not to be messed around with...

**Max** is a big cat with a soft heart. He steals the show every afternoon with his big jumps, proving that caracal can jump 2-3m high for their pray. **Popeye** looks on without much interest as she has a new kitten and is such a proud mom.

**Peaches** is still the naughty cat - stalking the zebra and everything that moves outside the fence. He shows us how well



Popeye giving us 'the look!'

caracal can hide and covers 10m in a second to make the big jump for his food.

**Diago** gives the perfect pose for the camera every time, and has always been a beautiful cat. Grey hairs on his black ears contrast magnificently with his stunning tan pelt. He is a walking advertisement for healthy caracal and how important it is to look after these beautiful creatures so that our children can also enjoy them.

*Lulu checks how her little ones are growing up*



## MOTHER INSTINCT

Nature never seems to stop surprising us. An impala ewe recently took in a baby Nyala and has been caring for her like one of her own, allowing her to join the herd.



## NEW FRIENDS AT THE LODGE

'Cammie' the chameleon waits in the same tree everyday to be spoiled with little morsels of food from the staff. So it seems as if he is here to stay...

Every night we have a strange music concert, with a Fiery Necked Night Jar screeching away, followed by an African Wood Owl making everything calm.

Then we have bush-babies running all over the place... it's a real zoo out here!