



# emdoneni Catnews



May - June 2014 - 19TH EDITION

Chat to us online



## From the Editor's desk...

We have been blessed with a beautiful winter that has seen wild flowers blooming, cats growing and animals generally being healthy. We thank all for the continued support and visits, and hope to see you again soon.

*The grenadilla plant has a beautiful flower.*



*Left: Spotty coming down quickly for her food!  
Right: Mafuta poses with a toy.*



*Sheila is showing signs of pregnancy*

**Cassidy** is growing up fast, almost bigger than Noah and always showing off when guests arrive, doing his elegant walk around the enclosure making people follow him around.

**Cenessa**, is also maturing quickly and showing us how habituated servals can be by paying a lot of attention to the guests or chasing anything and everything guests throw at her. Then she finds the perfect person to the scent mark - which can carry on smelling forever!

**Jane** is still showing her dominance when it comes to feeding time, raising her back and making sure the meat is completely lifeless. A noticeable mating session with Noah was going on during the early morning hours... and Jane is definitely showing signs of pregnancy as she is getting bigger by the day.

*Jane is hopefully also pregnant*



demonstrating how agile servals are.

**Sheila** is very much an attention seeker in the mornings and then becomes the greedy one at feeding time, still helping herself out the bucket if the guides aren't watching. She is in the same boat as Jane (also showing signs of pregnancy) - Noah was indeed a busy, busy boy!

**Noah** is the busy womanizer of the serval and shows us daily who is the boss and most dominant male. He is experiencing new heights when climbing trees as he tries to get closer to Spotty who always hides in the tree. For a cat that is so busy, Noah is always the first cat to greet our guests with a big hissing smile, indicating that he is boss but also happy to see his daily visitors.



## Serval

**Summer** is not seeking as much attention from us anymore, showing every day that she is getting wilder by the minute, but otherwise still being the cutest and most adorable serval. Once she reaches maturity we will, unfortunately, release her as well. She has shown signs from day one that she needs to be released!

**Mafuta** is still the exciting playful cat! He is always waiting for that one guest to put down their camera... and a single step for him to get hold of it! Now he has a fascination for loose material on clothes, and once he has got hold of it he becomes determined to keep it!



*Left: Young visitors enjoy time with Noah.*

*Below: Cassidy and Cenessa on a mission*



**Spotty** is living up to her name by bolting up the tree as guests enter the enclosure and being the elusive cat, changing spots every second or third day, making it difficult to find her. She also still catches her food from the overhanging tree in the enclosure,



**Don't  
leave me  
out!**

*Summer snuck onto the wrong page!*



*Popeye has become a diligent mother, caring well for her young kitten..*



*Popeye's kitten is a truly beautiful caracal.*



*Max, old faithful, a quiet but amazing cat.*

**Popeye** is a dutiful mom in looking after her kitten, showing us that she's teaching it to be a good and strong cat one day. When we visit she makes growling sounds as she wants to tell us that she is the mother and knows best. (Or on the other hand, she could be telling her little one how to behave). This little kitten is a beauty and will surely win first prize in any baby cat competition.



*Lulu likes to climb trees to show that caracal are also agile cats.*



## Caracal!

**Bar-One** loves the attention of the guests in the morning when the cat tours go through. He shows everyone how big he is and whose space it is; when it comes to feeding time he gives us a real predator stare, and when he jumps for his food he makes it look very impressive!

In the mornings **Lulu** shows us how high caracal can climb trees and at feeding time she eats like a real lady and doesn't grab her food.

**Max**, the old faithful, is still jumping for every piece of meat that gets thrown at him, and taking long walks between the new enclosures whenever he wants.

*Bar-One*



**Peaches**: From being a hand raised cat he showed us more than once that he was ready for the wild. Peaches was released on Dr Mark Sutherlands game reserve at the beginning of May. We will miss him but believe this was the best option.

*Peaches is now roaming free after being released.*



**Diego** is showing how true nocturnal caracals act. He sleeps during the day and wakes at feeding time. He is still hissing at us, frightening the guests and showing all why it will be uncomfortable to keep him as a pet. Diego was once a pet but when he reached maturity his owners realized that he belongs at a project like ours and not as a pet in a house!

*Diego cannot wait for his future bride.*



*Thank You  
VESA Volunteers!*



VESA Volunteer Eco Students Abroad, helping us at the project. We cannot thank them enough! They have been working hard as we changed all the caracal enclosures. They also sponsored material for this! Thank you Tom, Shona and the entire team for all your help and support.





Michael with a mouthful of fur during moulting.  
(Photo courtesy of Gabriela Plesea)



## African Wild Cat

**Grumpy** is living up to her name, showing the guests every day the reason why she is named Grumpy.

**Khaya** is starting to test the waters with Grumpy, climbing the fence while no one is looking and then trying to make friends with her.

Michael come and shows him who's the dominant male when he enter the enclosure and then chasing him up the tree.

**Houdini** is still going strong and still disappearing into the bush when the guests arrive.



Houdini - the great escapist!  
(Photo courtesy of Gabriela Plesea)



Cats twist themselves into interesting 'yoga-like' positions when cleaning.



Khaya enjoying the welcome warm winter sun



Grumpy refuses to give up the attitude, but everyone respects her and loves her anyway.



Welcome to all new parents.  
We really value your support!

Tim Watson & Kel Insch  
Dave & Damca  
Heaphy Family  
Ginny & Bob Waldron  
California Suzi & Linda  
Ylan Garbe  
Pam Garcia  
Cristina Mussini  
Funk & Scholfield  
Maisy Isobel & Freya Gillett  
Tim Funk  
Jan & John Sproson  
Angie Pointer  
Anita Da Encarnacao  
ICS etal 2014  
Emma & Farah  
Saudi Aramco Schools  
Maria E. Langan  
Antoinette & Tracey  
Harley Davidson Steelwings Durban  
O'Sullivan Family



Adoptive parents visiting their 'children'.



A visitor in the electrical box.



Autumn



## Cheetah

**Juba and Moya** are still loved by the whole world. Guests are travelling from all over the world to re-visit them. Adopted parents come all the way from the States to come visit their 4-legged kids.

Every day is a fun day in the enclosures, from climbing trees and playing rough with one another where Moya still shows dominance over Juba.

**Autumn** is still being the lady, showing lots of affection to guests as well, taking food from hands gently at feeding time and posing for every photo the guests want to take.

Juba and Moya still allow children to get close to them while Autumn's 'love' for interactions with kids is growing daily. In the past she sometimes showed aggression towards our smaller guests, but this seems to have passed. Autumn still teases Moya on a daily basis with mating rituals but no signs of the real thing yet...

At the moment Juba and Moya are next door to the enclosure for **Skye and Shadow**, proving to them who the real



*Londiwe and Happiness have joined us recently as chefs in our kitchen - welcome!*



*Autumn shows that she also loves young children.*

bosses of the camp are! They show them daily how to eat all their food to become big boys one day. In between all this teaching, they are still keeping a wary eye on the two young boys... just in case they try to assume dominance.

**Skye and Shadow** are allowing the two adult boys, (Moya and Juba) to be the BIG boys but one of these days it will be a different story! These two boys have become beautiful animals with strong characteristics as well.

**Zera** - we are in the process of planning her release back into the wild, where she longs to be! Hopefully by the next newsletter you will read that she will be roaming free again.

Skye



*Moya and Juba also like to climb the trees, and take a rest in the branches above the ground.*



*Zera is almost ready to return to the wild.*



*Shadow rests in the shade of a tree.*



*Above: Guide Gerry enjoys a moment with Moya*

*Below: A moment of peace and quiet for Juba. Photo courtesy of Matthew Meuskens.*

