

Juba: Who is visiting today? Can't wait for new friends!

CHEETAH

JUBA was sick at the beginning of November with so-called "Garbage sickness". This is a bug that attacks the digestive system and makes the animal vomit and battle to keep their food down. Luckily we had Mr. Doctor (the "Vet man" Trevor) pop in and he helped sort out the problem fairly quickly. Juba had special food to help his recovery, and he was up and running again in a flash!

GREAT NEWS!!

The family at Emdoneni is growing! We designed our very own t-shirt with Moya and Juba's photo on, which is a MUST to have! The aim is to raise funds for new baby cheetah. Yes - you heard correctly! We want to purchase two baby cheetah for the project. Unfortunately they do not come cheap and we will need about R170 000 to bring them into our family! Moya and Juba will love this, as they will have some time off and two more friends to play with. Shirts available at R120 each.



GIVE THE GIFT OF GIVING
Adopt a Cat in your name or
in the name of a loved one and
help us save these magnificent
endangered creatures. Contact
details below, or visit website.



*A very Merry
Christmas to all
our human friends,
from all the
Cats of Emdoneni*

...and of course from Louis and Cecillie Nel, the staff and family at the Lodge. Wishing you safe travels and a wonderful festive season.



Autumn: Hello you two boys!
Do I look fat from this angle?

What if I roll over like this? Does it help?



MOYA: "Shew! It is a battle to eat my own piece of chicken in peace with Juba around! Juba gulps his piece as if he is in a Formula 1 race and then wants to steal mine which I like to enjoy in my own time! Believe me, a frog is not as nice as my chicken and that I had to find out the hard way. The frog slime attacks the gels of the mouth which causes the mouth to foam as if you had Eno's for breakfast! Not nice at all. It makes you scream like a girl and don't even mention the horrible taste! I will definitely not be trying that again!"


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

Here is a big challenge to Autumn! Bernie, our guide, has implemented a tight exercise programme and a strict diet for the cats that are overweight. Autumn must exercise more because she has recently picked up weight and looks like a little round doughnut!

LYNXI: Are you going to throw me that meat now or do I need to wait for another hour?



CARACAL

PEACHES - We gave Neethlingshof Wine Estate the opportunity to name our new addition to the family of caracals and they decided on 'Peaches'. Peaches is doing fine and is extremely happy to be part of the Emdoneni family. She is following a healthy diet and gets more than enough exercise in her cosy little pen. The exercise on some days is so exhausting that she has to take an afternoon nap. Like most kittens, she is more curious by the day! When we sit outside the pen she starts edging closer and then jumps around to attract our attention. She is also very playful and you may catch her rolling her 'toys' around the enclosure.

Peaches playing with her 'toys' - a green avocado pear and old waterbottle.



BAR-ONE - Look at this gigantic snake that visited me in my pen. Frightening! I could've been killed! Shew, I was lucky!



MAX is really getting into this jumping for food program. One of these days he is going to win the Africa's Got Talent award for the best Ballerina in town!



LYNXI is still the most well behaved caracal! Becoming an old 'kehla' (old man) by the day but still active and ready to go!

LULU is not ready for motherhood yet but Lynxi is waiting patiently... We are keeping the pregnancy tests handy.

POP-EYE is still kept by her own, in a closed pen, as she climbs out of any open pen and wanders off. We are thinking of a plan to keep her enclosed. She likes to explore the farm life outside the pen but boy she does not miss dinner time! Back at 16h00 sharp for her meal.

AFRICAN WILDCATS

Grumpy: That's it, you go on - leave me all alone... by myself... with no friends, just sitting next to the fence... ALONE!



HOUDINI 's escaping tricks are something of the past. She is more territorial in her own camp and has finally accepted her home!

KAYLEE is very happy that her rebellious daughter has come to her senses and now stays at home. She is now more safe and sound.

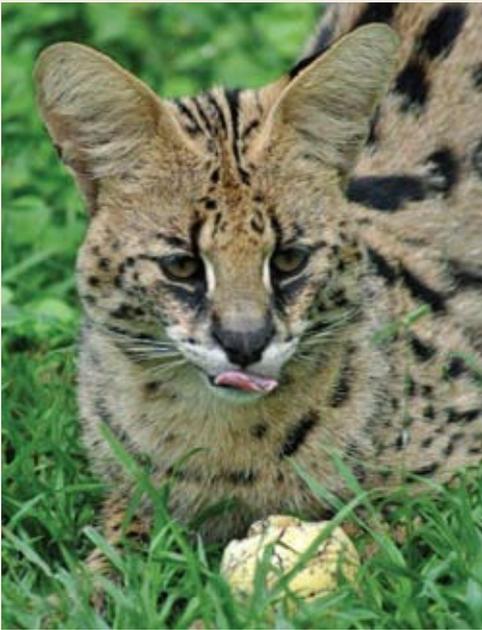
GRUMPY is still always on his own mission and seems rejected by the rest of the family. We are still trying to find out why he is such an outcast to the rest of the family! Will keep you updated on this.

KHAYA was bought from Mystic Monkeys at Bela-Bela in the Polokwane district. He is about 9 months old and an absolute beauty with great personality! We are putting our trust in him for new offspring in the future!

MICHAEL is still in charge of the camp. He is doing a great job of keeping Kaylee in her place (camp) where she belongs. No more night walking for her with Michael on guard!

HOUDINI Don't stress mom, I will clean that nasty stuff off your back.





SHENDON Yummy! There is no better snack than a delicious monkey apple, or shall we call it a serval apple?

SERVAL

SPOTTY is not a social cat. She hates interaction and always hides when you enter the pen. She hates any publicity! We are working on her social skills and hopefully we will see more of her in the future.

MUHLE is becoming more beautiful by the day. If she entered the Miss SA Serval cat contest, she would easily walk away with the crown! She is showing interest in the males so we are hoping for baby servals soon! Motherhood would suit her perfectly...

JANE Oh yes that's it! You've got it! A little bit to the left, stop! Ahhhh, that's what I call a nice back massage. I can get used to this. Same time tomorrow?



NOAH:
Where did I hide that extra piece of chicken? I can't seem to find it anywhere!

NOAH is minding his own business as usual. He keeps to himself and just plans his day according to his very relaxed personality.

SHENDON has become a bad ally cat! He hates his next door neighbours and acts very strange and undercover lately. He is alone in his own pen after showing his ally tricks to the rest of the serval family. Shendon might be sexually mature which would lead to this frustration.

MANDLA & JANE (The twins) Let me show you how it's done Mandla! Sit up straight. Get that stare-into-nothing look, head slightly to the left. That's it! A perfectly natural photo.



LARKEN is a girl and not a boy, after all, as we recently discovered from our local vet. It was impossible to check in the past due to the fact that she was so wild.

LARKEN Is it morning already? Do I really need to get out of my favourite hiding space? No chance!



The anti-social Spotty.

SHEILA AND BRUCE - Our latest arrivals which we find very highly strung and stuck-up cats. They are both very bossy and believe that they are better than the rest! Hopefully they will adopt the well behaved mannerism from our local servals. They still have a lot to learn!

New arrivals, Sheila and Bruce - is this smile big enough?



Muhle - the beauty queen of Serval cats



SPECIAL PHOTO ALBUM

THE OTHER SIDE OF EMDONENI

Emdoneni is not only a Cat Project, but a small game farm as well, with many antelope, wildebeest and zebra on the property. The zebra breed well, and we were recently blessed with a new baby, who showed off his stripes for all to see!



WELCOME ON BOARD CARIN!

We welcome Carin van der Merwe who joined our team on 1 November. Carin is our new Lodge Manager and helps with many little extra tasks around the lodge and project. We hope she has a long and happy stay with us.

New lodge manager Carin van der Merwe



CAT PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

We had volunteer students working at the project during the December holidays that have helped a lot to clean the pens, chop the trees back and cut the grass. A big contribution was new water holes that they helped us establish. These were built in the cat pens which is more convenient and hygienic. We are also in the process of planning new pen layouts for new arrivals.

A new improved entrance to the Lodge are in process. Photos in the next issue. We are planning a new entrance to the cat project in the near future.

THE VILLAGE WEAVERS



It is the beginning of summer and the village weaver bird males are all busy weaving their nests to attract the females. If the females do not approve of the nest, they usually tear it down!



THE REED DANCE – UMKHOZI WOMHLANGA

The cultural Zulu Reed Dance takes place in late September every year. Young, sexually mature maidens perform a dance for the King of Zululand, each holding a reed in their hands. After performing their dance they present the reed to the king and he can select any of them to be a future wife.

What to do this holiday - Khaya chilling out in a tree...



To all adoptive parents: thank you so much for taking care of the cats and supporting our Project.

Welcome to the following new Adoptive Parents and thank you for your vision in helping to conserve our wild cats:

Glen & Heather Delve - Bar-One
(one year adoption)



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