



## AFRICAN WILD CATS

African wild cats **GRUMPY** and **MICHEAL** have been spotted laying down together a number of times and Micheal even had his leg over Grumpy, which is a good sign of love... Maybe one day soon she will accept him!

The young male **KHAYA** doesn't want Michael close by him at all, and is quite territorial.

**KAYLEE** and her last born **HOUDINI** are doing well with the rest of the African Wild Cat family, who are taking a break after some filming with an American Television company.

*Photographs below are courtesy of AFS Productions, Purina / AFG & Emily. Visit the Purina cat food website at [www.purina.co.za](http://www.purina.co.za)*

## WELCOME RAINS FALL

Good, heavy rains fell at Emdoneni recently following the nearby passing of Cyclone Irene off the KZN coast. We were a bit concerned about the cats but with the waterproof houses that we provided for them recently we did not have a problem at all, although some of the cats hid in the trees during the heavy rains. We were very fortunate to not experience any damages during this period.

All animals at the Lodge loved the sudden change to the dry areas which became very wet in 2 days! Emdoneni's water pans were filled again, after a drought of 11 years. It was amazing to see... But we could still do with more rains as the water table is still low.

*Warm regards from Louis & Cecillie Nel.*



*Nyala reflected in a water pan at Emdoneni.  
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## WILD CATS SOUGHT OUT BY CAT FOOD COMPANY AD AGENCY

Purina One and the advertising agency AFG & Emily were at Emdoneni recently to meet and observe African Wildcats for research and creative inspiration.

Their spokesperson said: "We really appreciate Emdoneni partnering with us to help us get smarter about African Wildcats. As such, we'd love to give you credit for raising the African Wildcats by calling out some of the cat's names on the Purina ONE website as well as possibly linking to the Emdoneni site so that visitors can learn more if they'd like." Thanks to Kaylee, Michael, Houdini, Khaya and Grumpy for providing such inspirational pictures. You are true ambassadors for the Wild Cats of South Africa!





Mark Sutherland releasing two Caracal from Emdoneni at his Game Farm in Mkuze.



The released Caracal were spotted enjoying their new freedom and even hunting.



Bar-One with his unexpected catch - a large crested Franklin that landed in his enclosure.



LULU and LINXI have been spotted mating and they are really into the baby-making business (with previous successes) so we are counting the days!

**BAR-ONE** - well done boy! He took down a large crested Franklin that landed in his enclosure. This is very encouraging, as he still displays his natural ability to hunt.

More pictures showing the large pans filled with water at Emdoneni, following recent good rains.

### CARACAL

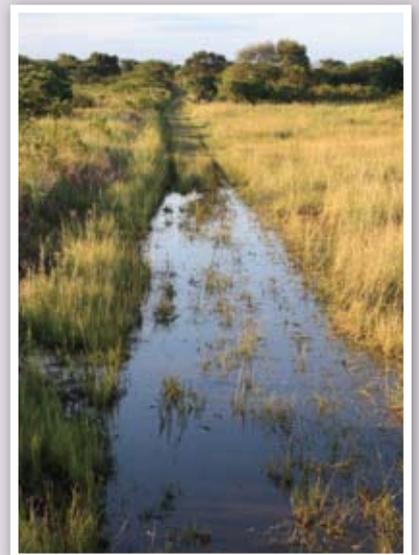
The good news is that we released 5 caracals in total from one enclosure recently. Two were released to a 1500 hectare Game Farm at Mkuze owned by Dr. Mark Sutherland. They were later spotted trying to take down a male Nyala bull! We think they should rather start with small stuff and then move onto bigger prey... but it seems that they do not want to waste time.

All the released cats are looking very happy and comfortable in the open spaces, which is a great success story for Emdoneni.

**TYSON** the old khehla's (old man's) age is starting to show and we are not sure if the jumping skills are going to stay or disappear - old age and jumping just do not go together!

**MAX** and **POPEYE** are still in the back enclosure with still no signs of any offspring. Maybe he needs some lessons from Lynxi!

**PEACHES**, the young male, is doing very well and has learned the habit of biting Dumi the ranger's shoes every time he enters his camp. He is growing into a cute male despite this naughty habit.



Our new addition to the Zebra community at Emdoneni is doing fine and growing stronger and more beautiful by the day, with plenty of care from his/her adoring mother. (We are not sure of the foal's sex yet).



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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.

PHOTO FEATURE - NEW CHEETAH ARRIVALS SKYE & SHADOW



The new Cheetah arrive on a cool, misty morning.



Surveying their new surroundings.



The new Cheetah are released from their travel crate.



Food for the new arrivals

**CHEETAH**

The Cheetah group at Emdoneni is growing to a big happy family. We recently purchased two new males from a breeding centre in the Western Cape to enhance our breeding project.

The two boy's names are **SKYE** and **SHADOW**, who are about a year old. Since they arrived at Emdoneni Lodge they have put on weight which shows that they have settled in well and adapted to their new environment.

**SKYE** is the only that allows us to touch him, so we will hopefully feature photos of him next month.

**MOYA** and **JUBA**, the Charmer boys, received a big shock when they realised that they are not the only males on the premises anymore. The competition is on!! Now they had better show what they've got to get any attention from the ladies!

**ZERA** and **AUTUMN** took down a female impala that was caught between the fences at their enclosure. The impala ran straight into the cat's enclosure when freed and Zera went for it straight



**SHADOW** - a real hunk.

away! It was a perfect take-down and we are very proud of her because it shows us that she has still got the natural instinct to provide for herself!



Touch the Wild where the Waterberry Grows



The wooden hearts tied to the trees that the Cheeath were not happy with

**WEDDING BLUES FOR CHEETAH**

At a recent wedding at Emdoneni the ceremony took place in the field close by the Cheetah pens. The boys got so upset by the big white hearts hanging from the trees that they refused to pay attention at the interaction sessions. We had to take everything down for them to be satisfied. It just shows you how sensitive these cats are.

Stuart and Lee-Ann Brooks tied the knot on the 7 April 2012 - Congratulations!



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:

Naidine Adams & Ella Larson - adopted Kaylee (lifetime), Katz (one year) and Juba (one year)

**SERVAL**

LORKEN has recovered well after she was attacked by one of the females on her left back leg and took refuge in a tree. She made sure to give our vet Susan (from Mtubatuba vet clinic) a hard time. She had to climb into the Acacia tree to tranquilize her - it was quite a show! On top of it all, the vet's cell phone was ringing while she was in the process of darting! The statement that "women can multi-task" is definitely true! All went well and Lorken received 9 stitches on her leg, which is healing well.

*The Vet making a 'trunk call'!*



*Lorken being stitched up after being darted in the tree!*



**A FOND FAREWELL TO BERNIE**

Bernie left Emondoneni in April to start her own business. She will definitely be missed by owners, all staff and cats. Thanks for all your hard work Bernie, and we wish you only the best of luck with your new venture. You will always have a special place in all our hearts!

Future Newsletters will be uploaded on the website [www.emdonenilodge.com](http://www.emdonenilodge.com) and NOT sent out as PDF files, as this can clog your email facility. We will however send out email reminders with a link to the website.



MUHLE decided to move in with BRUCE and SHEILA at the next door enclosure and the three of them seem to get along very well. This action might change Shendon's habit of attacking the females... some days we wonder!



*A Caracal purrs into the microphone for the filming crew from Earth-Touch.*



*Dumi with one of the Servals 'on set' during filming of a documentary*



*The Unsung Heroes of Emondoneni - Dumisane (above) fixing fences and Louis (below) cutting long grass.*



**EARTH-TOUCH DOCUMENTARY**

The images alongside are some stills from footage shot by Earth-Touch, a US-based company, who will be using the footage for a series on Wild Cats which will be available on the internet within the next few months.

Earth-Touch ([www.earth-touch.com](http://www.earth-touch.com)) is an amazing, dynamic new website that seeks to change how people see and interact with wildlife media online. One of their main goals is to make people aware of centers like the Emondoneni Rehabilitation center.

The company has already been in touch for a follow-up program, to film a big-cat release as well as the birth/first days of a baby Serval. Our cats are becoming major movie stars! The publicity helps create awareness of the endangered status of the animals and links potential sponsors/adoptive parents with the Cat Program, so it is welcome.

*Moya meets Leah Buckwalter of Earth-touch*

