



emdoneni Catnews



Aug-Oct 2013 - 17TH EDITION

Chat to us online



From the Editor's desk...

Emdoneni Lodge received accolades with a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for 2012 AND 2013 as well as a Traveller's Choice Award 2013. We want to convey our thanks to all our guests who helped us achieve this honour. Our reviews mean a lot and we take your views very seriously.

In addition, the lodge has also received the status of Highly Recommended from the well known AA Accommodation Awards committee.

We are proud to be providing the service that most guests enjoy and will continue to strive for excellence!



The two (unnamed) caracal kittens are growing fast and could be released into the wild soon.



Caracal

Caracals can jump over 3m high. This ability is due to their exceptionally powerful hind leg muscles. They often catch their prey in an upside down position, back to the ground, but they always manage to land on their feet. All animals possess a sense of balance situated in their inner ear but in cats it is very specialised enabling them to recover their upright position faster than any other animals.

In feudal India caracals were used for a blood sport in which tame caracals were let loose in bird dens. Wagers were laid on which caracal could kill the most number of birds in the shortest period of time.

There is happiness, peace, love and joy in the caracal family and the young kittens from BAR-ONE and LULU are growing very fast and if all goes well we are looking forward to releasing them back into the game reserve fairly soon.

MAX and POPEYE are still content together.

DIAGO-MADDY and his next door neighbour PEACHES are still single and looking for their life partners to come along and be a part of their lives.



The caracal's face shows its heightened senses of smell, hearing, sight and touch - with large eyes, ears with tufts and long whiskers.

WIFI AVAILABLE AT EMDONENI – AT LAST!

A pole of 16m in height had to be transported and planted - then the aerial attached to the top - what a mission...!

All went well and in working order with guests obviously loving it.



Eish! This is too high...!



I'm just enjoying a quiet scratch here ...

Cheetah

Cheetahs the speed machines of the wild. Their toe claws are not retractable like those of other cats, only mildly curved and rather blunt. They are specialised to act like spikes on running shoes to provide grip. Their scapula lies flat against the deep chest making it free to rotate in the same plane as the leg - in effect lengthening the leg. The spine also adds to stride length by flexion and extension, whereby the swing of leg is increased.

The Cheetah can move at about 00 km/h by flexing and extending the spine (without any legs like a looper worm).

The period that the cheetah has all four feet off the ground is twice as much as

that of a horse and can be up to 50% of the time, resulting in faster speed, thus almost flying through the air. A race horse takes about 2.5 strides per second and the cheetah takes 3.5 strides per second.

Even though it has a *carotid rete* configuration of the blood vessel system which cools the blood going to the brain, the cheetah usually aborts the chase after 300m and needs to rest afterwards. At maximum speed the body temperature may rise to 40.6°C which will certainly result in death if continued for longer. At rest the cheetah's breathing is around 15-20 breaths per minute going up to 150-160 after a chase.

All our cheetah are in good condition and well-behaved, but sadly, no mating yet.



Staff at Emdoneni



Welcome to new staff members, from left: Johan Benadé, Manager Food & Beverage, Beryl Neave, Manager Housekeeping & Laundry, Tamara Nzuzi, Front Office Receptionist & Stiaan Viljoen, Front Office Manager

Welcome to Beryl Neave and Johan Benadé. Johan, with his Executive chef background, will be our new Food & Beverage Manager.

Beryl Neave is our new Housekeeper & Laundry Manager. Tamara Nzuzi is our new receptionist and Stiaan Viljoen is the new Front Office Manager. They are all highly qualified and we are thrilled to have them on board!

Sadly we are saying goodbye to Charmaine Diggins. Charmaine was part of our team for 9 years. Charmaine, thank you very much for your loyalty, dedication and hard work over the years. We are going to miss you very much!



Emdoneni welcomed a new zebra foal to the lodge this spring!



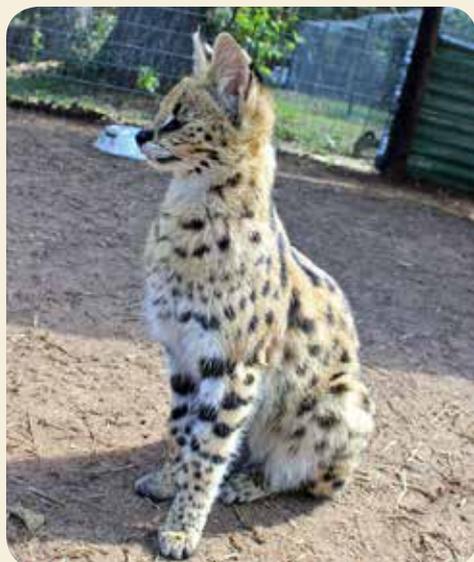
The serval has a long body and legs, with a small head and large ears.



Serval

The name 'Serval' is derived from the Portuguese name for the European Lynx 'lobo-cerval'. Servals are usually solitary but they do have overlapping territories. The male and female associate mainly during mating but may hunt together at other times. Their droppings are characterised by a light grey colour and a powdery white layer, and bound together by the hair of mostly rodents. Their droppings occur randomly along paths and boundaries and they do not make an effort to conceal them (unlike domestic cats).

The three young servals, MAFUTA, CENASSA and CASSIDY - have grown up like magic! Guests love to visit them



as they are playful cats and love all the attention from the visitors.

BRUCE the fully grown male took down a bush baby for an extra meal recently, proving his natural hunting abilities are still intact.

JANE and SPOTTY still share the same enclosure with no problems between them. Sometimes serval do not co-habit very well, but in this case all is peaceful.

NOAH and MUHLE - we are still waiting for the outcome of little servals if all goes well... Keep a lookout for news soon!



Wildcats moulting as the weather warms



Wildcats were considered sacred in ancient times. We still think they are special!



African Wild Cat

Archaeological evidence in Egypt shows that the domestication of African Wild Cats goes back to at least 2000 BC. Some of these archaeological findings date back to the first dynasty 3000 BC. In these times cats were worshipped and their owners mourned their death by shaving their eyebrows. There were annual carnivals in Bubastis or the House of Bast. Bast was the Cat Goddess of Pleasure, and the one who protected humans against disease and evil spirits. To please Bast, bronze statues and mummies of cats were placed in sacred spaces. By the end of the 19th century, so many cat remains were discovered in Egypt that it was sold as fertiliser and 19 tons were exported to England alone!

GRUMPY, KHAYA, HOUDINI and MICHAEL, the permanent residents of our Centre, are all fine and healthy.



Grumpy in typical pose, hissing and snarling at the others... but quite harmless.



Dumisane carrying out a regular tick inspection with one of the caracal.

The Umfolozi Casino adopted Juba for a lifetime, and came to visit with the cheque!



Social Responsibility

We had two young visitors in July who entertained our staff children as part of their social responsibility program. Jeanné Meyer and Sasha visited Emdoneni and what fun the kids had! They went on game drives, visited the cat project, learnt new songs and dance steps! We all had such fun and we are looking forward to seeing them back at the lodge very soon!



Emdoneni sponsored a Chef Competition held by D.I.C.E. in Empangeni recently.



Welcome to all our new parents.

We would like to thank you all for the support you give to the project. Without you the running of this Centre will be difficult. We as Cats need your love and support.

JULY:

The Budge Family – adopted caracal Bar-One for one year

Fam de Wijs – adopted serval Canessa for one year

The Barrow Family – adopted serval Spotty for one year

Pauline Baker – adopted serval Canessa for one year

Famille Jolivet – adopted serval Shendon for one year

Alan Murray – adopted caracal Max for one year

Michael Myers – adopted African Wild Cat Michael for one year

Tony Marshall – adopted caracal Lulu for a lifetime

Umfolozi Casino – adopted cheetah Juba for a lifetime

SEPTEMBER:

Robin Herget – adopted African Wildcat Grumpy for a lifetime

Jim & Tish Hobson – adopted cheetah Autumn for a lifetime

AUGUST:

Dave & Danica Ferrow – adopted African Wild Cat Michael for one year

OCTOBER:

Mike & Roxy – adopted African Wild Cat Michael) for one year