



# Catnews



Sept - Oct 2014 - 20TH EDITION

Chat to us online



## From the Editor's desk...

Emdoneni is not ONLY about the cats, although they are no doubt our BIGGEST attraction! There are many other interesting creatures on the lodge, including prolific birdlife. When the Flame Lily trees at the deck above the swimming pool flower, many sunbirds are attracted to the nectar-bearing blossoms, and you can spend hours following them from flower to flower.



Khaya resting in a tree



## African Wild Cat

As old as he is, **Michael** still feels young enough to take on Khaya in a cat brawl. Michael covered Grumpy – lets see if he still has it in him! Struggling during a cold day, **Grumpy** keeps him comfy and warm. Considering they are solitary cats, they know how to care for each other.

**Grumpy** tries to be quite the lady, always smiling at the guests and trying to sort out the conflict between Michael and Khaya.

**Khaya** is still impatient when it comes to feeding time while **Houdini** waits patiently for her food. Khaya loves showing the guests how he devours a whole chicken bone as quickly as possible so that he can get another piece.

**Houdini** escaped from her enclosure by disguising herself in the vegetation, reminding us again why we named her Houdini.



Grumpy and Houdini



Michael



Khaya



Emdoneni Lodge

WITH ANIMAL CARE & REHAB CENTRE

Touch the Wild where the Waterberry Grows



*Autumn on walkabout.*



*The guides have a rest with Juba after a busy visit.*



*Gerry with Autumn.*



*Juba with a special guest.*

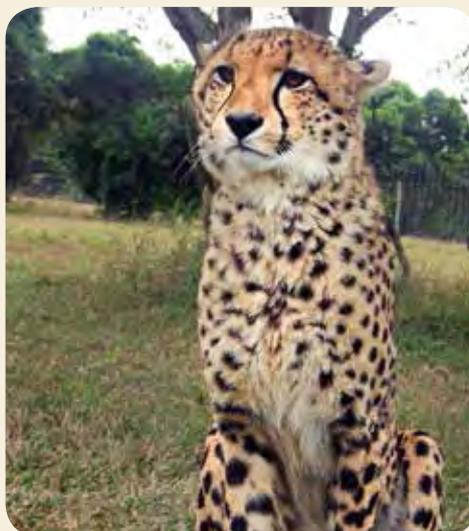
## Cheetah

With his gentle nature, **Juba** enjoys giving attention to the elderly and disabled. Guests get down and interact with him while **Moya** is very patient with children. Juba is as greedy as always, munching his food before even taking a breath to try get to Moya's food. As Juba has been injured before by his brother before, he tends to back away from Moya, worried that he may receive another injury to the face.

**Zera & Autumn** are the queens of the cat project, teasing the boys at every opportunity. Zera is as wild as the day she arrived at Emdoneni and Autumn has a taste for little kids, waiting for them to stray from the group – but thanks to the fantastic guides, we have always got an eye on her! She has now been moved into the enclosure with Skye and Shadow as they are now ready to cover her.

**Skye and Shadow** are growing up very quickly, showing us every day that they are ready to have a female partner of their own. Shadow dominates Skye on a daily basis, showing him who is boss by plucking out parts of his mane while play-fighting. Both of them are now being moved back to their old enclosure because they try to man up to Juba and Moya. Since Autumn has been moved in with the young boys, Shadow is already getting his game on with her.

*Juba is very patient with children and loves to spend time with them.*



*Skye*



*Zera stares the camera down.*



*Zee, our new Cat Project guide.*



*Shadow*





Max and his footprint (right)



Diego licking his lips after a tasty meal.



Bar-One



Gerry making sure the enclosures are kept tidy.



## Caracal

**Bar-One** still jumps as high as ever, clearing the fence on most days. **Lulu** meanwhile, waits patiently for her food, surprising us with a jump only every now and then. Bar-One, has also been manning up to cover Lulu, taking her punches in order to get the job done and then bonding quite nicely afterwards.

After raising her kitten perfectly, **Popeye** has moved back into the enclosure with **Max**. **Oscar** the kitten is now in his own enclosure growing into a top-notch Caracal ready for the wild.



Lulu enjoys a quiet shady patch in a tree.



Kit-Kat cleans herself after a drink of water.

Even though he has arthritis, Max still performs high jumps on a daily basis. He makes sure to capture his meat before Popeye can get to it. Popeye loves to stare down the guests with her one eagle eye, freaking them out a bit.

**Stompie** has been placed in a new enclosure and is finding it very comfortable. A perfect example was her escaping to catch a Red Duiker. This is exactly what we wanting her to do.

**Diego** sleeps most of the day only showing his face when it comes to feeding time. He currently has a double fence, which we intend to keep up as it seems he has now got a taste for young children!

Popeye showing off with a growl.



Welcome to all new parents.

We really value your support!



Tonie Houke  
Patrick Allard & Martine Ruttens  
Dawie Marais  
Georgine Krizek  
Reagan Krizek  
Sophie Krizek  
Nancy Ruben  
Mylene, Kim & Tess Stehouwer  
Mike & Terry Kelly  
Victoria Javgureanu  
Takke  
Papa Gutherz  
Christian Perez  
John O'Sullivan  
Campbell/Whitmeyer  
Swanepoel Family  
The Ansara's



### DONATION:

Don & Janey Giessinger and Cindy Dreitzler donated a Post Hole Digger.

**PAYPAL REGISTERED FOR THE CATS!**  
Thanks to SA Venue.com for the first donation via PayPal.



*Cenessa*



The hope that **Sheila** would stay wild was in vain. Instead she has become quite the attention seeker, always being the first to approach guests when they enter her enclosure. **Noah** has been seen covering her but there are no signs of pregnancy yet.

**Jane**, being the feisty cat that she is, raises her back when it comes to feeding time, showing us who is boss. She was recently operated on after getting a cut under the stomach while climbing a tree and slipping.

After acting like a wild cat in the beginning, **Noah** now also seeks attention by stroking up against some of the guests. He is greedy, always being the one to eat first.

**Spotty** hangs about in the trees trying to avoid guest interaction. She climbs right to the top, making it difficult for guests to spot her, hence the name Spotty. She will hopefully be released soon as she is showing on a daily basis that she wants nothing to do with humans and eats her meals up in the tree.

**Cassidy** is another attention seeker, wanting to show some love to most of the guests. Once everyone has stroked him, he

struts his stuff by walking up and down very elegantly.

**Cenessa** is the lady in the family. She always lies down patiently, waiting for the guests to give her attention. Out of the Serval, she is definitely the most relaxed, allowing us to pick her up to show the guests how tall or long the cat is.

**Mafuta** - after once being the fat cat in the family, Mafuta has turned out to be the slimmest cat of them all! He is always crying for us to come closer to him. He has however unfortunately got into a bad habit of biting peoples clothes and not letting go. This may mean that sooner rather than later he may need to be released into the wild.



*Sheila the attention seeker.*



*Spotty hiding in a tree as usual.*



*Noah*



*Mafuta dreams about being wild.*



*Cassidy kissing a visitor.*



*Serval Jane giving a gentle warning.*



# Emdoneni Catnews

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Collecting Cycas plants for the reception area at Emdoneni. It is a much bigger job than you would imagine.

Summer escaped from her enclosure after trying for many months. The fences could not hold our precious Ms Summer... she decided NOT to wait for an official release, and did it all by herself. Summer might have planned this from day one as she was a wild and different character since she arrived at the project. She is officially roaming around free, on the natural wetlands in the Bushlands area. We wish her the best but miss her.

Summer managed to escape.



PayPal has been registered on our website for donations and adoptions for the cats. We received our first donation only minutes after the upload on the website. Thanks to Christine & Steffi from SA Venues.com for the donation!



## 100% FOR EMDONENI ASSIGNMENT!

Dawie Marais is a Gr 6 learner from Doringkloof Primary (Gauteng). He had to do a presentation about an organisation that looks after animals. Dawie chose us and made contact with us via the internet.

We provided him with info about the cat project. He presented a lovely presentation to his class and his teacher Ms Lues was extremely happy with the result. He achieved 100% for his assignment, for both writing and presentation. We are happy that Emdoneni was able to assist Dawie and the awareness that was created about the animals and the project. Juba was also adopted by Dawie.



Professional photographer, Matt Meuskens, has donated a stunning canvas for our entrance area. He is based in Durban and takes the most amazing photos. His pictures are often taken from a different angle and one can see the love for his work in all his photographs. Matt has become a dear friend to us all at Emdoneni.



What is it?

This rather scary looking creature is only an unusually colourful but harmless Praying Mantis.

## Thank You!



Don & Janey Giessinger donated a post hole digger to the project, all the way from the USA.

