

emdoneni CATNEWS



MARCH 2015 - 22ND EDITION

Welcome to our NEW LOOK Newsletter, refreshed for the New Year and packed full of the latest news about the Cats at Emdoneni, their adoptive parents and visitors. Please let us know what you think by Email, on Facebook or Twitter. We look forward to hearing your comments. Thanks you, as always, for your interest in the Project and valued support!



Bar-One

CARACAL

BAR-ONE is many people's favourite cat, maybe it's because of his sheer size and the way he stares down the food before he receives it. He has now been moved to the back of his enclosure so that Lulu can have a bit more space as we think his done a good job mating with her again - let's see what happens. From time to time he still gives guests a good show by jumping to catch his food.

LULU is an old lady on the project but also one of the shy ones, always waiting at the back for her food. Unfortunately Bar One doesn't allow her to eat first, but cat manners are not the same as human! Otherwise she has been covered again and is showing signs of being pregnant, so we will monitor her closely to see what happens.

MAX is the old guy of the project. At the moment Max is living a solitary life as he has been confined at the back of the enclosure, seeing that Pop-Eye has one kitten that is

about 11 weeks old. His arthritis hasn't been giving him any problems as he still jumps the highest of all the cats, so he is ageing well. Funnily enough, he still seeks quite a bit of attention by approaching people in the enclosure and rubbing himself up against them, but we don't encourage people to touch him as much as he would like, because once you start he doesn't want you to stop!

RUBY is by far one of the prettiest females on the project and she takes up all the space on peoples cameras, staring into the lens with those beautiful eyes of hers. At the moment she is still all by herself, but soon she could be put in with one of the males.



Lulu

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS – thanks to Chantelle Loots and Jamie Lucas for the beautiful images sent to us!

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



CARACAL ACROBATICS!

DIEGO is a cat that attracts people with all his good looking features! His long legs, blue eyes and his frosty looking ears. He never used to jump for his food, but we now put the meat on a stick and all of a sudden he can't wait to show everyone that he can and will jump the highest.

POP-EYE amazes us on a daily basis. She is an exceptionally wonderful mother and cares for her baby deeply. She gives the kitten all the attention she needs and loves to groom and play with her during the day. She is very protective over this little one. The baby is growing into a stunning caracal and very wild. This little one loves to hide in the thorn tree and will sometimes give her hiding place away by looking at you with big bright eyes! We are not sure what the sex of this baby is as she will not let us close at all. However, they are both doing well and enjoy the special bond they have with each other.

Ruby



Pop-Eye (below) with her little one (above)



SAVANNAH is the shyest of the caracal and does not like to be visible to guests. She always tries to hide in a tree or the thick bush when they visit. Savannah is nearly old enough to be put in the same enclosure as Diego so that they can become a pair. She is a special beauty and one must simply be patient to understand her personality.

Savannah





Jane



Spotty



Sheila

SERVAL

SPOTTY is the wildest cat on the project and always stays far from any human interaction, spending the whole day in the tree and only coming down when there is no one in sight. She still puts on a good show by waiting up in the tree for her food; which the guide throws for her from the other side of the fence before visitors go in. Her performance shows guests what exceptional climbers Servals are.

JANE also restricts herself from human interaction recently by sleeping the day away up on her platform up in the tree and only really coming down when it's close to feeding time. These days she jumps for her food - not too high, but at least about 1.5m. She has gone into season again but at the moment Noah is in an enclosure with Sheila.

SHEILA still shows dominance by bossing the other females around. She always eats first and chases all the cats around, generally making it so difficult for Noah to cover her properly. At the moment Noah and Sheila are in one enclosure, so let's see what happens over the next week or so!

NOAH is doing well, keeping himself busy by chasing all the females around, although for the last couple of days he has been with Sheila in a separate enclosure. He is still quite the greedy cat when it comes to eating! He must be first or from time to time he will take food from the females. Otherwise, he is a big attraction for guests due to his sheer size.



Noah



Noah



Cenessa



Muhle



Cassidy

CASSIDY is everyone's favourite cat when it comes to interacting as he always gets up to greet the guests, teasing them by rubbing himself up against them and then walking away elegantly. On most days he is game to play fetch with his ball and sometimes becomes so excited that he rushes up and down the tree.

CENNEA is currently not one for interaction but would rather guide guests to her ball so that they can throw it for her. It's so funny when people stop because then she shows the guests how she entertains herself by running really fast in circles, knocking the ball around herself. Along with her brother Cassidy, she also likes to show off her climbing skills.

MAFUTA is still all by himself in an enclosure; partly isolated from the public as we are trying to assess whether we can release him or maybe give him a couple more months and then introduce him to the females for breeding.

MUHLE always minds her own business and entertains herself by doing what she likes best – annoying Noah! Besides that, she is a well behaved cat and an absolute pleasure to have in our project.

Mafuta



The late 'Ouma' Susan Basson playing with Juba, who left R500 to the project in her will.



Summer kissing Amoné Nel



Moya and Juba



Moya and Louis Nel jnr

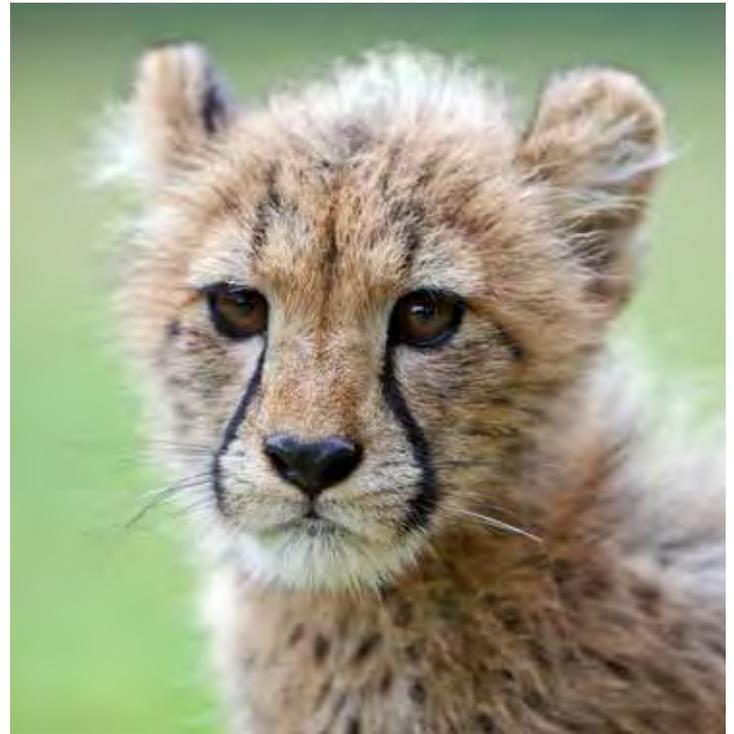


Cecillie giving Raine a hug

CHEETAH

MOYA is usually a complete gentleman but has been a bit of a grumpy guy lately when it comes to interaction time. Therefore we really just allow small groups to visit him. Besides being grumpy, he does like to join his brother while the interaction is taking place, allowing the guests to be part of their grooming session.

JUBA is the public's favourite as he is so tolerant when it comes to interaction time - allowing many people to touch him one after the next. He is also very careful when allowing the disabled to touch him, not minding at all that there is a wheel chair next to him. Sometimes he even rolls over, to allow them to get closer.



Raine



Summer

SUMMER and RAIN are by far the biggest attraction at the moment for guests who visit Emdoneni. I mean who wouldn't want to interact with two gorgeous looking cheetah cubs! These two girls are always ready to play with guests and are full with energy. Sometimes we take them out to run around and they love to show off their speed to visitors. We have a soccer ball for them; we give it to the guests to kick around and most of the times the cubs love to take part in chasing it.



Shadow



Skye



Zera

SKYE and SHADOW - The older these two cheetah males get, the more beautiful they become! They are nearly sexually mature now and hopefully will show interest in the adult females, Autumn and Zera soon. With their prominent facial markings and strong brotherhood commitment they are true ambassadors for our project.

ZERA is still with Cheetah Experience but, oh boy, she

is a tough cookie! She has not shown interest in any of the males yet. We will give her another 3 months to see if she shows any signs of allowing one of them to mate with her. If not, we will make plans for her release. We would love to collar her and keep track of her in the wild, to make sure that she is coping well. Any person/s wanting to contribute to her collar please make contact with us, as it would be a costly exercise.



Matt & Meg

TRIBUTE TO A DEAR FRIEND

Mathew and Megan recently became part of Emdoneni, unfortunately through sad times. Megan passed away in early 2015 and her family decided to adopt Raine and Summer.

MEGAN (A Tribute by Matt)

Megan Parry was the only daughter of Christopher and Gisela Parry and fiancé to Matt King. A beautiful, talented 26 year old that lived fully in each and every moment. She believed in change, in kindness and the spirituality of the wilderness.

She lived in the moment, she valued the people in her life and she never fussed over material things. One of her favourite gifts I gave her was a rescued cat which she loved dearly. She was the type of person that, in five minutes, could change your perspective. She taught me so much and I will treasure her influence on my life. She loved the bush, the silence and the stars. She listened to the rain, watched storms and loved sunflowers.

She was always driven, she had purpose. She spent months making a motivational vision journal for me which I will treasure forever. Together we were bird watchers, game viewers (wannabe rangers), creative and always talking. She was my dream and my strength.

With her Pinterest inspired, impeccable taste she made the world beautiful. She believed life was beautiful and she always found the light, the goodness in everything. I am privileged to have had her as my best friend, fiancé and to have loved her. She was the love of my life.

I hope that her story can be remembered through the lives of Raine and Summer. She believed in the idea of paying it forward and I hope to have her spirit carried forward through the lives of the cheetahs and the great work done by the remarkable people at Emdoneni.



Dad Mafusa



Mom Autumn



CHEETAH CUBS AT LAST!

As you may know, Autumn is currently with Riana and René from Cheetah Experience in Bloemfontein. Since our two adult males are both infertile (Moya and Juba) we decided to send her to them for a breeding loan. She arrived in Bloemfontein at the end of October 2014. She almost immediately 'fell in love' with the male, Mafusa, and the two of them spent one night together... We were not 100% sure that they mated but we all stood in good faith and prayed for a good outcome. Autumn also kept her body well in shape and only at the end showed signs of her pregnancy. We were all completely over the moon!

On the 15 February 2015 Autumn gave birth to two beautiful babies, a male and a female. Sadly, she initially rejected the babies completely. Riana and René had to take over and began to bottle feed them, from 2am in the morning, as they lost body temperature quickly. They were doing excellently on the bottle and began gaining weight.

4 days later, Autumn gave birth, once again, to another

healthy, fat little boy! We were amazed and awestruck! The first two kittens were put back with her and their brother, and she accepted them all back to take care of! They are all doing extremely well and are still with their wonderful caring mom, Autumn. We are very proud of her and happy that we decided to send her to Cheetah Experience.

As part of the arrangement, Emdoneni will keep one male and the other two will stay with Cheetah Experience. We feel very blessed to have this little male as he will be staying at the Emdoneni project, for breeding purposes, as our numbers of strong breeding males are very low. We have decided to name him Storm.

All three cubs will still stay with their mom for two months until Storm is ready to be collected and brought back home to Emdoneni. We cannot wait to welcome him!

When Autumn falls pregnant again, the first new female cub will be named Meg.



Above: Autumn with her little one's. Below left: The three cubs with Autumn. Right: Mafusa, proud father.

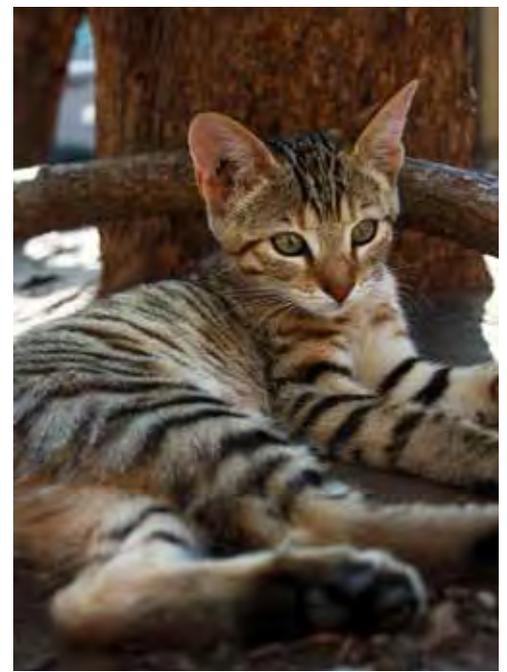




Khaya



Apple



Cinnamon

AFRICAN WILD CAT

KHAYA lives alone in his enclosure, although we recently cleared it out quite a bit so that he has more place to explore. He and Michael haven't had a dispute for a long time now, or maybe he is more interested in the new African Wild Cat kittens that have moved to the camp near him. From time to time he shows that even though he is slightly domesticated, he still has the instinct to hunt by leaving signs of dead mice in his enclosure.

GRUMPY still lives up to her name by hissing away when people get too close, with the occasional mock charge towards the fence. We tried to move her into another enclosure the other day, but she showed us how clever

Michael



she is, because she just rushes up a tree out of reach!

MICHAEL is the oldest guy on the project, living every day to the fullest and being kept company by his mate Grumpy. Although he shows us that he still got it in him to cover Grumpy, unfortunately we think he is a little too old to get the job done properly. But we don't judge here at Emdoneni!

APPLE and CINNAMON are quite the attraction for guests as they are real attention seekers - crying as guests enter Khaya's enclosure. They are begging to be picked up and to be cuddled. It gives guests an idea of how much quicker they grow than normal domestic cats. We can also tell that Cinnamon is becoming more dominant by the day, raising his hair when Khaya comes too close.

Grumpy



NEW CAT ADOPTIONS

October 2014

Name	Cat Adopted	Period
Sandy Teufel	Juba	One year
Maddie Tourtlotte	Apple	One year
Thothadri Family	Shadow	One year
Danie & Veronica Barnardo	Ruby	One year
Virginia saunders	Noah / Diego	One year
Vickie Znorski	Ruby	One year
Trish Shaw	Noah	Life
Judith Thatcher	Cinnamon	One year
Ruth Bourn & Anthony Treble	Savannah	One year



Jacques Nel visiting his friend

November 2014

Mark & Sue Gayther	Cinnamon	Life
Ramsey Family	Apple	Life
John Lawrance & Adele Marvo	Raine	Life
Christian Zogg	Noah	One year
Petra Fransen	Summer	one year
Ruzika Verryn	Max	One year
Ruzika Verryn	Noah	One year



Summer and Raine going for a ride in the bakkie

December 2014

Maddie Tourtlotte	Cinnamon	One year
Pearl & Alan Murray	Max	Life
Toni Suddes	Moya	One year
Lara Suddes	Juba	One year
Scott & Fraser Peters	Cinnamon	One year
Dylan & Robyn Sander	Grumpy	One year
Amy & Lawren Peter	Khaya	One year
Maritza Badenhorst	Noah	One year
Gerhard Ingram	Raine	One year
Noah Blore	Noah	One year
Catrin Ellis	Sheila	One year
Eirlys Greenough	Juba	One year
Helen & Bryce Samson	Apple	Life
Helen & Bryce Samson	Cinnamon	Life
Maeve Stuwig	Summer	Life

January 2015

In Loving Memory of Meg	Rain / Summer	Life
Family and friends of Megan Parry & Matt King contribute towards Raine and Summer		
Laura Hieb	Cassidy	One year

February 2015

Kailee Adams	Summer	One year
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More acrobatic jumping from Diego!

A warm welcome to you all and THANK YOU for your valued support in helping to preserve the cats!