



# CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

N E W S L E T T E R

## Cheetah Ambassadors Airlifted from CCF Namibia to USA— A President’s Pledge Fulfilled

In early April, in a historic gesture of goodwill and support for the worldwide work of saving the wild cheetah from extinction, ten young Namibian cheetahs were airlifted by the US Air Force to new homes in the United States. This group of cats, originating from eight different litters from Namibian commercial farm-land areas, had found sanctuary at CCF.



These cheetah ambassadors fulfill a pledge made by the President of

and approved breeding programs like the American Zoo and Aquarium Association’s Cheetah Species Survival Plan (AZA-SSP). To strengthen the gene pool of the species worldwide, the AZA-SSP has a strict regimen by which individual animals can be moved and monitored, allowing for an international breeding program that will lead to stronger, healthier offspring among the global cheetah population.

All ten cheetahs were “non-releasable” animals. They could not survive in the wild and would otherwise have had to remain permanently in CCF’s care if they were to remain in Namibia. However, by traveling to US zoological facilities with approved breeding programs, the genes of these cheetahs will be added to those of animals collected in similar approved conservation programs in countries throughout the world where cheetahs live. Instead of remaining in Namibia where wildlife regulations currently prohibit breeding, these cheetahs will support the global survival of the species.

Four cheetahs have gone to the Cincinnati Zoo’s Mast Farm in Ohio, and the other six to White Oak Conservation Center in Florida. All ten form part of the initial phases of a Global Master



*Peggy before departure in CCF holding facility, fully recovered after a final operation to remove the pin from her broken leg*

Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, to recognize US support for cheetah conservation efforts in Namibia. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) provides for the careful, scientific management of endangered species. While indiscriminate trade in such animals is expressly forbidden, the treaty allows for the export of animals to carefully monitored

### CCF Vision Statement 2001

“We see a world in which cheetahs live and flourish in co-existence with people and the environment.”

### CCF Mission Statement 2001

“The mission of the Cheetah Conservation Fund is to be an internationally recognized centre of excellence in research and education on cheetahs and their eco-systems, working with all stakeholders to achieve best-practice in the conservation and management of the world’s cheetahs.”

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# A Letter From Laurie

DEAR CHEETAH FRIENDS,

Time flies when conducting cheetah conservation. We have been incredibly busy the last few months with cheetahs. Our staff, students and volunteers work long and hard days, every day. Presently we have 20 cheetahs at the Centre. We thought we were in pretty good shape a couple of months ago after sending 10 cheetahs to the US; our cheetah population at the Centre was down to 17 from 27, but we just picked up 3 more cubs a few days ago. The past year has been a year of orphans and severe medical cases.

Picking up these last three orphan cheetahs a few days ago is so very typical of our experiences and dealings with farmers. These cheetahs, about the same age as the five orphans still at CCF and six of the cubs we sent to the US, were all born in June/July, 2000. The



*Laurie and her staff conducting a medical work-up on a captured cheetah.*

farm is at the top of the commercial farming area called the Mengitti, about a 4-hour drive from CCF. We gave a talk to this farming area at the end of last year. Prior to this most farmers just killed all the cheetahs in the area. This farmer had been in contact with us for the past month, stating that the cheetah family was in their game-fenced area and was catching kudu and springbok with an occasional calf. The catching was taking place every day or two, a typical time frame for a female cheetah with cubs of this age, and five calves had been lost in total. We could only help them by offering livestock management



*Yet another good release back into the wild!*

recommendations and letting them know we could help with the cheetahs once they caught them in the game camp. However, the farmer shot the mother and one of the cubs when he found them eating a kudu calf. Then he set a trap, leaving the mother's skin on the trap so the remaining cubs could smell the mother and thus was successful in catching the other three cubs. These cubs cannot be released back into the wild without their mother.

When we arrived at the farm the female cub had been in a trap cage for about a week while the two brothers had been caught in the past two to three days. We brought the cheetahs back to CCF and the next day conducted a medical work-up on the cats under anesthesia. The female had a fairly deep laceration in her leg, so I stitched it up. One of the male cubs will need to visit the vet/dentist in the next week to cap a broken canine tooth. The farmer and his wife came by CCF while we were conducting our examinations on the cubs, so they were able to see first hand what we do when conducting an exam. They looked through our Cheetah Museum and will bring their farmers' association to CCF for a meeting, as well

as their family and grand children. After leaving CCF, they were headed to Windhoek. They informed us they had the female's head with them to give to the taxidermist and that it would be a present to their grandson.

Days like this are not planned! We are on call 24 hours a day 365 days a year. We are known throughout the country as the "cheetah people." We get phone calls about cheetah and livestock/wild game problems as well as when people see cheetahs. We are always ready to get in our vehicles and head anywhere in the country to help farmers.

Additionally, we travel the country to conduct educational programs in schools, community groups and farmers. Our vehicles are our lives (thanks to the Millers for donating funds so we could get two new vehicles last year!)

Our days are full with caring for the cheetahs that are at CCF. We have been fortunate to have many great volunteers helping in this area. Our Earthwatchers have helped in all areas of CCF efforts. With twenty cheetah mouths to feed, we use over 80lbs of meat a day. This is a concept that most

*Continued on Page 5*

# News Flash!!! CCF's Cheetah Sanctuary Expands— Many Thanks to Susan and Arthur Babson!

An exciting addition of land to CCF's cheetah sanctuary and the greater Waterberg Conservancy has just been concluded. A key parcel of land now completes the area between CCF's original farm, "Eland's Joy," and Carl Hilker's farm "Osonanga." The generosity of Susan and Art Babson of New Jersey enabled this crucial purchase. Susan, New Jersey and New York CCF Chapter's indefatigable coordinator, while on a recent volunteer

stint at CCF Namibia, saw this prime property up for sale and so acted quickly. She and Art donated the entire \$150,000 purchase price. Not only does this land consolidate a block dedicated to cheetah protection and sustainability, it is also has a regionally unique biodiversity. The Rhino Specialist's Group determined through satellite imagery that "Osonanga 2" is the only land in the entire conservancy that is ideally suited as black rhino

habitat, and could serve a valuable function in the Namibian Species Survival plan for that endangered beast. The Schneider-Waterbergs, CCF neighbors and owners of "Osonanga 2" have been very gracious and helpful in facilitating the sale of their property to CCF. Thanks to them and the incredible personal commitment and support of the Babsons, the wild cheetah and the black rhino have a greater hold on survival in the wild. Thank You!

## Cheetah Ambassadors to USA...

*Continued from Page 1*

Management Plan for cheetahs aiming at coordinating captive cheetah conservation efforts on a global scale. They will be integrated into the North American regional management program, the Species Survival Plan (SSP), which coordinates the management of all captive cheetahs at different facilities in North America. Working within this program, all the facilities holding cheetahs cooperate on issues concerning reproduction, genetics, diets and general husbandry of the species. This is

the first time in nearly 30 years that wild caught Namibian cheetahs have been approved for export to international breeding programs. As such, they represent the culmination of 10 years of effort on the part of CCF and the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism. These cheetahs can be considered as ambassadors of Namibia, representing the excellence of the wildlife conservation programs for which Namibia is internationally recognized.



Laurie and CCF staff member Bonnie Shumann with US Air Force pilots on the "great airlift"

## Fulfillment of CCF Goals for 2001

CCF's objectives for the year 2001 are either fulfilled or well underway! CCF is committed to continue:

- Working with farmers in cheetah-related issues; reducing conflict
- With the tag-and-release program and biological sampling of cheetahs
- The radio-tracking program with emphasis on female cheetahs
- Working with the Large Carnivore Management Forum Association
- Working with the Waterberg Conservancy in wildlife, habitat monitoring, eco-tourism activities and promoting the concept of conservancies in Namibia through CANAM (Conservancy Association of Namibia); and working with communal conservancies
- Expanding the Livestock Guarding Dog Program through breeding and placement of dogs. Data on the dog program is being compiled and analyzed. Research will begin on the effective use of local dogs in communal areas for livestock protection
- Expanding CCF's community development program with emphasis on youth groups

- Conducting educational assembly program in Namibian schools and assist teachers in the use of CCF's Teacher's Resource Guide through teacher training workshops
- With student research projects in cooperation with Namibia's Polytechnic and the University of Namibia. Other international students will also join CCF for intern programs
- Providing a field station for Earthwatch and working with Earthwatch Volunteers
- Working with Raleigh International volunteers.
- Working with CCF's Namibian fundraising committee to recruit partnerships with local businesses
- Hosting national and international journalists.

And in addition:

- Coordinate the export of 10 cheetahs from Namibia to the USA for Namibia's President [see lead story front page for realization of this project] and continue to explore avenues of possible export of non-releasable

- cheetahs at CCF to licensed breeding centres
- Work with Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Tourism and Trade and Industry on bush encroachment-related research and bush industry development
- Follow-up with schools that have been involved in CCF programs
- Conduct the fifth session of the Field College on Cheetah View in cooperation with Round River Conservation Studies
- Work with the University of Namibia in developing a certification program for Conservation Biology courses
- Assist with the development of CCF UK and CCF Canada
- Assist Iran and India with developing a cheetah program in their countries
- Assist Zimbabwe and South Africa with their cheetah programs
- Assist with the Global Cheetah Master Plan meeting to be held in August
- Publish research papers on CCF research
- Develop a marketing strategy for the promotion of CCF's new Education Centre to enhance eco-tourism in the region

## More News From Namibia . . . CCF Namibia Staff Changes

**S**adly, CCF lost two important staff members recently:

Don Muroua, CCF's first professional employee, was hired in 1996 after completing his in-service training for Namibia Polytechnic in natural resource management. Don developed CCF's community outreach program, working primarily in the eastern communal areas. He focused on placement of the livestock guarding dogs, community-based conservation, and was a voice for CCF throughout Namibia. Don also was responsible for CCF's habitat and prey monitoring programs and in the last two years completed a Bachelor's of Technology (B Tech) degree through Polytech, the first B tech program in Namibia. Don left CCF to join RISE, a community-based organization, but he will always be a part of CCF.

Susan Deshaies came to volunteer at CCF in mid-1996 after retiring from her

family-owned business. She fell in love with CCF's livestock guarding dog program and returned to CCF the next year to work with the dogs. She worked with CCF's goat-herder, Gustav, to teach him about the care of goats and dogs. Sue also assisted in CCF business activities, including CCF's annual fundraiser, *Celebration of Speed and Elegance*. Sue had to return to the USA due to a family emergency. Her dedication to CCF exemplifies the American spirit of volunteerism.

Many of Sue's and Don's duties have been taken over by Fanuel Ekondo, formerly a Polytech student who completed his in-service training at CCF two years ago. Fanuel has taken on the care of the livestock guarding dog breeding program and placement of the dogs in the



*New staff member Fanuel Ekondo with puppy.*

communal farming areas. He earned his stripes quickly by successfully raising all 13 of our most recent litter of livestock guarding dogs.

Everyone at CCF will miss Sue and Don. We wish them well and welcome Fanuel to the CCF family. 🌿

## CCF Namibia Board of Trustees Changes



*CCF Namibia Board of Trustees with Laurie, from left; Mike Hill, John Murphy and Walter Bottger*

**C**CF Namibia's hard working, dedicated Board of Trustees is undergoing a change this July with John Murphy retiring and Mike Hill joining. All three are Rotarians. 🌿

## Laurie Receives Highest Honor from Rotary Club International



*Laurie receiving Award from Windhoek's Rotary Chairman Brian Black*

**L**aurie Marker has received the highest, most prestigious honor of the Rotary Club International, The Paul Harris Fellowship, named in honor of Paul Harris who founded the Rotary Club. This award allows Laurie to attend Rotary Club meetings anywhere in the world and acceptance of Laurie as a 'Fellow' and friend by fellow Rotarians. 🌿

## Visiting Groups

**C**CF has been proud to host several interesting groups over the past few months, including several of CCF's Scientific Advisory Board members. In addition, a group of veterinarians visiting from Swedish zoos donated valuable equipment to our clinic. During their visits, group members stayed at the homes of Waterberg Conservancy members, helping establish the Conservancy as an eco-tourism site.

In addition, Round River Conservation Studies hosted two student groups over

the past several months. During their three months at Cheetah View, both groups practiced conservation biology, examining bush encroachment through studies of seeds and vegetation plots as well as conducting biodiversity studies on small mammals in the area. In addition to the Round River students' conservation projects, one group built a cheetah compound during their stay while the second group participated in a sociology study for the University of Namibia. 🌿

**Give a Gift of Life to your family and friends  
– Adopt a Cheetah for them!**  
*see page 12*

## A Letter from Laurie

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CCF friends don't fully understand unless they have helped us process the day's food for cheetahs in the "meat room". We are most happy when our cheetah compounds are empty, but we have come to realize that this is a dream. We will always have orphaned



Pat and Bill Miller in front of "The Hot Spot," the kitchen/dining room for students and volunteers they have assisted in remodeling.

or injured cheetahs that we must care for at CCF. Due to this, we are now busy building enlarged compounds for the cheetahs that are here. Namibia's new wildlife policy states that every captive cheetah is to have a hectare (about 2.4 acres) of space. So, with 20 cheetahs here, we need to have 20 hectares. We

are building several compounds with different areas so we can have different groups of cheetahs together—not all cheetahs like each other.

With CCF's newly developed Education Centre, we have been busy daily with school, community groups, and visitors. Additionally, we are working with our Otjiwarongo community and Waterberg Conservancy to promote day visits to CCF for international tourists. Several groups of tour operators and agents along with travel writers and TV producers all are visiting CCF to see where we fit into the big picture. We are a focal point in our region, so people are staying longer in our area, thus providing important economic incentives for the local community to appreciate having free-ranging cheetahs on their lands.

Our approach to conservation is multi-tiered—community based and in most respects working. Although we will always deal with farmers and cheetahs, the strong dislike towards cheetahs has



CCF's newly developed Education Centre

really changed. Cheetah numbers in Namibia are growing and fewer cheetahs are being killed. One of our former Earthwatch volunteers, a docent at the Houston Zoo in Texas, told us about a young boy she had told about the cheetahs' situation. The boy said "When I grow up, I will make a law that says that no cheetahs will be hurt or killed"! I wish that boy was grown up now and that law was in place today. Looking into the eyes of these last three cheetahs, I continue in my commitment to try to make a place where cheetahs can live free so that future generations can know this most wonderful species. I ask all cheetah friends to continue to help so that cheetahs will be around when this young boy grows up!

## Upcoming Events

### The Northern California Chapter's Run for Survival!

Join us for the 3rd annual *Run for Survival* in Northern California! Cheetahs will be running at top speed – a sight you won't soon forget! As an added bonus, Laurie Marker will be our special guest for the day. Come see her slide presentation on CCF in Namibia, a live auction, lots of cheetah gifts and other beautiful wild cats!

Sunday, September 30, 11:00am - 4:00pm; Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, CA USA

All proceeds from this event benefit the Cheetah Conservation Fund.

For more info on the *Run for Survival*, and the other fall events in Northern California, contact

CCF Northern California at 408.354.4035 or [stacey@cheetah.org](mailto:stacey@cheetah.org).

You can also visit our web site at [www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org).

### Laurie Marker's Fall Tour 2001

#### SEPTEMBER

- 16-17 Washington, D.C.
- 18-21 Cincinnati, OH
- 22-23 Phoenix, AZ
- 24-30 San Francisco Bay Area

#### OCTOBER

- 3-4 Chicago, IL
- 5-6 Seattle, WA
- 7-8 Portland, OR
- 9-13 New York and New Jersey
- 14 Toronto, Canada
- 15-16 Dallas, TX
- 17 Houston, TX
- 18-19 Oklahoma City, OK

Many locations on Laurie's tour are public appearances. To find out more about Laurie's visit to your area, please visit the CCF website at

[www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)

(the tour schedule will be updated periodically) or contact **Stacey Van Syckle** at [stacey@cheetah.org](mailto:stacey@cheetah.org) or **408.354.4035**.

# Taking Proper Care of Trapped Cheetahs



**M**ost farmers are conscientious about the care they provide trapped cheetahs until CCF arrives to remove them. However, two recent captures highlight the critical need for proper care of trapped animals, be it cheetahs, leopards or non-target animals caught accidentally.

## Paddy

In January, we received a call from a farmer who had trapped a male cheetah at a play tree. That afternoon, when CCF staff arrived at the farm, they discovered him in very great distress. With no shade and the temperature around 40°C, he had spent the entire day in the sweltering sun. Panting desperately, he repeatedly tried to put his head into the little shade offered by the trap-plate on the floor of the cage. As soon as the transport box was placed next to the trap cage and the adjoining doors opened, he crawled into the shade of the transport box. Back at the farmhouse, staff stopped briefly to water him and call ahead to the CCF Research Centre to have a veterinarian on standby, as he was critically dehydrated. Having been left in Namibia's merciless sun all day, he went into shock at the clinic and nearly died. Fortunately, with expert veterinary treatment by Dr. Arthur Bagot-Smith and much luck, he slowly rallied. Five hours after intravenous re-hydration and treatment, the cheetah, now named Paddy, began to stir. His left front paw was badly injured in the trap cage, with all the pads torn off. Over the

next few days, the pads of his other paws sloughed off; all had been severely burned on the wire and the metal trap plate in the floor of the cage. After three months, Paddy's pads are almost completely recovered, and hopefully he will be able to be released soon.

## Ginny

One February afternoon we received a call from a farmer who had trapped a cheetah family and wanted us to remove



*Ginny's badly infected toe had to be amputated.*

them. When CCF staff arrived they saw that despite the fact that the cheetahs were in trap-cages, the female initially had been caught in a gin-trap or leg-hold trap. The farmer had not been on the farm and the workers had set both gin-traps and box-traps to be sure they caught the entire family. The CCF staff took the cheetah family directly to the Otjiwarongo Veterinary Clinic so the

mother's badly swollen hind foot could be x-rayed to check for broken bones. Although the x-rays revealed no bones were broken, the trap had inflicted severe wounds, including an irreparably dislocated toe. After three days her foot was still terribly swollen and bruised, and a few days later the skin on top of the foot began sloughing off. Named Ginny after the implement with which she was trapped, she remained at the veterinarian's for two weeks to receive intensive treatment to prevent infection and ensure that new tissue developed to close the gaping holes. While Ginny's foot appeared to be healing, the dislocated toe was badly infected and had to be amputated. Ginny is now back at CCF with her two cubs, still receiving treatment and healing well. Hopefully, the family can be released in the near future. 🐾

## What To Do When A Cheetah Is Trapped

- Do not use gin (leg-hold) traps
- Regularly check cages to make sure they work properly
- Provide water, shade and shelter from downpours
- Call CCF immediately upon capturing a cheetah
- Set traps only if you're experiencing livestock loss due to cheetah predation
- Call CCF to discuss livestock management techniques to reduce predation
- Regularly patrol game and livestock fences and fill any holes in or underneath
- Electrify game fencing to control predation

Ginny and Paddy were lucky. When these basic humane steps are not taken, death is most often the result.

**Round River Conservation Studies is currently accepting applications for their Conservation Field Studies Programmes at CCF. For more information on this three-month college-accredited course, contact Round River direct at [www.roundriver.org](http://www.roundriver.org).**



# Addressing the Ongoing Challenge of Bush Encroachment— A Habitat Renovation Plan to Aid Cheetahs and Farmers

By Dr. Richard Jeo  
and Laurie Marker

Bush encroachment, the thickening and multiplication of endemic bush species, is a major problem for both the Namibian economy and the cheetah.


Bush encroachment reduces the hunting efficiency of cheetahs and the thorns can seriously injure the cats, including blinding due to hunting in thick bush. In addition, thick bush reduces the populations of the cheetah's natural prey species (primarily springbok) and other game species (oryx, eland and red hartebeest, for example). Farmers experiencing economic hardship due to bush encroachment are less likely to tolerate livestock predation and more likely to remove cheetahs.

By way of a generous grant from the United States through USAID, CCF is researching a program that should improve the cheetah's habitat, make grazing lands more productive, and create jobs. Our plan is to harvest bush in

an ecologically sound manner and build and manage a plant to process the bush into fuel logs and wood chips. The bush products then will be marketed under an educational and environmentally friendly cheetah label and sold in Europe, South Africa and Namibia.

Small enterprises will be created to harvest bush and sell raw materials to the bush processing plant. These businesses not only will help restore cheetah habitat, they will also contribute to the Namibian economy by creating jobs and new products for export. In addition, productive grazing lands for wildlife and cattle will be created. Our business plan suggests that the project is economically viable.

To make sure that bush clearing is ecologically correct as well, we have implemented long-term monitoring of invasive bush, cheetahs and their prey base. Some of the money generated by the bush clearing will help pay for this research and also will support the conservation and education activities

conducted by CCF. Our hope is that the program will also create a model partnership between business and conservation organizations that will illustrate that conservation can pay for itself. 

## Save on Taxes – and Save the Cheetah!

**Your tax benefit is the full market value at the time of donation!**  
**Also, a bequest in your will helps assure the long term survival of the cheetah, and is a win-win – your estate and heirs are relieved of unnecessary taxes, and the wild cheetah receives the benefit of your good planning and generosity. See your tax advisor for details.**

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## Volunteers Speak Up! When the Picture On The Wall Comes Alive

There are people whom we consider "great" because they inspire us. Many work and study to high achievement, becoming authorities, but they don't capture public imagination. Others fascinate us because of a lifestyle or accomplishment – but it is fleeting. The few who can keep our attention as well as carry the label "hero" have something more. A charisma. They inspire and motivate us.

My 'wall picture' came alive last month when I spent two weeks in Namibia, working at CCF in Namibia. Laurie Marker, "my cheetah hero," is trying to convince Namibian farmers and ranchers that "we can live together" – cheetahs and humankind. Laurie has that special charisma, as well as decisiveness.

I had the privilege of helping her and her staff care for the cheetahs. In effect, I was helping the staff as a "zookeeper" for 24 cheetahs and one leopard. This involved butchering animals like kudu,


oryx, etc, for daily feedings. Choice parts were sometimes saved for OUR dinners! With camera and stick, I entered the enclosures of young cheetahs. Adult females can only be fed along with experienced staff. We never went in with adult males, who would try to attack right through fences. You can imagine the thrill of going in with seven young cheetahs of about six or seven months old, kicking a soccer ball around with them! They would challenge me with bared teeth, a low growl, and pouncing the ground with their front paws. One cheetah was in an enclosure only 50 feet from the thatched roof hut where I lived for two weeks. I could sometimes hear her cheetah sounds at night as I lay in bed.

Every day brought a new, amazing activity, thanks to the staff who delighted in my wide-eyed enthusiasm. Bonnie Schumann, one of Laurie's assistants, kept my "cheetah activity cup" full. Sometimes a cheetah needed to be

crated. This involved several of us trying to get the cat into the opening. One time, while I was holding a big board forming part of the chute to the opening, the panicked cheetah chose this board to run at, with me looking over the top. Bam! Attacked by a cheetah! That's a thrill I will always remember. My cup was full! I was able to do some dentistry on a cheetah anesthetized for another procedure. I also went up in a small, four-person airplane to help do some radio collar tracking of released cheetahs. I joined Bonnie to retrieve a cheetah that had been struck by a truck and killed.

This was truly the adventure of a lifetime.

Laurie Marker and her staff are saving more than cheetahs. They are saving part of our humanity. We, as spokespersons for animals in zoos, must also do our part to spread the importance of conservation as a quality of being human.

By a CCF Volunteer 

# Our Friends, Those Super Dogs! The Livestock Guarding Dog Program – Newest Puppies Go To Work



*A new puppy on the job*

CCF's Livestock Guarding Dog (LSGD) Program got off to a lively start on the 3rd February this year when Zanta, one of CCF's resident working guard dogs, gave birth in the goat yard to 13 puppies!

Such an extraordinarily large litter presented some problems. Since Susan Deshaies, who normally would have helped raise this litter, had to leave CCF before the puppies were born, Kathryn Bell from Cheetah Outreach, CCF's

educational branch in South Africa, and Doris Lauritzen, a former EarthWatch volunteer who returned to CCF, came to our rescue. They acted as nursemaids, rotating puppies in and out of Zanta's presence to make sure all received enough milk. Fanuel

Ekondo took over once the puppies could eat semi-solid food, feeding them three times a day. Fanuel also introduced them to the goat herd and finally to their new farmers and the livestock they soon will be protecting.

The five females and eight males progressed well. Early in April CCF staff delivered them to farms across Namibia. Eight puppies were placed in the eastern communal areas; five went to commercial farms. Three trips, to deliver four puppies, covered more than 2000 kilometres. CCF staff were travel weary by the end of the week but very satisfied that these valuable puppies had found good homes.

The Anatolians are bred at CCF and donated to farmers experiencing small stock losses due to predators, particularly cheetahs but also including jackal and caracal. Before a puppy is placed, staff spend time talking to the future owners, briefing them on the raising and care of these unique dogs. After placement, all LSGD owners are contacted by telephone to check on each puppy's progress; in some cases staff visit farms to gather additional information on how the dogs are progressing. Presently more than 130 dogs work on Namibian livestock farmland.



## Anatolian or Kangal: More Background On Livestock Guard Dogs

CCF recently received two interesting letters from Haluk Kurtoglu, a Turkish man living in The Netherlands. Mr. Kurtoglu had seen a documentary about CCF's use of Anatolian Shepherds to protect small stock against cheetahs and other predators in Namibia. He recognized the breed as one commonly used in Turkey, called the Kangal and believed to be more than 6000 years old. Following are excerpts from his letters:

"We own a Kangal (Anatolian shepherd). We were brought up with these dogs because they are the pride of Turkey. My parents also were brought up with these dogs, and they always have nice stories about how intelligent

these dogs are and how strong they are.

In the Sivas or Kangal region of Turkey, the shepherds have special techniques to train these dogs, but protecting the flock is in their nature because they are very intelligent and very, very independent. What they think is the right thing to do they do. I have a videotape from the region where they come from in Turkey on which you can see them working by the sheep.

A lot of people call these dogs Anatolian shepherds. A Polish person made up that name. Nobody in Turkey or any other Turk knows this name, because the real name is Kangal. This name was given by the family Kangal from the village Kangal, which made

these dogs popular. A Kangal dog festival is held every year in the village of Kangal. Proud Kangal dog owners from everywhere in Turkey come here to show their dogs. Turkey has many breeds, crossbreeds, Akbash, etc., that many people call Anatolian shepherd.

A Kangal dog is not a shepherd but a flock protector, a mountain dog. These dogs are the strongest and toughest dogs in the world; they have survived in the most extreme climates and against all kind of predators. I know big Kangals can fight our Gray wolves of Eastern Turkey, and they can kill bear, etc. It's their job to protect the sheep, and when there is no other way left they have to fight."



# Earthwatch Volunteer Reports Back in Excellent Form



Earthwatch Volunteer Patricia Tricorache's website covers her working visit to CCF in an exemplary fashion. Anyone interested in visiting CCF as a Volunteer is advised to study this site. It's also very instructive for anyone caring about the plight of the cheetah and the work of CCF.

[http://www.geocities.com/crocsetal/tour\\_the\\_ccf.htm](http://www.geocities.com/crocsetal/tour_the_ccf.htm)

Here are a few excerpts from Patricia's cheetah personnel stories—accompanied on her website with many images and the distinctive cheetah chirrup sound!

- Another CCF resident is Old Lady, a 12 year-old grand dame who became too old and sick to be attractive at a game ranch where she was being exhibited. Old Lady is hard of hearing and has bad eyesight. She spends most of her time resting and has the best possible life in captivity. She is very loved and well taken care of by everyone at CCF. Old Lady has a best friend, Leah.

- Peggy, about 9 months' old, became my favorite. She was quarantined in a pen right next to our rondavals (guest residences). She spent a whole month in a trap with a broken leg. It had to be re-broken in order to help it heal properly. Peggy has the best attitude I've ever seen. She's feisty, playful, and very coy. Her chirping

at night became my favorite lullaby

- At the time, ten of the cubs at CCF, including Peggy, were waiting for a 'lift' to the US. They were destined for two zoos where they will be part of an international breeding program. On April 6th, a US Air Force airplane transported them to their new country.

- The Three Boys are the epitome of power and beauty. They are young adult males destined for a game farm in South Africa. They will have plenty of room and game to live an almost-normal cheetah life. I was in awe every time I got to see them.

- I had the sad privilege of accompanying Bonnie to a beautiful game ranch south of CCF, where a cheetah had been shot. The drive there was beautiful. One minute it would pour, the other the sun would shine...or both! Like they say...if

you don't like the weather in Namibia, wait 20 minutes. The German-style game ranch is surrounded by beautiful country. The owner and his staff seemed to be very knowledgeable...

Unfortunately, mistakes happen. The cheetah that was shot this time turned out to be a 13 month-old female. A potential cheetah mother... a sad loss. But as Bonnie put it, at

least it wasn't the mother that was killed. A dead cheetah mother can only mean certain death for wild cubs, unable to fend for themselves. We were hoping to transport the dead animal back to CCF, but the farmer did not want us to, so we had to help Bonnie extract the cheetah's organs to take them back for a necropsy.

I don't think the hunter knew that he had killed a cub. With our cardboard box full of organs, we drove back to CCF. The sun was setting over the wild Namibian landscape, and the first evening shadows painted the land in colors similar to those I was feeling in my soul. As soon as we



CCF resident, Old Lady

finished, I ran to the cubs' pen. I needed to see them and there they were, all cuddled up in the dark, staring at me with those bright and intelligent eyes that reflected the dim light emanating from the lab where a necropsy had just been performed. I reflected on how those cubs represented hope for their species and was able to smile for the first time in many hours.



Patricia and Bonnie extract a cheetah's organs to take them back for a necropsy.



You can visit Patricia's site at:  
[http://www.geocities.com/crocsetal/tour\\_the\\_ccf.htm](http://www.geocities.com/crocsetal/tour_the_ccf.htm)

# Media Focus

CCF's cheetahs, dogs and even goats are on their way to becoming the newest media darlings! In the last few months, several television and film crews have visited CCF to document our cheetah conservation efforts, in particular the Livestock Guarding Dog Program.

- On April 9th, Cathryn Hilker of the Cincinnati Zoo's Angel Fund and Laurie Marker were interviewed by Diane Sawyer and Charlie Gibson on the ABC's **Good Morning America** Show. Laurie had just arrived two days earlier with ten cheetahs the US Air Force had airlifted to the US as a gift from the President of Namibia (see story on front page). Viewers were able to see firsthand the current program at the Cincinnati Zoo, featuring a cheetah and an Anatolian dog raised together, and hear the story of Laurie's work in Africa. After the show Cathryn, Laurie, the dog and the cheetah all stayed in a NY hotel together!

- In May the **Jeff Corwin Experience**, a children's show about animals, aired a



Cathryn Hilker of the Cincinnati Zoo's Angel Fund and Laurie Marker with Diane Sawyer and Charlie Gibson on the ABC's Good Morning America Show

## A Cheetah Always

By CCF Supporter  
Matthew K. Oliver

*My lungs about to cave in,  
A last effort to catch  
Perhaps my cub's last meal.  
Before the sun goes down,  
And the lions come out.*

*Everything moved in slow motion,  
Including the scavengers lurking  
So close to stealing my pride.*

*Is anything as fast?  
To disappear as the ground behind me  
And how quickly must we move, and eat  
Before something could take my cubs away.*

*I am one with my family,  
Yet too familiar.  
Always searching for more,  
The land shrinks,  
As I wander to tragedy.*

*Yet I am still chasing,  
Maintaining my composure,  
Charming the believers,  
Gazing into the future  
With my fiery stare.*

segment on cheetahs and CCF on the Animal Planet Channel.

- Lynn Sherr, of TV news magazine **20/20** (ABC), spent three days at CCF and nearby commercial and communal farms in May filming a segment on the Livestock Guarding Dogs.

- In addition, the **BBC** visited CCF to film livestock guarding dogs in action. A video on the same subject is being produced by Pantera Productions.

Watch our website for updated details on these and other media coverage: [www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)



Laurie with 20/20 TV hostess Lynn Sherr

# Cheetah Conservation in Kenya

By Laurie Marker

Last year CCF was asked to help assess the cheetah situation in Kenya, where populations have been reported to be declining. In March I traveled to Kenya with Mary Wykstra-Ross, a CCF research assistant, to investigate the cheetah situation, focusing on the Nakuru Forum/Conservancy area, located in the central portion of the Rift Valley. The goal of this initial visit was to provide an overview of habitat, prey base, human impact, predator conflict, conservation potential and need, and existing research, to evaluate whether CCF might be able to assist with cheetah conservation efforts in Kenya.

During the brief trip, we met with members of the Nakuru Wildlife Forum, hosted by Tom Cholmondeley, managing director of Delamere Estates. This conservancy comprises approximately 300,000 acres and includes commercial farms, group farms and game/national parks. The densely populated cities of Nakuru, Naivasha and Gilgil are within this district, and the human population is estimated to have increased nearly 50% since 1990. Maasai pastoralists traditionally had access to this land; however, an increase in land ownership has limited pastoral land use. As in many African countries, the profitability of livestock farming has been on the decrease, and forum members are looking for alternative ventures and conservation-based land uses.

Conservancy farmers report that they are seeing fewer cheetahs. The cats that have been sighted on conservancy lands in the past few months are believed to be migratory, not resident animals. As the farmers believe cheetahs have only a minimal impact on large and small scale livestock farming, they would like to support conservation studies on cheetahs, with the goal of using their presence to attract tourism to the area.

Game on conservancy lands includes eland, buffalo, hartebeest, impala, Thomson's gazelle, Grant's gazelle and zebra. The main predators of game and livestock are leopard and spotted hyena, and the populations of both appear to be on the increase. Both opportunistically take calves and full-grown cattle. Wild dogs also have been sighted in the forum but are not seen as a threat to

livestock. Lions are rarely sighted. As in Namibia many farms place donkeys with their calving herds to reduce livestock loss to predators.

The southern section of the conservancy, which borders Maasai land and Hell's Gate National Parks, has been set aside for game and therefore is no longer grazed by livestock. This area is believed to be a distribution range for migrations of animals from the Mara region. Nearly one-third of the forum's game—20,000 animals—reside in this section. Pastoral farmers are given limited access to some portions of the land during droughts. The 35 salaried rangers in the area receive additional compensation for apprehending poachers or snares on the property. Cheetahs—including a coalition of two animals and a mother with cubs—are sighted regularly.

One of the conservancy farms grows and exports flowers and employs more than 7000 people. This farm includes a fenced 17000-acre game farm containing both indigenous and non-indigenous game species, rhinos, leopards, and other small predators. A solar-powered electric fence maintains security and prevents game movement in and out of the park, although occasional breaches in the fence allow some animals to leave the game farm or others to enter. Two male cheetahs have been residents for several years.

After leaving the forum area we spent the next couple of days with researchers at the Mpala Research Centre in the Laikipai District in northern Kenya. The habitat in this region resembles our area of Namibia. Compared to the Nakuru district the brush is thicker and the rough terrain is less conducive to agriculture. Senior scientists and undergraduate students conduct studies of habitat, wildlife and ranchers to provide a broad ecological base for wildlife conservation in Kenya.

The Laikipia Predator Project, under the direction of Drs. Laurence Frank and Rosie Woodroffe, is based at Mpala and studies lions, hyenas, wild dogs and human-conflict issues. We spent a day investigating a lion kill and watching the farmers' method of trapping. Like the farmers in the Nakuru Forum, these farmers acknowledge that cheetahs are little threat to their livestock; they also

have noticed a decline in cheetahs and would like more in the Laikipia region.

After I gave a presentation at the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) headquarters in Nairobi, we then headed to the Masai Mara with Bernard Ngou, the director of research for the park. I was asked by KWS to assist with a research project in the Masai Mara to study the impact of tourism on cheetahs. Over the past few years cheetah numbers have decreased and this study, a cooperative effort between the tourism area and KWS, will assess the situation.

There is indeed a need and desire for cheetah conservation studies in Kenya. In collaboration with ongoing projects, CCF will be assisting in the understanding of predator-human conflicts through additional studies in the Nakuru region. Although the number of cheetahs in the region appears to be quite low, this area could aid in better understanding the impact of human population and commercial farming on Kenyan wildlife populations, especially the cheetah. Kenyan farmers were eager to learn how Namibian farmers minimized livestock loss from predation, as, throughout the world, Namibian farmers are considered models for coexisting peacefully with predators. Studying the Nakuru Forum and combining findings with the existing southern and northern projects will provide a broad understanding of predator and wildlife issues in Kenya. 🐾

## New Video is an Ideal Fund-Raiser

This new video, compiled from various separate CCF tapes and running for over 40 minutes, includes:

- 1-min. Public Service Announcement for TV spots
- 8-minute interview with Laurie Marker on CCF-Namibia
- 10-minute item on the Anatolian Guard dogs project, and
- a 23-min. Canadian TV show in National Geographic style, called *Champions of the Wild*, about the work of CCF.

To get your tape, contact CCF. Cost is \$25 plus shipping. Please don't copy it!

# How You Can Help Save the Cheetah...

strategies throughout their range, develop conservation education programs, create priorities for the cheetah in the wild and support habitat protection. Your valued donation (in the form of an 'adoption') is not tied to a specific animal but is entirely used for the protection of all cheetahs in Africa and elsewhere. You can also join this program through the CCF web site, <http://www.cheetah.org/>

## When you 'adopt a cheetah' through this program you receive:

- . A CCF adoption certificate
- . A color photograph of a wild cheetah (YOUR CATEGORY)
- . A cheetah 'fact sheet'
- . A large CCF sticker
- . A copy of the most recent Cheetah Conservation Fund newsletter

### Please choose from the following categories:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Adult .....\$45            | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheetah Pair .....\$90  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female with one cub .....\$90     | <input type="checkbox"/> Group of six cubs .....\$270                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female with two cubs .....\$135   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue a cheetah trapped by a rancher .....\$350                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female with three cubs .....\$180 | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow a radio-collared cheetah for one year .....\$2000          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single cub .....\$45              | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopt an Anatolian Guard Dog</b> to save the cheetahs ...\$500 |

*The Anatolian Guard Dog adoption program is a new addition to the plan. Your \$500 will pay for the raising, feeding and vaccinating of a dog for one year, along with training for the farmer to whom the guard dog will be given. The dogs enable farmers to protect their livestock from predators without killing or maiming any cheetahs that might be involved. The price of adoption per cheetah has been raised to \$45, as a result of increased costs over the nine years since the adoption program was introduced.*

### Adoption(s) to be made in the name(s) of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel/Email (Opt) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special message for gift card \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tel/Email (Opt) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special message for gift card \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Annual Associate Information

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participating .....\$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron .....\$1,000      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor .....\$50         | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator .....\$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor .....\$100  | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....\$5,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter .....\$500    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other .....\$_____       |

Please make checks (US funds only) payable to the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and mail to:  
**Cheetah Conservation Fund, PO Box 1380, Ojai CA 93024 USA**

If you wish to charge your contribution to your Visa or MasterCard, fill in the information below and mail it to us, call us at +1 (805) 640-0390, or fax to +1 (805) 640-0230. All donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law. The Cheetah Conservation Fund is a USA 501 non profit 501 (c) 3 #31-1726923.

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please Indicate:  VISA  MasterCard  
 Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Address of Donor (if different from above)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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# CCF Cheetah Store

Note our new merchandise and sale prices for designs not shown here please see our website [www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org) We stock a limited number and variety of colors to keep costs down. please make a second color choice so if we happen to be out of your first choice we can get your merchandise to you as soon as possible.

Item#	Description	Size	Color	Price (\$US)
EMB1	T-Shirt Embroidered	M,L,XL	white/blk/sage/sand	17.95
EMB2	Embroidered Polo/Sport shirt	XL,XXL	navy, gray, natural, teal-green,gray-blue	25.00
EMB3	Embroidered V-neck Sweatshirt	L,XL	charcoal, sage	45.00
EMB4	Embroidered Canvas Cap	one size	black & khaki/ khaki/deep teal & sage	15.00
EMB5	Embroidered Velour Zippered Pullover	L,XL	dark blue/taupe	<b>SALE! (was\$45)</b> 25.00
VT1	Short sleeve T-Shirt:Verdayle /CCF on back	M,L,XL	taupe,black,natural/sage	17.95
VT2	Long sleeve shirt:Verdayle/tail down arm	M,L,XL	sage/taupe/sand/black	25.00
VT3	Canvas Tote Bag:Verdayle		natural or black	15.00
S7	Original CCF T-Shirt	L,XL		<b>SALE! (was\$17.95)</b> 15.00
SS7	Original CCF Sweatshirt	XL,XXL		<b>SALE! (was \$24.95)</b> 20.00
S10	Spirit of Freedom T-shirt	M,L,XL		<b>SALE! (was\$17.95)</b> 15.00
S11	Chewbaaka on Black T-shirt	S,M,L,XL		17.95
SS11	Chewbaaka on Black Sweatshirt	M,L,XL		35.00
C1	Jambo Watoto, hardcover, children's book, color			15.95
C2	CCF Coloring Book:6"round color sticker, b&w, 10 pages			<b>SALE! (was \$5)</b> 2.50
C3	"Cheetahs",by Luke Hunter, info and pictures			16.95
C4	The Orphan Calf and the Magical Cheetah, Children's Collection			<b>SALE! (was \$20)</b> 15.95
C5	Cheetah Survival on Namibian Farmlands, 85 pages			<b>SALE! (was \$25)</b> 20.00
C6	CCFTEACHER'S RESOURCE GUIDE: A Predator's Role in the Ecosystem, b&w			<b>SALE! (was\$25)</b> 20.00
M1	New improved waterproof CCF 6in diameter round yellow & red sticker			1.00
M2	Spirit of Freedom Poster 11in x 14in			2.50
M3	"Cheetah Study" by Artist Kim Donaldson (15in x 18in)			<b>SALE! [was \$20]</b> 10.00
M4	"Comfort Zone" by Artist D. Arthur Wilson (20in x 30in)			<b>SALE! [was \$35]</b> 25.00
M5	South African Rooibos Tea: Herbal, no caffeine, no artificial additives or preservatives (40 bags)			<b>SPECIAL PRICE</b> 4.00
M7	Sweet Plush Cheetah Toy (7in long)			10.00
M10	VERY CUTE Plush Baby Cheetah hand puppet: Lies horizontal at 9in long with 9in tail			<b>SALE! [was \$20]</b> 15.00
M11	BEAUTIFUL Plush ADULT Cheetah Hand Puppet: Sits upright at 15in tall with 13in tail			<b>SALE! [was \$30]</b> 25.00
M12	PURRING Plush Crouching Cheetah, (12in with 12in tail) – yes, it really purrs like a real cheetah!			<b>SALE! [was \$25]</b> 20.00
V1	Video – Cheetah: The Struggle to Survive – CCF's Work in Namibia			<b>SALE! [was \$20]</b> 10.00
V2	Video - Compilation of 4 separate views: 1 min. CCF/PSA, 8 min.CCF/overview, 10 min. On guard dogs, 26+ champions of the WILD/CCF			25.00
AWC	Adopt A Wild Cheetah: Please see Order Form opposite for additional information.			

Please keep checking our website ([www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org)) for new items and special sales!



NEW! Plush crouching cheetah that REALLY PURRS!



NEW! Embroidered shirts, sweats and caps!



Spirit of Freedom design



Verdayle Turning Point 2000 design



Original Design



Cheetah puppets





The Cheetah Conservation Fund would like to thank the following people and organizations for their very generous support...

The African Wildlife Foundation  
The Andrews Foundation  
Susan and Arthur Babson  
Sandy Ball  
W.D. Bell  
Kim Bendheim  
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CCF is very grateful for Pfizer's generous donation of dog vaccine and dewormer to support the Livestock Dog Guarding Program and likewise, for Fort Dodge Animal Health's gift of Telazol, used to anaesthetize cheetahs.

**Special Thanks to the WILD Foundation and the New CCF USA Status**

CCF extends its thanks to The **WILD Foundation** for their 10 years of support for our work, enabling CCF to become an internationally recognized center for cheetah conservation and management. With CCF (USA)'s non-profit status obtained this year, now CCF has non-profit status both in Namibia and the USA. CCF (USA) continues to work from the Ojai-based WILD offices. We are grateful that The WILD Foundation still works with us in a cost-effective manner, as CCF (USA)'s manager and conservation representative. For further information on The WILD Foundation see WILD's website: [www.wild.org](http://www.wild.org)



# CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

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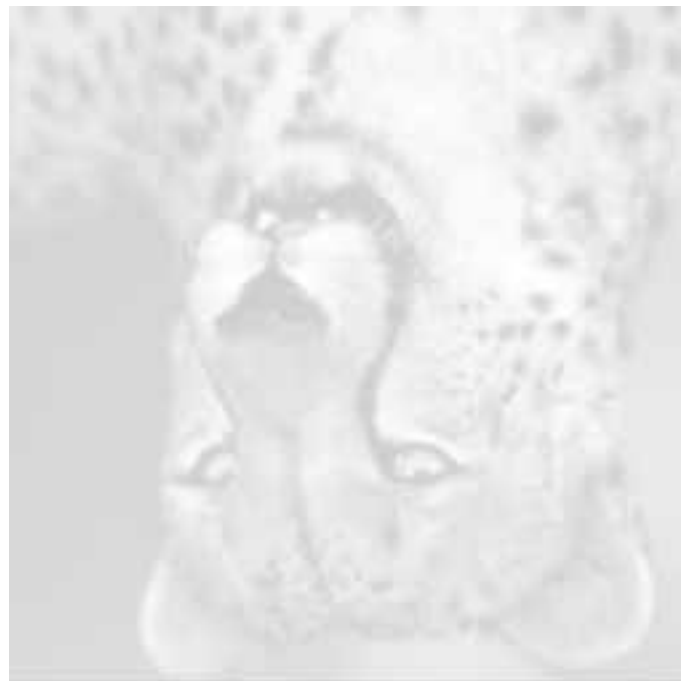
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For more information please contact:  
CCF, PO Box 1380, Ojai CA 93024, USA.

Tel: +1 805.640.0390; fax: +1 805.640.0230.  
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