



LIVESTOCK GUARD DOGS

Founded in 1990, CCF is a Namibian non-profit incorporated association dedicated to the long-term survival of the cheetah and its ecosystems.

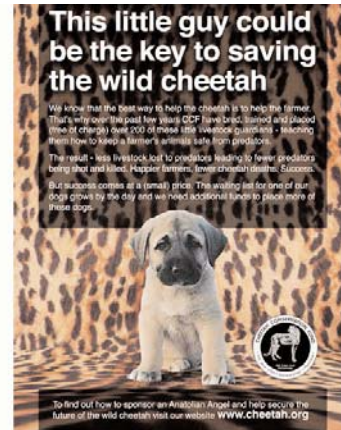
CCF VISION

To see a world in which cheetah live and flourish in co-existence with people and the environment.

CCF MISSION

To be an international centre of excellence concerning cheetah conservation, and multi-disciplinary research and education programmes; working with all stakeholders to achieve best practice in conservation and management.

CCF's activities include conducting international research, conservation and education programmes to ensure the survival of the cheetah for future generations.



For the cheetah to survive, it requires habitat, prey base and a holistic approach to land use by livestock and game farmers. Because of competition with other predators in protected areas, most of Africa's cheetahs survive on agricultural lands where they run into conflict with human livestock interests. This sometimes results in livestock loss. Many Namibian farmers perceive cheetahs as having an excessive economic impact on their livestock and wild game industries. However, improved knowledge about the cheetah and more attempts to control predators in a non-lethal manner are needed. Farmers hold the future of the cheetah in their hands, so one of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) key programmes is Human and Wildlife Conflict Resolution.

The CCF Human and Wildlife Conflict Resolution research team uses the findings of the CCF scientific cheetah research programme to assess cheetah behaviour, prey preferences and home ranges to then develop 'predator-friendly' livestock and wildlife management strategies. These include establishing calving seasons, calving kraals, herders, dogs and donkeys as livestock guardians, electric fencing and warthog swing gates. Research results are tested on the CCF model farm and other cheetah-friendly farms. The CCF education team then shares the research studies and non-lethal predator control techniques with farmers at farmers' association meetings, agricultural shows and through publications.

LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS WORLDWIDE

Historically, livestock guarding dogs have been used throughout Europe and around the world to protect livestock. Livestock guardian breeds share not only physical traits such as large size and a threatening bark, but also important behavioural characteristics, showing attentive, trustworthy and protective behaviour to the livestock with which they were raised. They are not bred to herd or move the stock, which can trigger a predator to attack, but instead place themselves between the stock and the threat and bark loudly. If the predator persists the dog will attack, but often the mere presence of an intimidating guardian is enough to make the predator leave.

The CCF began a Livestock Guarding Dog programme in 1994, using the Anatolian Shepherd breed that has been used in Turkey for 6,000 years to protect sheep from wolves.



" Farmers hold the cheetah's future in their hands. Together we must find viable predator-friendly farming solutions. "

**-DR. LAURIE MARKER,
CCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**





ANATOLIAN SHEPHERDS

Anatolian Shepherds were chosen in preference to other livestock guarding dog breeds as they are short-coated (making them well adapted to working in a hot, arid climate) and are large, imposing dogs that bark loudly.

The CCF Livestock Guarding Dog programme has generated much interest among farmers, communities, tourists and the media since its inception. To date, over 200 dogs have been placed on livestock farms and farmers have reported a decrease in livestock losses.



The CCF breeds, places and monitors dogs, scoring for effectiveness using methodologies developed for guarding dog behaviour. Monitoring includes investigating livestock losses to predators on farms with and without guarding dogs. The CCF supports the veterinary and medical care of puppies by vaccinating and sterilising them prior to placement. After placement, CCF provides continued care for dogs on communal farms, and monitors all other dogs regularly.

PROGRAMME AIMS

The objectives of the programme are to continue evaluating the dog's effectiveness and monitor how they adapt to the Namibian environment over time in order to foster a sustainable co-existence of predators and people. The hypotheses being tested are that traditional farmers are amenable to changes in livestock management practices to mitigate predator conflict and that guarding dogs will reduce livestock loss to predators, thus reducing the numbers of predators killed by farmers.



Due to the success of this programme in Namibia, CCF is assisting in the development of Livestock Guarding Dog programmes in other countries where large carnivores are in conflict with livestock.

HOW DO FARMERS SELECT A GUARDING DOG BREED?

Namibians have been using dogs as livestock guardians for quite some time and have developed small mongrel breeds to help protect livestock. The CCF helps work with the farmer to decide if an Anatolian Shepherd or a mongrel breed is best suited for the farmer's needs. Larger dogs, like the Anatolian Shepherd, have an advantage in that they can confront large predators. However, the diet of a large, fast-growing breed such as the Anatolian needs close attention and can be more expensive than the diet of a smaller breed, especially for rural farmers. A potential owner needs to discern what predators the dog will need to defend against, what function the breed has been developed for, what the advantages and disadvantages of each breed are, what the terrain is like and whether there is commercial dog food affordable and readily available.



CAN A FARMER RECEIVE A CCF DOG IMMEDIATELY?

The CCF Livestock Guarding Dog programme is very successful. Due to this success, there is a high demand and a long waiting list for puppies. Farmers should not assume that they automatically qualify for a dog and that they will receive a dog immediately. The CCF weighs the need, area, history and potential when considering a dog placement. If the CCF is unable to provide a dog, or feels that a dog is unsuitable for the problems faced by the farmer, CCF staff members will work with the farmer to try and find alternative solutions to their concerns.



Farmers interested in seeing if they qualify for receiving an Anatolian Shepherd can contact the CCF office for additional information.



CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND

PO BOX 1755 PHONE +264 (0)67 306225
OTJIWARONGO FAX +264 (0)67 306247
NAMIBIA E-MAIL CHEETA@IAFRICA.COM.NA

WWW.CHEETAH.ORG