Abstract: Enclosed a writing for her information about concerns of the Indian Cheetahs being native to India and fear that they may have been African Cheetahs imported for hunting purposes to India and then having turned wild. Reasons why this can't be true are listed.
November 14, 1986

My dear little Cheetah,

When we met recently in Minnesota, I promised to send you my own views on the reintroduction/introduction of the Cheetah in India.

Enclosed herewith please find a whole bunch of correspondence exchanged with experts and scientists in the field as also my own views expressed in a letter to Mr. Zafar Futehally.

In my letter to Mr. Futehally I think I have asked some pertinent questions. These are the questions I would like you to concentrate on and let me have your considered views on the subject.

It was great meeting you and I hope it will not be too long before we can meet again.

Love

Encl: (Maharaja of Baroda)

Ms. Laurie Marker,  
Wildlife Safari,  
P.O. Box 881,  
WINSTON, OR. 97496,  
U.S.A.
February 2, 1984

I have gathered that you are apprehensive of the Indian Cheetahs being native to India and fear that they may have been African Cheetahs imported for hunting purposes to India and then having turned wild.

I would like to try and put this doubt in your mind to rest on the following grounds:

(i) The African Cheetah sub-species are called Acinonyx jubatus jubatus whilst the Asiatic sub-species are called Acinonyx jubatus venaticus which proves that the Asiatic Cheetah has scientifically been acknowledged as a sub-species.

(ii) These animals are found today in Iran where there had been over 200 animals up til the Shah of Iran's regime.

(iii) The Babar Nama mentions Cheetahs in Afghanistan and also their use in hunting in India. Humayun has supposed to have seen Cheetahs in the Punjab.

(iv) In no Moghul records is there any mention of Cheetah being imported either from Iran or Africa in any large numbers.

(v) Cheetah have been hunted in Saurashtra and North Gujarat as late as 1910 and there are no records of the Princes of that area either importing or deploying Cheetahs for shikar, till the day when Maharaja Bhav Sinhji of Bhavnagar began to import them from Africa. Surely my grandfather could not have shot two Cheetahs in Wankaner between the year 1900 and 1910 if they were imported animals that went wild?

(vi) I can not understand how imported Cheetahs could find their way to Korea in Surguja District (M.P.) to enable the Maharaj of Korea to shoot them in 1945?

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I hope you will consider all these points before taking a positive stand in the matter.

My best wishes and warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(DIGVIJAY SINH)

Maharaja Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad,
7, Dupleix Lane,
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