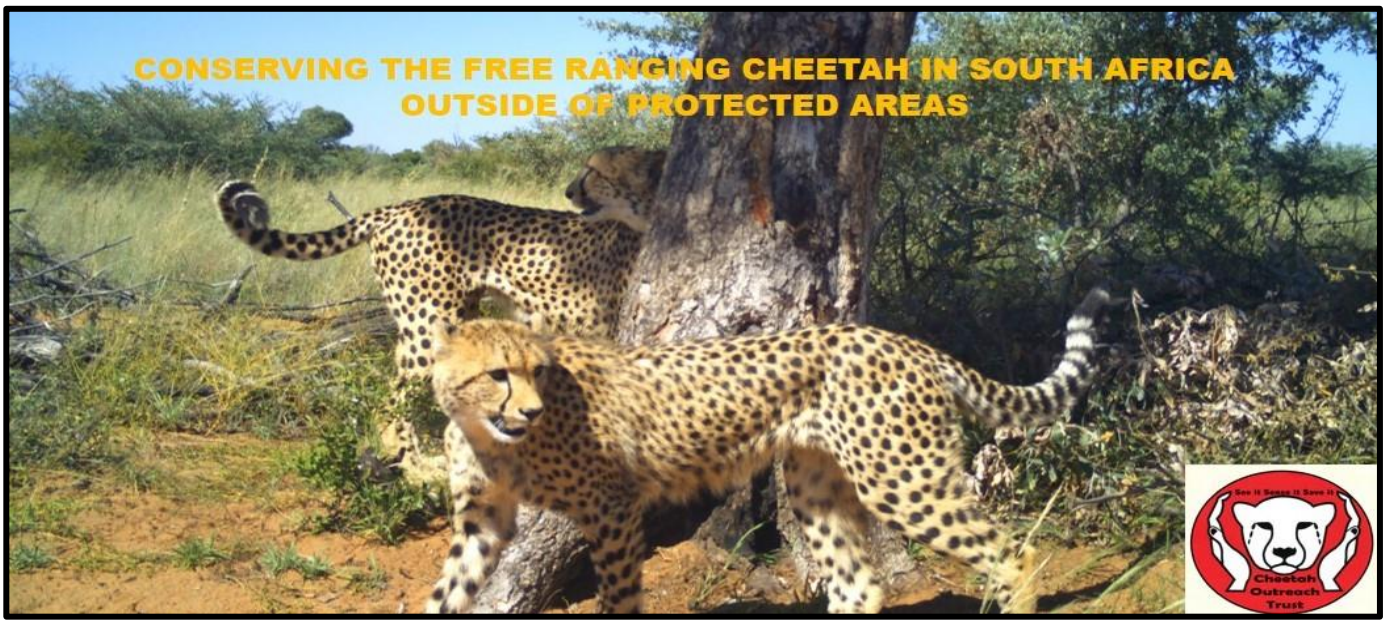
NEWSLETTER: CHEETAH OUTREACH TRUST AUGUST 2022



We have made it through winter in South Africa and there is a small hint of Spring in the air. As many other conservation organizations, we continue to live and work under the financial havoc created by the Covid 19 pandemic. This has however not stopped us making great new friends, alliances in the conservation field and entering and exploring new areas where we were told cheetahs are nowhere to be seen. We continue to cut down on costs and expenses where ever possible due to the uncertainty of future funding due to the effects of the pandemic on our donors. This has made it more critical than ever to keep contact with our farmers to assist them in any way possible when they call on us. As a team the Cheetah Outreach Trust staff have committed to deliver as much support as possible to farmers while keeping physical travel and other expenses to a minimum, in this effect telephone calls, texts and even social media is used to keep our supporters and donors and the farming communities informed of the status of the project.

Please follow us on our brand new website and also our Facebook page and Instagram page below and share these with your friends and contacts:

https://www.cheetahoutreachtrust.co.za

https://www.facebook.com/cheetahoutreachtrust

https://www.instagram.com/cheetahoutreachtrust/?hl=en

Cheetah Outreach Trust: email at info@cheetahoutreachtrust.co.za
Trust Number: IT / 3229 2000, Non-profit Registration: 013-501 NPO,PBO Number: 930 004 864

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NEWS FROM THE FIELD:

Four new puppies have been placed during the winter months in the Western, and three new puppies in the Eastern cheetah range in South Africa. These puppies where born at the Irwin's Guardian Stud managed by Green Dogs Conservation staff. Six of the puppies were new placements and two replacements and we continue to support these farmers as much as we can to ensure the success of the placements. Ultra Pet have continued the feeding support of our breeding dogs and Virbac provides vaccination and dewormer support to keep the breeding dogs at the Irwin's Guardian Stud in top notch health. Bravecto continues to support the working dogs in the field to make sure they are protected against ticks and fleas.

Figure 1: Puppies collected at the Irwin's Guardian Stud for placement

The young livestock guardian dog puppies that were placed in the North West Province and Limpopo Province (Western and Eastern Cheetah Range) have now entered their bonding phase. Each one is in a training kraal with their new livestock family members to get use to each other and form a lifelong bond. They will be spending the next three months in this bonding phase to ensure that a strong bond is developed and that any undesirable behavior can be identified and rectified. This is an important phase as the foundation for the dogs future behavior is developed during this phase. The farmers are all committed to the project and want to make a success of the placements as they have seen what our Livestock Guardian Dogs are capable of. The Cheetah Outreach Trust has placed 373 livestock guardian dog puppies up to date.

Figure 2: Irwin's Guardian Isa

Figure 3: Irwin's Guardian Suzi

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Figure 4: Irwin's Guardian Balozi

Figure 5: Irwin's Guardian Chilli

Figure 6: Irwin's Guardian Jade

Figure 7: Irwin's Guardian Aked

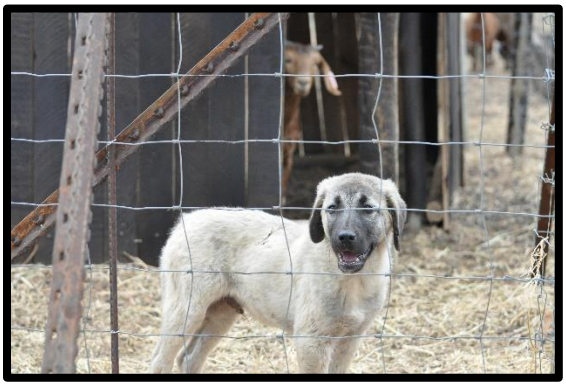

Figure 8: Irwin's Guardian Elvis

The Bushmans Kloof project has also been expanded with the placement of another 5 livestock guardian dog puppies. . These 5 puppies are also in their bonding phase and as with their counter parts in cheetah range, this is a very important part of their training. Of the five puppies four are new placements and one is a replacement, this was necessary after one of the puppies placed during December 2021 was killed by a leopard while out guarding her herd of sheep. All the dogs previously placed are still being monitored and they are doing their duty as part of the bigger project to secure valuable farmer tolerant habitat for the Cape Leopard in the Cederberg Mountains. This is a cooperative project between the Cheetah Outreach Trust and the Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat.

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Figure 9: Bushmans Kloof staff with the five new puppies prior to placement on farms

We continue to monitor our older working dogs and we are happy to report that all is well. They are all doing what is expected and with the increase in cheetah sightings in especially the Western territory, where on some farms groups of five cheetahs have been sighted, their work has become much more important. The farmers are happy to co-exist with cheetahs as long as the cheetahs do not bother the livestock.

We recently had to capture and remove one of our collared female free roaming cheetahs from within a private game reserve that has an electrified predator proof fence. This female and her two sub adult cubs managed to get into the reserve from the outside but due to the electrification on the inside it was impossible for them to leave the reserve and continue their journey through their extensive range on the farmland areas. The owner of the reserve was more than happy to have the three cheetah on his reserve but because they are wild free roaming cheetah we decided that it was unethical and against the principles of free roaming cheetah conservation to have them stuck within the perimeter of the private reserve. A helicopter was used to dart the three cheetah as the collar which we previously fitted to the mother made it easy to find them. They are wild free roaming cheetah and darting them on foot would not have been possible as they are very skittish. We were surprised to find that the two sub adults were females. These female free roaming cheetah are extremely important to maintain the free roaming cheetah population. The two young females were also fitted with satellite tracking collars as they are at the age when they will be dispersing from their mother. All three were safely released on a property outside of the electrified fence.

Figure 10: Satellite collars fitted

Figure 11: All three cheetahs released safely

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NOTE OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS:

The support the Cheetah Outreach Trust receives from our loyal supporters and donor group is now more important than ever to ensure the stability in our conservation work for the next year and beyond. We are very sensitive to the fact that the pandemic has had a huge impact on the short term financial stability of our donors and supporters but keeping this in mind we are hoping for the continued support from our loyal donors and supporters to ensure that the Cheetah Outreach Trust can continue with our important conservation work, conserving saving the free roaming cheetah population in South Africa and making farmland more predator tolerant for cheetah and other predators. The Cheetah Outreach Trust thanks all its loyal supporters that have continued to stand by us during this unprecedented time.

Any donations to support the conservation work of the Cheetah Outreach Trust would be greatly appreciated. As we are a registered PBO we can issue an 18A tax receipt for donations received for South African donors and 501c through our partners to US based donors. Should you require any further information regarding donations and or support, please feel free to contact cheetahoutreachtrust@gmail.com

Donations can be made via our portals:

https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/ccfcheetahoutreachtrust

https://www.givengain.com/cc/livestock-guarding-dog-program/

https://www.backabuddy.co.za/charity/profile/cheetah-outreach

Bank account wire details can be provided.

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