

# WILD CAT

A fluffy tabby kitten with blue eyes is perched on a large, mossy rock in a pond. The kitten is looking directly at the camera with a curious expression. The background is filled with green reeds and water, creating a natural, outdoor setting. The kitten's fur is a mix of grey, black, and white stripes, and it has long, white whiskers. The rock it sits on is dark and covered in green moss, with its reflection visible in the water below.

Issue 02

## **Cheetah Run Experience**

Learn about our latest enrichment program.

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# From the **DIRECTOR**

I'm thrilled to be able to provide another update to our community on the recent activities and progress at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre over the past few months. Our commitment to securing a future for wild cats remains unchanged and I am excited to share the positive developments that have unfolded.

It's been a dusty and dry couple of months out here at the centre, its reminiscent of previous drier years and as such we're looking forward to hopefully getting a bit more rain over the next couple of months. It will be a much-needed reprieve for staff, cats, and the grounds alike! My poor trees...

In the last quarter, we have intensified our efforts to expand and enhance our conservation initiatives. We're always looking to partner with likeminded organisations that have a true focus on the conservation of wild cats and in particular endangered wild cats and their habitats.

Excitingly we are working with the Cheetah Metapopulation Project based in South Africa. Having spent over 15 years working in and around Botswana and Southern Africa, I am acutely aware of the great work the Cheetah Metapopulation Project are undertaking to secure a future for cheetah. A dream of mine when establishing our centre was to help return cats to the wild and this brings us one step closer!

Up until now much of my personal research work and the research work of the centre has been based in Southern Africa. A new partnership with the Clouded Leopard Working Group allows us to expand this work into mainland Asia. The Clouded Leopard Working Group are doing some important on ground activities to conserve and protect the habitat of not only clouded leopards, but other endangered cats' species in Asia. Again, this new partnership brings phenomenal opportunity for the Wild Cat Conservation Centre and our supporters to get involved. Keep an eye out for new hosted trips in 2024!

We have just launched a new sponsorship program to connect our community of supporters more deeply with the cats in our care. The sponsorship program has a variety of giving levels and offers both monthly and yearly payment options! We're grateful for the support we receive, and all monies raised from the program go directly to the ongoing care of the cats here at the centre, and our other projects around the globe!

We continue to welcome many new and returning faces here at the centre. With our goal always to be to provide new opportunities for our cheetah to exhibit natural behaviours, we have just launched a new tour option! More on that later in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, our mission is crystal clear, and we are committed to making an impact. Together with our dedicated team, partners, and supporters we can make a real difference to wild cat species.

Thank you again for your constant support. Merry Christmas!

Yours Sincerely,



Ben Britton | Director  
Wild Cat Conservation Centre



## **OUR MISSION**

**To protect and ensure the survival of wild cat species through the provision of education and carrying out of research, and dedication to conservation breeding programs.**

## **CONTACT**

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# WE'VE GOT A NEED FOR SPEED

Here at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre, we are constantly looking for ways in which we can encourage and foster our cats to exhibit as many natural behaviours as possible! It's no secret cheetahs are known for their speed! Cheetahs are the fastest land mammal in the world. Their running ability comes down to a plethora of adaptive features including body design and function. This allows them to run at top speed and maintain lean body mass and optimal organ function.

Already home to the largest African savanna in Sydney, we have now set up a brand-new lure system that will encourage our cheetahs to take off at top speeds across the vast land. The lure system will be used alongside existing husbandry practices to exercise our cheetah both mentally and physically. Ensuring prime health!

We're beyond thrilled to announce that with this new system in place we will be launching our Cheetah run experience!

This brand-new tour will run in the early morning and allow you to get up close and witness the world's fastest land mammal take off! Your experience on our savanna will be followed by a guided tour of our incredible centre!

With staff already clocking speeds of over 68km, this experience is like no other!

Head to [wildcatcentre.org.au](http://wildcatcentre.org.au) today to find out more.



# HELP FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Conservation of wild cat species is a task that doesn't start or end with us here at Wild Cat Conservation Centre. It is a collective commitment and effort of organisations and individuals around the world. All working towards a common goal... protecting wild cats.

We are excited to announce two new conservation partnerships focused on our flagship species here at the centre. The Cheetah Metapopulation Project and the Clouded Leopard Working Group. Stay tuned over the coming months for exciting updates and developments on these new partnerships!

The Cheetah Metapopulation Project entails the management of approximately 537 cheetahs on 75 reserves across Southern Africa and India. The project's principal goal is to maintain a strong genetically diverse population of wild cheetah across their historical range.

By definition, a metapopulation is a group of smaller populations of the same species that are separated by distance, yet still interact as individual members are moved from one population to another to strengthen and diversify the gene pools.

The Clouded Leopard Working Group is an organised network of conservation partners committed to safeguarding wild cat species including clouded leopard, Asiatic golden cat, marbled cat, and their respective habitats across a vast stretch from Nepal to Vietnam within mainland Asia.

Their mission is a harmonious balance of ecological stewardship and community engagement, working hand in hand to ensure a future where clouded leopards, Asiatic golden cats, marbled cats, and their habitats flourish in the mainland Asia's natural heritage.

We are proud to partner with equally dedicated teams around the globe to ensure the future of wild cat species!



# BECOME A WILD CAT SPONSOR

Wild Cat Conservation Centre is committed to securing a future for the forgotten wild cat species! Our unique centre stands proudly in Wilberforce, Australia, as a pioneering force in understanding and protecting smaller wild cat species.

Our brand-new sponsorship program seeks to connect our community of supporters with the cats under our care, while generously supporting Wild Cat Conservation Centres' efforts to protect and ensure the survival of wild cat species. We do this through the provision of education and carrying out research, and dedication to our conservation breeding programs.

Each of our cats are available to sponsor and every sponsorship package comes with a great sponsorship keepsake pack! With Christmas just around the corner, our sponsorship packages make the perfect gift for the cat conservationist in your life!

With a number of sponsorship packages available, know that every donation you make goes a long way in helping us achieve our mission!

Head to **[wildcatcentre.org.au](http://wildcatcentre.org.au)** today to meet our cats and sponsor your chosen animal!



# MEET OUR CATS!



Head to [wildcatcentre.org.au](http://wildcatcentre.org.au) today to sponsor a cat

# JOIN US ON A WILD CAT CONSERVATION TRIP

## NEW APRIL 2025 DATES RELEASED!

Our Wild Cat Conservation Trip is for those of you who love wild cats and want to help conserve them.

Join Wild Cat Conservation Centre founder, Ben Britton, on the African savanna and immerse yourself in the heart of big cat country. With a career spanning two decades working with creatures big and small, exploring the world with National Geographic, and conserving wild cats, Ben is an expert on all things cats.

Starting at the beautiful Mohave Bush Camp in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve, you will spend 3 days with Ben learning about wildlife conservation in Africa. You will be on foot, immersed in the African wilderness, in the heart of big cat territory!

Whether it be carrying out field observations at a Spotted Hyena den, tracking animals on foot, visiting a local village to learn first-hand about human/wildlife conflict or spending the late

afternoon searching for the elusive leopard or caracal, this trip has a little bit of everything!

You'll then transfer to Mashatu Game Reserve, widely regarded as one of the best locations in Africa to view big cats with twice daily game drives to view these amazing cats up close! Ben has been visiting and working at Mashatu for over 15 years and calls it his second home. He will share his experiences with the group and provide firsthand insights to the challenges in conserving wild cats in Botswana.

Mashatu is also home to elephants, giraffes, zebra and much, much more! A perfect introduction to life in one of Botswana's most unique locations.

The tour is capped at only 8 guests, ensuring a uniquely intimate experience. Don't miss out, secure your spot today!

**For more information, a full itinerary or to secure your spot contact [info@wildcatcentre.org.au](mailto:info@wildcatcentre.org.au)**



# NEW EXPANSION FOR ANCIENT RESIDENTS

Most people make the journey out to the centre to see our furry cat residents and learn about our conservation work! No doubt past visitors will vouch that often it's our tortoises that steal the show (and a few hearts!). Here at the centre, we have two species of tortoises, Leopard tortoises and Aldabra giant tortoises.

As their name suggests, Aldabra giant tortoises can get quite large! Growing to weigh over 300kg, this ancient species of tortoise is the second largest in the world.

As our herd of Aldabra tortoises continue to grow it was time to expand their home here at the centre! Their new habitat has tripled in size and features a

large water pond to wallow in during the heat, as well as a mud bath which will help keep their skin nice and moist! The new habitat includes sufficient hills and rocks that the tortoises can use to climb on and over.

It was important to us that we create a space that provides room for growth and provides as many opportunities for our tortoises to exhibit as many natural behaviours as possible.

The new extension also allows for every guest who takes part in a private tour to enter their habitat, meet our ancient tortoises, say hello, and give them a scratch! They're incredibly social creatures and enjoy the sensation of scratches along their shell!





# CHRISTMAS GIFTING MADE EASY

Christmas is fast approaching!

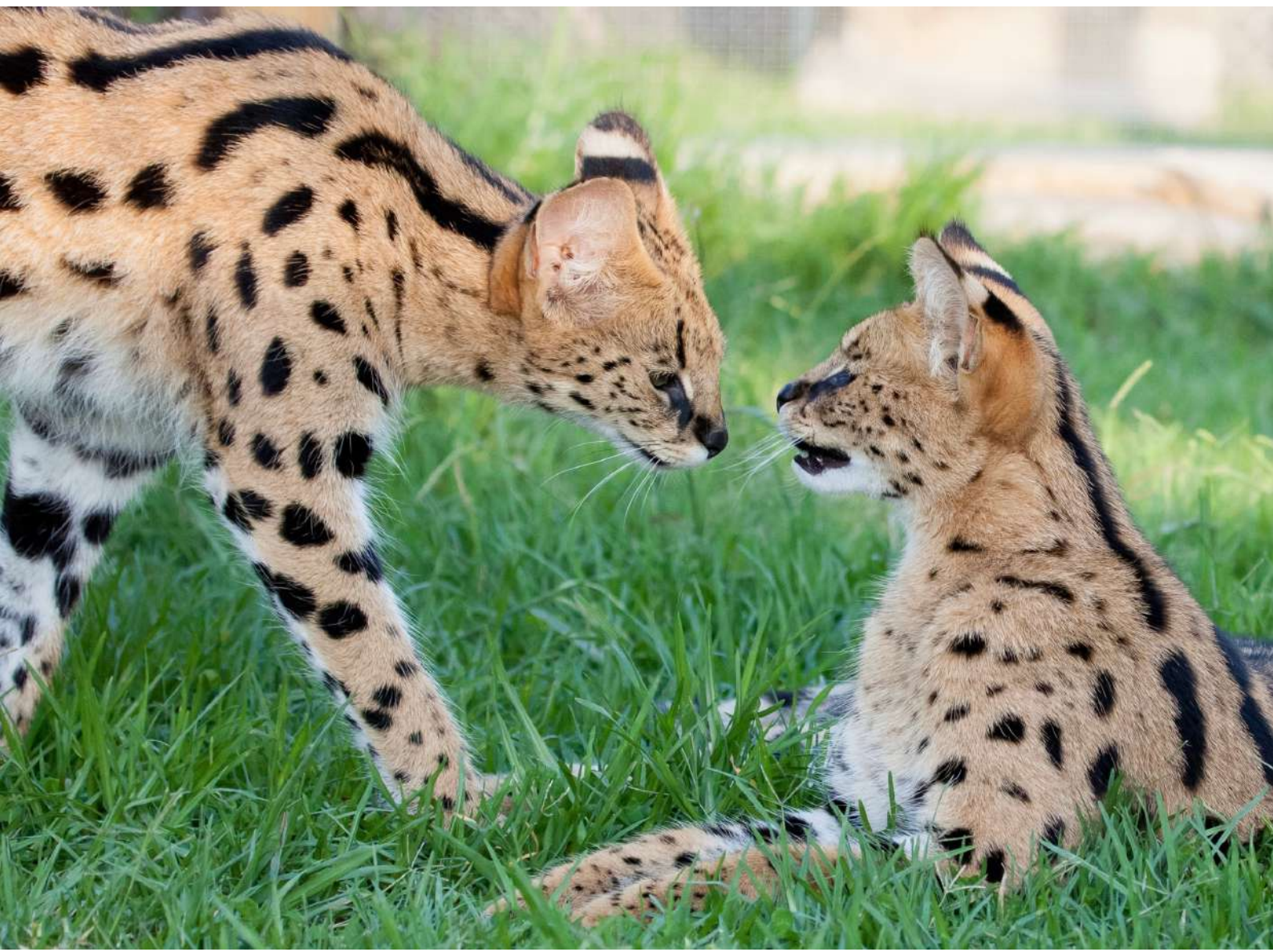
This festive season, consider a gift that goes beyond the ordinary—gift cards to the Wild Cat Conservation Centre! Give your loved ones the chance to make a meaningful impact on wildlife conservation while enjoying an experience like no other.

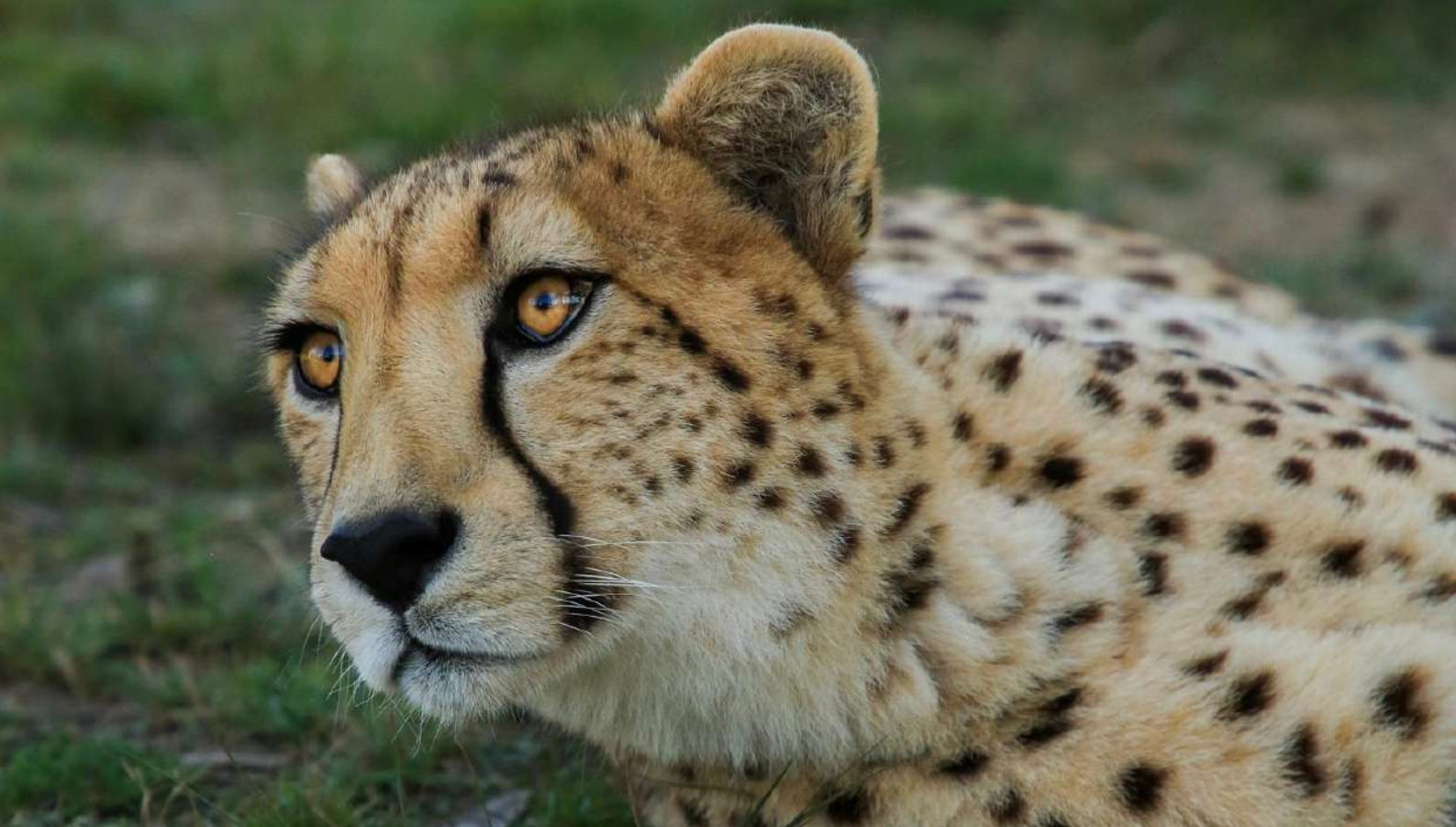
By purchasing gift cards to the Wild Cat Conservation Centre, you're contributing to an organisation that is committed to securing a future for wild cat species like cheetah and clouded leopard.

These gift cards aren't just about gifting an experience—they're a tangible way to support the conservation of wild cat species! Your contribution will aid in research, education and the development of breeding programs, making a lasting impact on the future of wild cat species.

This Christmas, give the gift of adventure and join us on the savanna!

Jump online at [wildcatcentre.org.au](https://wildcatcentre.org.au) to purchase yours today.





**WILD CAT  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**

## Thank you to our major supporters

### PLATINUM

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Patricia Dixon  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth

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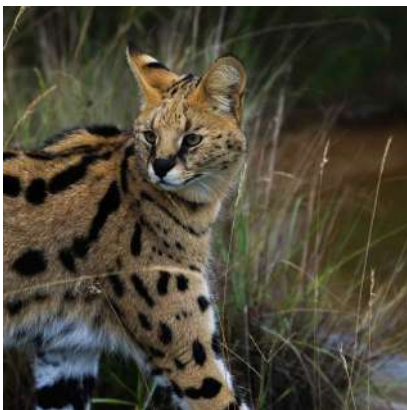
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# HOW YOU CAN HELP!



## DONATE

Our vision is to secure a long-term future for the world's wild cat species, and we can't do it alone. Wild Cat Conservation Centre relies on the generosity of supporters like you and our corporate partners to achieve our conservation goals.

By donating to Wild Cat Conservation Centre, you are helping us protect the forgotten wild cat species.



## VISIT

Join us at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre and experience our wild cats up close!

The funds generated from your visit directly supports our conservation efforts, such as breeding and rewilding programs. Your support allows us to help make a difference to wild cats!