

WILD CAT

A cheetah is the central focus of the image, sitting amidst dry, golden-brown grass and thin, dark branches. The cheetah has a light brown coat with dark spots and a black collar around its neck. There is a visible wound on its right cheek, with blood smeared around it. The cheetah's eyes are yellow and it is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a soft-focus savanna landscape under warm, golden light.

Issue 09

MIRRI'S BIG MOVE

Learn more about Mirri's journey to the United Kingdom!

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From the **DIRECTOR**

It's been an exciting few months here at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre and, truth be told, it's taken us a little while to get this newsletter out simply because our small team has been so incredibly busy!

One of the things I'm most proud of is what we're able to achieve with such a small but passionate group of people. With fewer than half a dozen dedicated staff, a modest budget, and limited resources, we continue to deliver outcomes that rival much larger institutions across Australia. It's a testament to the commitment, creativity, and heart of our team.

A personal highlight for me was getting over to Africa to see Edie first-hand. Watching her thrive on the savanna was a powerful reminder of why we do what we do and of the real-world impact that our conservation work is having beyond our fences. You'll read more about her progress, along with some incredible images, in this issue.

We've also had some big developments closer to home, including Mirri's move to the United Kingdom as part of the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) for clouded leopards. It was a massive logistical effort, months and months in the making, but an essential step for the long-term future of her species. You can read more about that remarkable journey inside this edition.

As always, we're continuing to punch above our weight! None of this would be possible without your ongoing encouragement, generosity, and belief in our mission.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the Wild Cat, and I look forward to welcoming you back to the centre soon!

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 & rewilding programs.

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MIRRI'S BIG MOVE

It's with a mix of pride and a touch of bittersweet emotion that we share some exciting news, our little clouded leopard cub, Mirri, has officially made the move to the United Kingdom to join Howletts Wild Animal Trust.

This milestone marks an important step for the global conservation of this rare and elusive species. As the only facility in Australia currently contributing to the international EEP (European Endangered Species Programme) and SSP (Species Survival Plan), we work closely with our overseas partners to ensure the long-term genetic health of clouded leopards in human care.

At present, there are no other Australian institutions able to meet the complex husbandry and management needs of the species, which meant the best opportunity for Mirri's future was abroad. Her parents, Mark and Moana, originally came from the United States as part of the SSP, and Mirri's move to Europe represents an incredible chance to blend valuable American genetics into the European population.

Mirri was one of only two clouded leopard cubs born in captivity worldwide in 2024, making her genetically significant for the global breeding effort. At her age, it's crucial she is introduced to a suitable young male, and Howletts is perfectly placed to help her do just that.

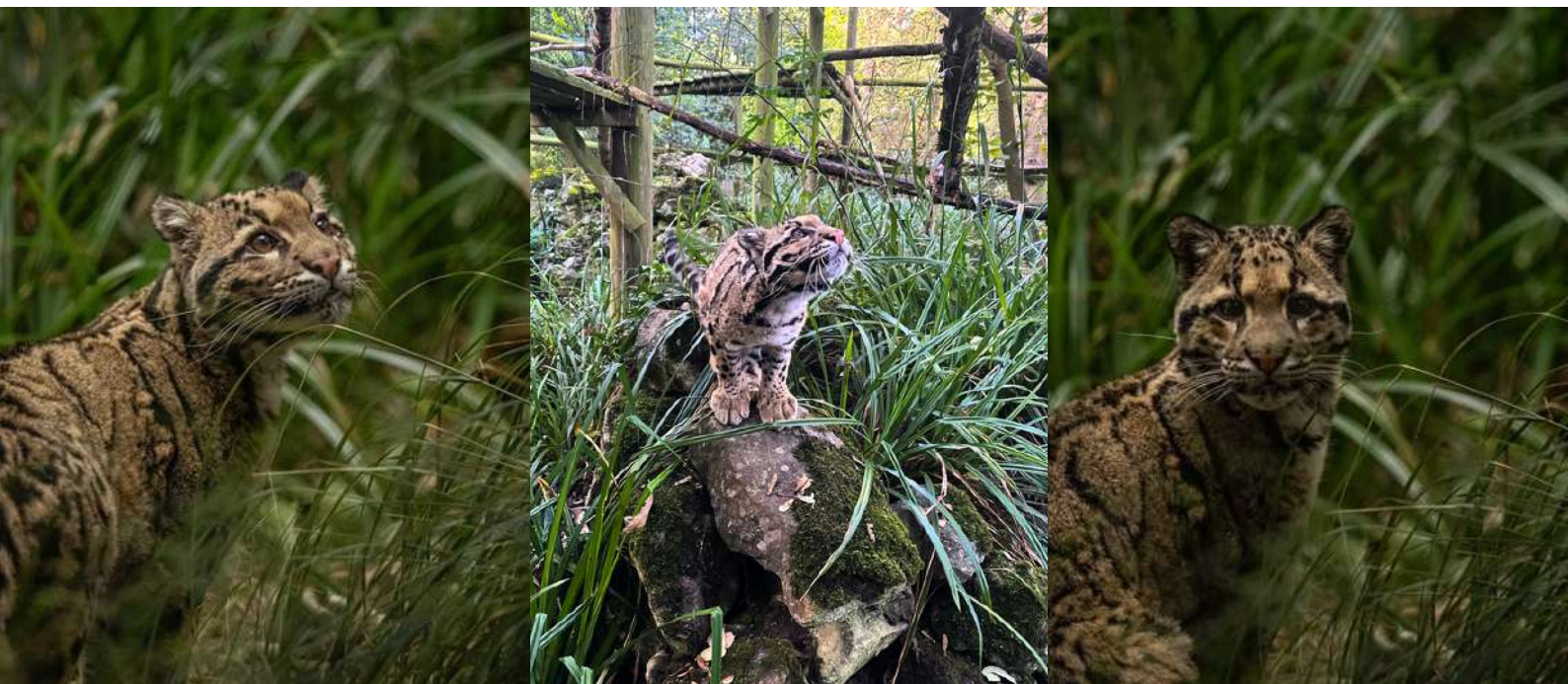
Transporting a species as sensitive as a clouded leopard requires extraordinary care. They are highly prone to stress when faced with new environments, so we went to great lengths to make Mirri's journey as safe and comfortable as possible.

Our team designed a custom-built travel crate specifically for her, constructed entirely of timber, fitted with noise-dampening locks, and featuring a first-of-its-kind internal hide shelf so she could rest securely throughout the flight. We're proud to say this innovation worked beautifully; reports from the UK confirmed Mirri spent most of her journey nestled calmly inside her little hideaway.

Accompanying Mirri on her voyage was keeper Kahlia, who stayed with her at Howletts to assist in the crucial settling-in period. We firmly believe this "cat-first" approach should be standard practice for all wildlife transfers, ensuring a familiar, trusted face is there when the crate doors open in a brand-new world.

In the coming months, a young male from the Netherlands will be joining Mirri in the UK, with hopes the pair will form a new breeding partnership for the European program. Howletts has a long and successful history with the species, and this next chapter could help rejuvenate their breeding efforts. We are also exploring future collaborations with the Aspinall Foundation (our partners in the Cheetah Rewilding Project) to assess the potential for clouded leopard rewilding — something never before achieved globally. While these cats are far more elusive and difficult to monitor than cheetahs, the idea of seeing Mirri's future offspring return to the forests of Asia is a powerful vision.

Mirri's journey represents so much more than one young cat moving overseas, it symbolises Australia's growing role in international conservation and our commitment to doing what's best for every animal in our care.





THRIVING IN THE WILD

It was great to recently visit Mziki in South Africa to see Edie and her progress first-hand. The visit began with tracking her movements through the bush, first by following her pugmarks along the roads, and eventually spotting her resting beneath an acacia tree in the morning sun.

Seeing Edie living independently as a wild cheetah was an important milestone for our team. While we receive regular updates and reports from the Mziki staff, observing her in person confirmed just how well she has adapted to her new environment.

Edie was the first cheetah born at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre to be successfully rewilded in Africa, the first project of its kind for any wild cat in Australia. More than 12 months on, she continues to demonstrate that rewilding cheetahs from managed care is both possible and sustainable when done with the right preparation and support.

During the visit, Edie showed excellent condition and natural hunting behaviour, including taking down a male ostrich, which is a significant achievement for a single female cheetah. Her success highlights that her instincts and physical capabilities are fully intact.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for male cheetahs to be introduced to Mziki over the coming months to hopefully produce cubs. This will form the next stage of the program, with the potential for her to contribute cubs to South Africa's broader metapopulation management.

Edie's progress continues to reinforce the value of collaborative conservation and the role that rewilding can play in supporting the long-term survival of the species.



PREPARING FOR THE WILD

Our three cheetah cubs Enzi, Davu and Eshe, have now reached five months of age and are only a few weeks away from beginning the early stages of the rewilding process here at the Centre.

Last month, the cubs and their mother Emmy moved down to one of our habitats closest to the savanna. This new environment allows them to start accessing larger, more natural spaces, an important step in preparing for their eventual return to Africa.

Their diet has recently shifted to include more whole carcass feeding, helping them learn how to open and feed on prey just as they would in the wild. They are now consuming a wide variety of species including goat, deer, kangaroo, rabbit, chicken, and horse. This variation ensures they don't become selective feeders and helps them recognise all game as potential prey.

At five months, their individual personalities are beginning to show. Davu is noticeably the largest and most confident of the trio, while Enzi tends to be slightly more cautious. Their sister, Eshe, is already displaying exceptional intelligence and problem-solving skills, much like her older sister Edie, and is shaping up as an excellent candidate to join a future rewilding program in Africa.

Visitors can now see Emmy and her cubs on Ultimate Tours, Twilight Tours, and the Cheetah Run Experience. Observant guests may notice Emmy

beginning to spend short periods apart from her cubs, a natural behaviour mirroring what would occur in the wild. In nature, a mother cheetah leaves her young in a safe spot while she hunts, returning with food once it's secured.

These experiences are vital for the cubs' learning. By watching and copying their mother's behaviours, they gain the skills they will one day need to survive independently. For the female cub, in particular, this period is crucial preparation for eventually raising young of her own once she's rewilded.

Although still young, the next 12 months will be a formative time. Around 14 months of age, the cubs will be ready for relocation to Africa. The two males are expected to move to one reserve, while their sister will likely join another. Helping to diversify genetics within South Africa's managed cheetah metapopulation.

Our goal is to raise enough funds and sponsorship over the coming year to support their transfer. If successful, this would double the number of cheetahs the Wild Cat Conservation Centre has returned to Africa, bringing the total to six. No other Australian institution has ever rewilded a species of wild cat, and only a handful worldwide are involved in programs like this. We remain committed to this vital work, and we thank our sponsors and supporters who continue to believe in our mission to return these incredible animals back to the wild, where they belong.



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! Our sponsorship packages make the perfect gift for the cat conservationist in your life, so spoil yourself or a loved one.

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** today to meet our cats and sponsor your chosen animal!



MEET OUR CATS!



ZIVA



ZANE



BLANCA



DUKE



COOPER



EMMY



FINNEGAN



SIMBA



CRUNCHIE



KATO



KAIA



TAI



CINTA



MARK



MOANA

Head to wildcatcentre.org.au today to sponsor a cat

JOIN US IN AFRICA!

African Travel Specialists are operating two new trips in 2026 with our conservation Directors as hosts! If you love wild cats and want to see them in the wild, then join ben and Kahlia on one of these amazing adventures!

Botswana Big Cats Trip!

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 thing's 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, setting up trail cameras 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!

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

Cheetah and Wildlife Conservation Trip

Ben will lead a small group of 8 guests to visit Edie our rewilded cheetah at Mziki Private Game Reserve in South Africa before travelling to Phinda Private Game Reserve to learn more about cheetah conservation and the work being done by WCCC and our conservation partners to prevent the extinction of this beautiful cat.

These hosted trips allow the opportunity for our supporters to spend quality time with our directors learning about wild cat conservation whilst at the same time visiting and viewing wild cats in their natural habitat, knowing that monies raised from these trips goes directly to conserving wild cats!

Learn first-hand the work involved in rewilding cheetah and take part in other wildlife conservation projects including white rhino and pangolin.

This trip is not to missed, guests being able to view Edie, our cub born here at the centre now living as a wild cheetah in Africa! A conservation success story!

Both tours are capped at only 8 guests, ensuring a uniquely intimate experience. Don't miss out, secure your spot today!

To obtain an itinerary for either trip or book a spot please email: soula@africantravel.com.au





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 our breeding and rewilding 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 to purchase yours today.



OPEN DAYS THIS DECEMBER

This International Cheetah Day we are holding a special open day onsite on Sunday 7th December.

Experience a unique opportunity to spend a morning like no other at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre. Learn all about our critical conservation efforts here in Australia and around the world and get up close to some of the world's most incredible wild cat species, all in one day!

You'll encounter clouded leopards, as well as cheetahs, servals, and caracals. Witness the ground-breaking efforts of our cheetah conservation breeding program, the only one of its kind in Sydney, offering a glimpse of these animals in a truly wild-like state.

During our Open Days, you'll have ample time to observe each of our unique cat species up close.

Learn about the work we are doing here at the centre and around the world to assist in the conservation of wild cat species.

At the completion of your guided tour, you will relax in our picnic area. There, you'll receive a personalised talk by our Director and Founder, Ben Britton. Hear first-hand about the inspiring background of our centre and the ongoing conservation efforts we undertake both in Australia and overseas.

To ensure an intimate and focused experience, our Open Days are strictly limited to only 20 guests, with a minimum age requirement of 14 years. You'll have the privilege of spending 2 hours at our centre, from 10am to 12noon!

Book your spot today!





**WILD CAT
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**

Thank you to our major supporters

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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!