

WILD CAT



Issue 03

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Crunchie and Simba turn 12,
read more about our oldest residents!

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From the **DIRECTOR**

As I reflect on the past few months, particularly the scorching summer days, it's no wonder that the first thing that springs to mind is the weather. Honestly, with the amount of time I've spent behind a lawnmower, I might as well consider a new career as a greenskeeper! The relentless heat and stifling humidity have made life a challenge for both our dedicated staff and the cats under our care. We're eagerly awaiting the arrival of cooler temperatures as we transition into autumn.

Weather aside, we're thrilled to unveil some major announcements in the coming months. Anticipation is high, particularly surrounding updates to our conservation breeding programs.

Additionally, we're excited to share progress on our rewilding initiatives, as we continue our mission to protect and ensure the survival of wild cat species.

These programs play a crucial role in the preservation of endangered species by maintaining genetic diversity and preventing the extinction of vulnerable populations. Through careful management and selective breeding, these programs help bolster numbers and create resilient populations, ultimately contributing to the long-term survival and health of species facing threats in the wild.

We've had so many incredible visitors over the summer period, getting to share the centre and the work we do, never gets old. The opportunity to share our work and our mission is never an opportunity we will pass up. So, thank you to everyone who has visited and who will visit.

We announced late last year that we will be running our Wild Cat Conservation Trip in South Africa in April 2025. Post covid, we are more excited than ever to begin hosting these trips again! Places are limited, so please get in QUICK! You can find more information in this newsletter!

We are charging into 2024 with gusto. We've already achieved significant milestones, and there's a sense of excitement for what lies ahead. We're confident that the remainder of the year will be nothing short of spectacular.

I'd like to extend my gratitude to our supporters for standing by us and continuing to champion us. Your unwavering support fuels our efforts. Whether it's spreading our message, making donations, or simply paying us a visit, your involvement makes a meaningful difference. Please continue to do so, every part counts.

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.

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CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF CRUNCHIE AND SIMBA

Crunchie and Simba, our two servals and oldest cats, recently celebrated their 12th birthday in January, marking another year of companionship, mischief, and love.

Their story begins in a small zoo in South Africa, where they were born but sadly rejected by their mother. It was then that a call came through to our founder, Ben Britton, offering the opportunity to provide a home for these two in Australia. Without hesitation, the answer was a resounding YES.

Ben flew to South Africa as quickly as possible to raise Crunchie and Simba himself, raising them in South Africa until the permits and paperwork were approved for their relocation to Wild Cat Conservation Centre. It was during this time that the duo received their distinctive names, each with its own quirky origin!

Simba, with a subtle kink in his tail (which can still be seen today!), reminiscent of the popular crinkle-cut chips in South Africa, was aptly named after the famous snack brand, Simba Chips. Meanwhile, Crunchie's moniker was inspired by a moment of snacking, as a staff member enjoyed a chocolate

Crunchie bar, leading to the inevitable association with the boisterous serval.

Initially sceptical of the names' suitability, Ben soon found that they fit the personalities of Crunchie and Simba like a glove. Simba, ever quiet and reserved found solace in Ben's presence and still does to this day, while Crunchie embraces his inner lion, strutting about the centre as if he owns the place.... don't tell him but he probably does!

Each day, Crunchie and Simba are given the opportunity to roam and explore our African Savanna, providing them with a semblance of their natural habitat and a life enriched by the freedom to be themselves. You can join Crunchie on our savanna by booking an Ultimate Wild Cat Experience or Twilight Tour.

Here's to Crunchie and Simba, our oldest residents, and the two that started it all!

To book a tour at Wild Cat Conservation Centre head to wildcatcentre.org.au



CRUNCHIE AND SIMBA IN PHOTOS



• Simba staring into your heart



• Crunchie & Simba at just 10 days old



• Crunchie showing off



• Crunchie asleep on the job

BONDING FOR BETTER PRACTICE

Followers of our Wild Cat Conservation Centre would know how close the relationships are between our small team and our cats. Anybody who has a pet cat would know how important those close relationships are. Our team work with the focus of the 3 C's, Calm, Confident and Consistent to maintain these strong bonds.

These relationships allow our team to undertake crucial health and medical procedures without subjecting our cats to the stress of anaesthesia.

Traditionally, procedures like blood draws, vaccinations and ultrasounds often require anaesthesia, which can be stressful for the cats and carry inherent risks. However, through diligent training and trust-building exercises, our cats have learned to cooperate voluntarily during these

procedures, resulting in a calmer and more comfortable experience for both them and our keepers. Being able to undertake these procedures in a calm environment has afforded us a remarkable vantage point to track the progress of any breeding or cubs.

Two years ago, the centre made history by being the first organisation in Sydney to successfully breed Cheetahs. Cheetah parents Emmy and Duke, welcomed two cubs in September 2022. The cubs, named Edie and Dakari, stole the hearts of keepers and visitors alike. Our team was able to observe Emmy throughout her pregnancy and check progress of her cubs. Non-invasive and relaxed.

We hope to be able to report on some new arrivals later this year!



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

A VISIT FROM THE HON. MARISE PAYNE

Senator Marise Payne is a highly respected Australian politician with a distinguished federal parliamentary career spanning 26 years. Marise was a Senator for NSW from 1997 to 2023. As the longest serving female senator in Australia's history, she announced her retirement from the Senate in September 2023. During her time in government Marise held many senior ministerial positions including Minister for Human Services, Minister for Defence – the first woman to hold the portfolio, as well as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women.

Marise was a massive support to the centre throughout its establishment and the development of many of our conservation initiatives and during those unprecedented COVID years. It was wonderful to be able to host her at the centre and for her to offer continued support of the vital work we undertake.

As the sole facility of its kind in Australia, the centre owes much of its success to the collaborative efforts of various governmental levels, from local councils to state and federal bodies. Working with primarily international conservation partners, we require a lot of assistance and support from the federal government with quarantine and permitting.

Marise has been a strong supporter and is a fellow cat lover, so it was wonderful to have her visit and we hope she becomes a regular visitor following her well-deserved retirement from Federal politics, we look forward to her ongoing support over the coming years.



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!

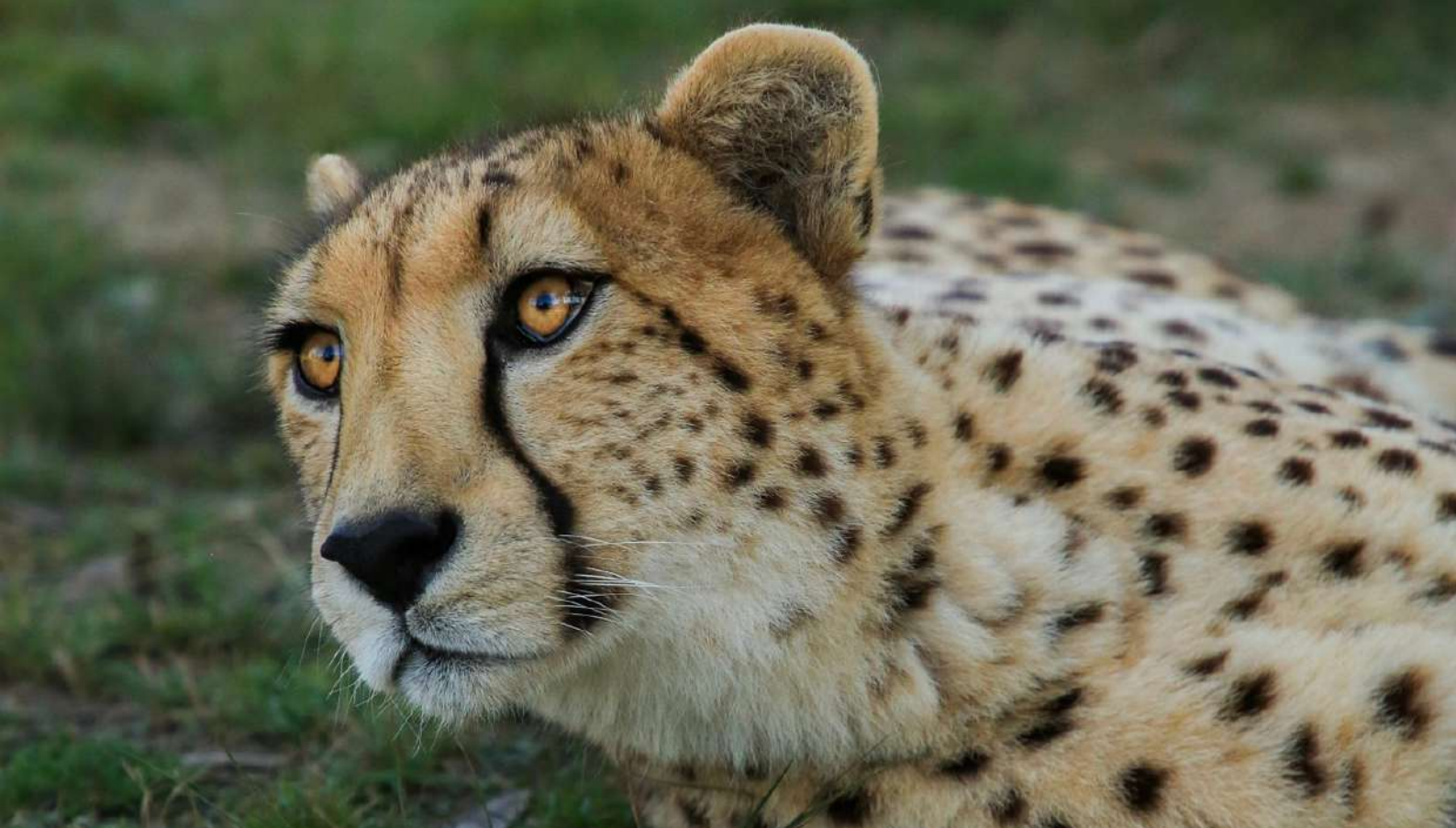
You'll then transfer to Mashatu Game Reserve, widely regarded as one of the best locations in Africa to view big cats with twice daily game drives to view these amazing cats up close! Ben has been visiting and working at Mashatu for over 15 years and calls it his second home. He will share his experiences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





**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!