

WILD CAT

Issue 10



ALDABRA TORTOISE MATING

We've observed exciting mating with our giant tortoises!

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From the **DIRECTOR**

I have to say, I'm quite glad summer has come to an end. Although the warm days and humidity are still hanging around, the conditions over the past few weeks have felt more like Darwin than Sydney!

One thing it has done, though, is keep the grass growing. At this time of year, we often feel like glorified greenkeepers. Alongside caring for the cats, maintenance, and everything else that comes with running the centre, a lot of time is spent mowing.

As many of our supporters know, we're a very small team, and we do everything ourselves, from the top down. While the cats are always our priority, there's plenty happening behind the scenes to keep the centre running day to day. That said, I won't mind the weather cooling off a little.

The recent humid conditions have had some positive outcomes as well, which you'll read about throughout this newsletter. Most notably, our Aldabra tortoises have been mating for the first time. While our focus is on wild cats, anyone who has visited will know we also have a couple of tortoise species here, and this is an exciting development for the team.

Speaking of highlights, we recently held our biggest-ever fundraising event at The Lakes Golf Club in Sydney. Thanks to the incredible support of the Pohl Foundation, the day raised over \$72,000 for our cheetah rewilding program. You can read more about this fantastic achievement in this edition.

It's incredibly encouraging to see more individuals, companies, and organisations recognising the unique work we're doing here and getting behind us to support the rewilding program.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all of our supporters, past, present and future. Everything we do here at the centre is a team effort, and your support allows us to continue this important work.

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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CHEETAH CUB UPDATE

Our three cheetah cubs, Davu, Enzi and Eshe, continue to develop well. They are growing into strong, independent young cheetahs.

At just over 10 months of age, we're starting to see some natural behavioural changes. The cubs are beginning to spend more time away from their mum, Emmy. You'll often notice Emmy resting in one area of the habitat, while the three cubs are off exploring elsewhere together.

We're also seeing changes around feeding. With carcass feeds, there are subtle shifts in who feeds when and how they share. This is a completely natural stage at this age, and an important part of their development.

The plan remains for all three cubs to head to South Africa later this year, likely around October, at their natural dispersal age. This stage, when cubs would naturally leave their mother, is critical to the rewilding process.

In the past, cheetahs were often released at older ages, with the belief that more maturity and experience would lead to better outcomes. However, in recent years, it's become clear that releasing them at their natural dispersal age gives them the best chance of success. That age can vary. Some mothers part ways with their cubs around 14 months, while others stay together until closer to 18 months. Emmy is a very attentive mother and tends to keep her cubs with her toward the later end of that range. Even so, we're already seeing those early stages of separation begin. .

At the centre, we closely observe this process and let the cheetahs guide the timing. Our entire approach is centred around the cats, allowing them to tell us when the time is right.

Over the coming months, the cubs will continue progressing through the rewilding program. This includes spending more time out on the savanna and continuing to build one of the most important skills for survival: decision-making.

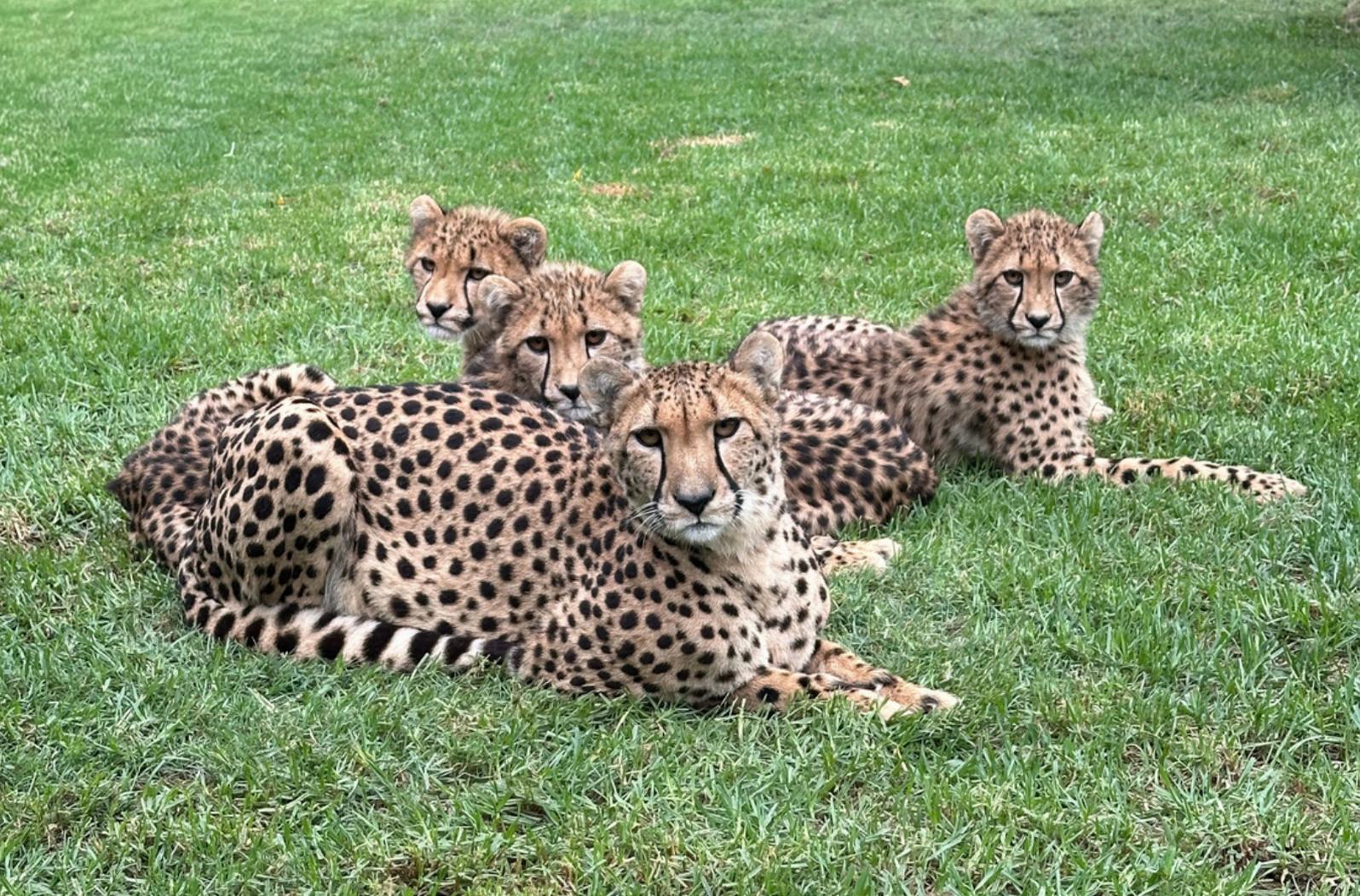
In many captive environments, animals rely on keepers for routine, when they're fed, where they go, and what happens each day. Here, we aim to remove that structure as much as possible. In the wild, there is no routine, and every day is different.

The cubs are encouraged to make their own decisions, just as a wild cheetah would every minute of every day. Whether it's observing a bird landing nearby, deciding whether to approach it, or responding to changes in their environment, these moments are critical.

It's not always about solving a problem, but about building independence, resilience, and confidence in their own instincts.

It's been incredible to watch Davu, Enzi and Eshe develop these skills. All three are progressing well, both physically and mentally, and remain on track for their return to South Africa





ALDABRA TORTOISE MATING

Those of you who have visited the centre may have been a little surprised when reaching the upper section and discovering our tortoises.

We have two species of land tortoise here at the centre, our leopard tortoises and our giant Aldabra tortoises. One of the most common questions we get asked is how tortoises fit into a wild cat conservation facility.

The answer is quite simple. Our Director, Ben, has always had a fascination with tortoises, so they are very much a “director’s pick” and a special part of the centre.

While the leopard tortoises fit nicely in name, the Aldabra tortoises have become a real visitor favourite, especially when guests have the chance to step into their habitat and meet them up close.

Over the past few months, we’ve seen an exciting development. With the warm, humid weather we’ve been experiencing in Sydney, combined with several recent habitat upgrades, including a new pool and mud wallow, the tortoises appear to be thriving.

These environmental improvements, along with the tortoises reaching maturity, have created conditions that may finally be right for breeding.

Encouragingly, we’ve recently observed mating behaviour, something the team is incredibly excited about. The species has not been successfully bred in Australia for over 50 years, making this a significant milestone.

While it’s still early days and we don’t yet have confirmation of eggs, our oldest female, Scarlett, may be gravid. If confirmed, this would be a major step forward.

It may be a little different from our usual focus on wild cats, but it’s an exciting moment nonetheless.

Next time you visit, be sure to stop by and say hello to the tortoises. And keep an eye on our social channels and future editions for updates, we’re hopeful there’s more good news to come.





THE POHL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Late last year, centre director Ben was introduced to Jason Pohl, whose family runs the Pohl Foundation, through mutual friend Jess Carroll. Jason immediately connected with the work being done here at the centre, with his family's South African heritage strongly resonating with our cheetah rewilding efforts.

Earlier this year, our team was contacted regarding the Foundation's annual Ambrose Golf Day, held at The Lakes Sydney Golf Club. The Pohl Foundation had selected the Wild Cat Conservation Centre as the beneficiary of their fundraising efforts for 2025. From there, Jason, Jess and the wider team worked closely together to ensure the day would be a success.

While Ben didn't take part in the 18 holes, he attended the lunch and auction, sharing more about the centre's work and highlighting Emmy's story, including her journey featured in a documentary produced by Butter Media.

The event exceeded all expectations, raising over \$72,000 for the cheetah rewilding program. This marks the largest single fundraising event in the centre's history.

While it will cost the Centre in excess of \$150,000 to rewild Davu, Enzi and Eshe back to Africa, this is a great start! We hope it marks just the beginning of a successful journey for the cubs!

A huge thank you goes to Jason, his family, and everyone involved with the Pohl Foundation for getting behind the work we do. Their support plays a vital role in helping us continue our conservation efforts.

We hope this is just the beginning, building momentum for more events like this and encouraging other organisations to get involved in supporting the future of wild cats and our rewilding efforts.



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!



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

CHEETAH REWILDING EXPERIENCE

To help raise vital funds to support Enzi, Eshe and Davu on their journey back to South Africa this October, the team will be offering a brand-new Cheetah Rewilding Experience for a limited time. This new experience combines a number of our existing tours (cheetah run, ultimate and guided) into one exclusive 90-minute tour, giving guests a deeper insight into the rewilding process.

Guests will arrive on site in the morning and head straight out onto the savanna to witness a cheetah run. This is a critical part of the program, helping to build the lean muscle mass the cheetahs need for life in the wild!

Following the run, guests will remain out on the savanna to observe cheetahs in a more natural, wild state for an ultimate wild cat experience. Unlike a standard run experience, this extended time allows you to see the cheetahs displaying a full range of natural behaviours, making decisions, interacting with their environment, and choosing how they spend their time.

After time on the savanna, guests will return to the centre for a guided tour and to observe a carcass feed with Emmy and her cubs. This is another

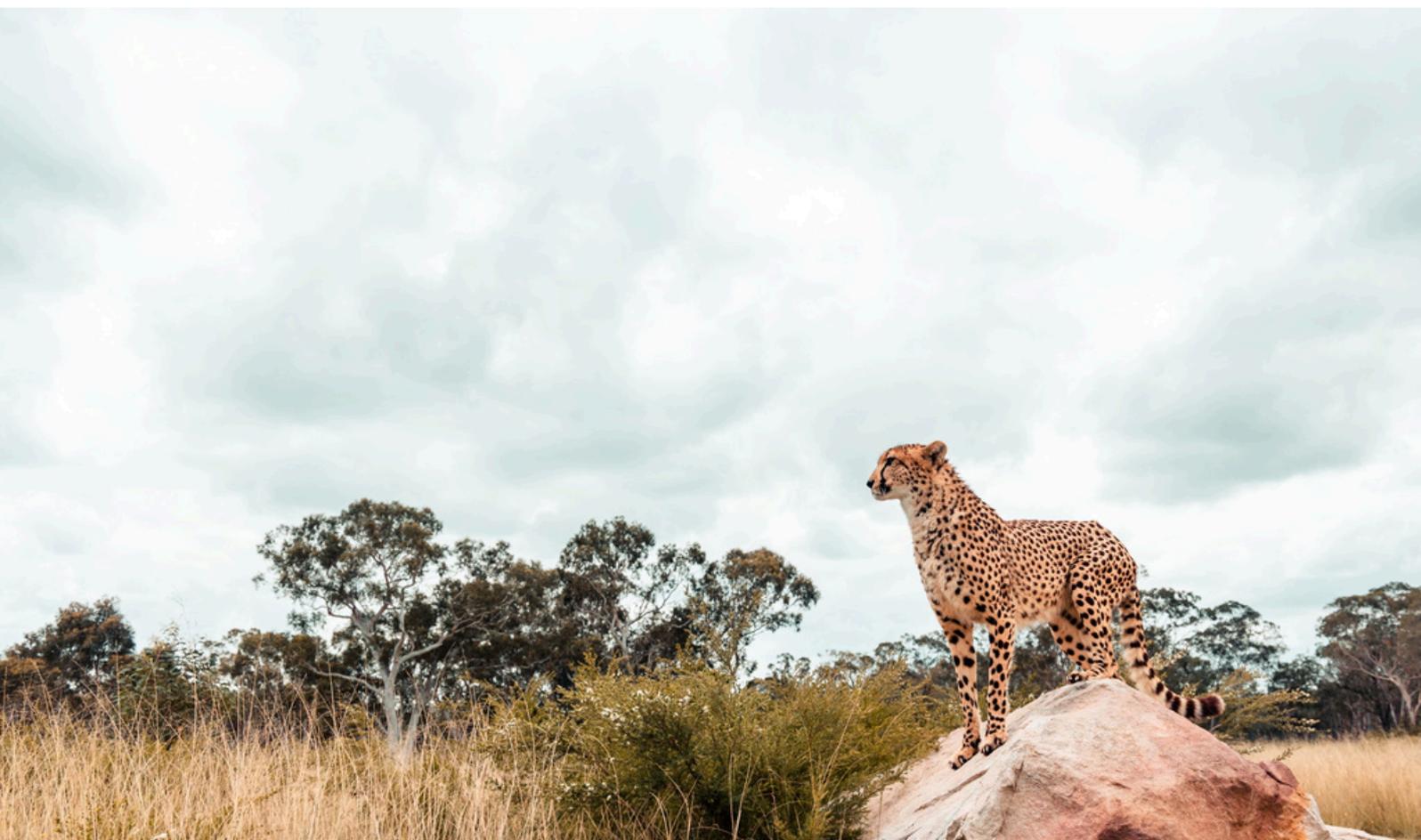
essential part of the rewilding process, as the cubs learn how to open and process a carcass! Skills they will rely on in the wild.

This unique experience brings together the cheetah run, ultimate wild cat experience and guided tour, and carcass feeding into one comprehensive offering. The tour runs for 90 minutes, giving you an additional 30 minutes spent at the centre, and is limited to just six guests per session.

The Cheetah Rewilding Experience will only be available from April through to October, ahead of the cubs planned departure to South Africa. Dates will be extremely limited to Saturday morning each month.

Importantly, funds raised through this experience will go directly towards supporting the rewilding program and helping get the cubs back to South Africa.

If you'd like to support these three cubs and be part of this incredible journey, we encourage you to jump online and secure your place in this one-of-a-kind experience, available for a limited time only.





BRAND NEW WEBSITE

Some of you may have already noticed over summer that the Wild Cat Conservation Centre has launched a brand-new website. This has all been made possible thanks to the incredible support of Richard Brown from Edda Designs in the Hawkesbury.

Richard and his wife visited the centre late last year, and through that visit we connected and began talking about the foundation and the conservation work we do. Richard was keen to get involved and asked how he could help.

During those conversations, he mentioned that he builds websites, and not just any websites, but exceptional ones. Very generously, he offered to design and build a new site for the centre, donating his time and services to support our work.

This is a great example of how supporters can make a meaningful impact, not only through financial contributions but by offering their skills, materials, or expertise. In Richard's case, his

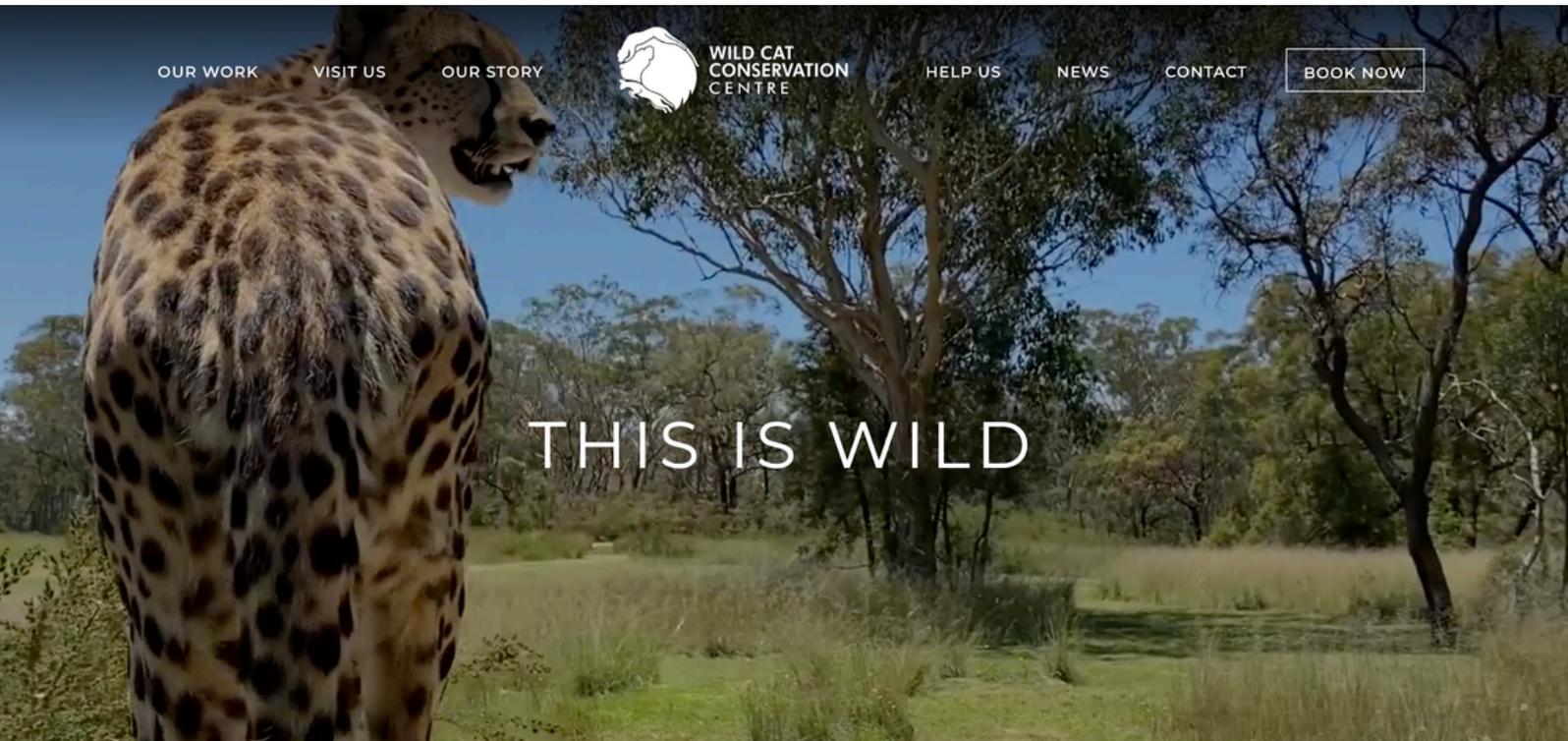
contribution has saved the centre significant funds, allowing more resources to go directly towards the care of the cats and our conservation programs.

The new website does an outstanding job of capturing the ethos of the centre. It's a major step forward from previous versions, particularly in improving the booking process, making it far more seamless and user-friendly.

Importantly, it also allows us to better showcase the conservation work happening behind the scenes, something we haven't always highlighted as well as we could in the past.

A huge thank you to Richard for his generosity and support. If you're in need of a new website, we highly recommend Edda Designs.

And if you haven't already, be sure to jump online and check out the new site!



WHY PARTNER WITH THE WILD CAT CENTRE?

Partnering with the Wild Cat Conservation Centre is about more than a logo on a banner – it's about creating impact that matters to your organisation, your people, and the planet.

- **Proven Impact** – Invest in tangible conservation projects where outcomes are visible, measurable, and lasting.
- **Values in Action** – Align your organisation with a bold, trusted leader in conservation whose work reflects courage, integrity, and results.
- **Engaged People** – Give your staff and stakeholders opportunities to connect meaningfully through volunteering, fundraising, and behind-the-scenes experiences.
- **Powerful Storytelling** – Share your partnership through inspiring content, campaigns, and media that highlight your commitment.



CREATING A TRULY WILD LIFE FOR CATS THROUGH ETHICAL CARE AND REWILDING

Watching Edie our first rewilded cheetah walking the African savanna as a wild cheetah brought everything home for us, the why we do what we do. It was the culmination of years of dreams, hard work and dedication.

Having worked in wildlife parks and zoos over the years, the goal was always to do things differently, to set out to provide the cats in our care the best possible life. I have been fortunate to spend a lot of my life traveling the world and visiting wild places through my work with National Geographic and my own research efforts in Southern Africa. Observing wild cats in nature provides the perfect insights to how they live and think, and this help shaped the centre.

In nature, no two days are the same, no routine and no structure yet in most captive facilities it's the first thing they do, set feed times, set routines, why? Well, it makes it easier for the humans though it is boring and unnatural for cats.

So, what makes us different? We have no set routines or feed times, our cats are never locked on display, and they are allowed to explore beyond their habitats and so that no two days are the same, just like in nature. This provides the perfect





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!