

# CHEETAH SPOTS

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia | Spring 2019

## Remember, remember the 4th of December.... Yes it's our favourite animal's special day!

Here are some things you can do to celebrate International Cheetah Day:

- Learn about cheetahs
- Wish everyone you meet a very “Happy International Cheetah Day!”
- Read *Freeda The Cheetah* by Picklefish Press! The Kindle version is free to download on Amazon
- Download Cheetah Conservation Fund’s *Conservation Passport* and *The Living Desert’s CHEETAH FUN! K – 12 Activities* at [www.internationalcheetahday.com](http://www.internationalcheetahday.com). When you finish the activities print out your very own Certificate of Cheetah Achievement!
- Join the conversation on Twitter by using hashtags **#SaveTheCheetah & #IntlCheetahDay**. Use our Tweet Sheet to send tweets simply and easily. Just log in to your Twitter account and then open the Tweet Sheet. Click the TWEET button to instantly post to your Twitter page.
- Share a cheetah image on your social media profile for the day, week or month.
- Host a *Namibia: Land of the Cheetahs* viewing party. Invite your friends and share the Born to Explore special by Richard Wiese now available on Amazon.
- Visit the places where cheetahs live. Visit a zoo on December 4th or make a plan to visit Africa (many conservation organisations gladly accept volunteers and interns). There are conservation organisations working around the world and in the field to help save the cheetah. They need YOUR help, so please consider making a donation to one of the organisations that is making a difference!

Monarto Safari Park’s Carnivore Team have organised an in-house fundraising event for International Cheetah Day - although it will take place on Saturday 30 November. The event, named “Run for Cheetah”, involves staff, their families and volunteers of MSP to run or walk a 5km track around the carnivore area, and then partake in a wonderful breakfast on the cheetah platform. All proceeds from this event will directly support the Somaliland Cub Project!

And remember... the cheetahs need our help not just on 4th December, but every day of the year! We have lost 90% of their numbers over the least 100 years.



# We proudly present a very special cheetah supporter

When Angelica Sapounas was asked who she would represent in her Year 5 Notables presentation at Ivanhoe East Primary School, Victoria, she had absolutely no hesitation in choosing Dr Laurie Marker.



need to be saved from extinction.

With fewer than 7,500 cheetahs left in the wild, Angelica is hoping that people in the wider community will begin to realise the cheetah is the most endangered of the African big cats.

Raising awareness of the cheetah's plight with future generations can ensure the cheetah's future. Thank you, Angelica! The cheetah needs more supporters like you

Angelica was motivated to raise the awareness to her fellow students, teachers and the community of the great work that Dr Marker does for the conservation of cheetahs around the world. Angelica is passionate about saving the cheetah from extinction and supporting the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in any way she can.

At her stand, Angelica made a mat and labelled it "I am not a rug". Every person that attended her stand was impressed with it as most people were not even aware that cheetahs are used to make decorative rugs! Her stand also included interactive questions, maps and facts about the illegal cheetah cub trade. Angelica also highlighted the fact that cheetahs are now extinct in over 20 countries. In addition, she displayed a plush mother with cub to further raise awareness of the cheetahs



## Update on Somaliland illegal cheetah trade

**The Cheetah Conservation Fund has recently received a number of emaciated cubs intercepted from wildlife traffickers by the Somaliland Government in a record-breaking seizure.**

Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) staff in Hargeisa are caring for the two surviving cubs from a seizure of 12 intercepted in waters off the Somaliland coast. The Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Rural Development (MoERD) coordinated the operation with the military, which yielded the largest number of cubs recovered in a single seizure since CCF began assisting the MoERD in 2011.

"The 12 cubs were recovered in very poor condition, extremely dehydrated and malnourished. Three died before arriving at the CCF Cheetah Safe House in Hargeisa, and three passed shortly after arrival. We are doing everything we can to help the six cubs get stronger, but their prognosis is not good," said Dr. Laurie Marker, CCF's Founder and Executive Director. "The cubs are about two months old, but they are so emaciated they appear to be just a few weeks." Shortly after Dr. Marker's statement another four cubs died within 72 hours of arriving at the Safe house, as they were too weak to be saved despite everyone's best efforts.

CCFA has been operating its Cheetah Safe House since 2017, providing cubs recovered from the illegal wildlife trade with ongoing food, medication and care. Working in collaboration with Minister of Environment Shukri H. Ismail and her MoERD Wildlife Officers, once intercepted, trafficked cubs are taken to CCF's facilities in the capital city, where they are given thorough health examinations and have medications administered by a professional and volunteer team of veterinarians and animal caregivers. CCF currently has 40 cubs in its

facilities, following the arrival of another 11 confiscated cubs from two separate seizures weeks after the record breaking confiscation earlier in the month. Four people were arrested for attempting to smuggle nine cheetah cubs out of Somaliland. These cubs are now doing well under CCF's care.



Poached cubs originate mostly from Ethiopia, northern Kenya, Somalia and Somaliland, and they are smuggled off the African continent from beaches along the Gulf of Aden. They are destined for the Arabian Peninsula, mostly entering through Yemen. The demand for cubs is driven by the illegal pet trade, primarily to supply countries in the Middle East, where cheetahs have been traditionally considered a status symbol pet.

Since 2005, Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) has tracked incidents of cheetah trafficking and assisting authorities with confiscations whenever possible. To date, CCF has recorded hundreds of incidents involving more than 1,500 cheetahs or cheetah parts. Of these, less than 20% are known to have survived, while more than 35% were confirmed dead.

For more information about CCF's works on combatting the illegal wildlife trafficking of cheetahs, please visit [www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org) or email Lauren Pfeiffer ([lauren@cheetah.org](mailto:lauren@cheetah.org)) for more information about how you can volunteer in Somaliland.

## Zoo News

### Monarto Zoo set to become Monarto Safari Park

Complete with a first-of-its-kind luxury resort and glamping facilities, Monarto Safari Park will be the largest safari park outside of Africa. It will offer longer visits and a range of new and wild safari experiences in an area known as Wild Africa including open-sided vehicle tours through herds of roaming animals and a huge walk-through lemur habitat. The cheetahs will also feature.

The \$40 million expansion is made possible thanks to investment from Australian businessman Gerry Ryan OAM, who will build and operate the resort and glamping facilities, giving visitors the extraordinary opportunity to experience a luxury sleepover at Monarto Safari Park for the first time by 2022.

The addition of accommodation and new safari experiences will help generate more funds to support ZOOSSA's critical conservation work and continually improve animal facilities.

### Sydney's new safari-type zoo to feature cheetahs

Established by Sydney Aquarium founder John Burgess and his son Jake, the zoo will support local and international conservation efforts. It will house a number of endangered species from around the globe, including two cheetahs from Monarto Safari Park, and undertake on-site breeding programs to increase their numbers.

The zoo is being built from sustainable materials and will use solar power and storm water run-off. All animal and food waste will be composted. The Zoo has also worked with the local Darug people to offer a natural heritage program led by Aboriginal guides.

## Cheetah Wine Christmas Special

Make sure you order your wine at [www.goodwillwine.com.au](http://www.goodwillwine.com.au). Select a charity, Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia of course, then select your case of wine - these are superb vegan wines and, in view of the quality, represent very good value! Remember that 50% of profits go to our charity.

