



Temporary Expert | Spring 2019

Final Project | María Laura Mirabelli

Why?

"Joyriding lion on Dubai's Sheikh Zayed Road"

<https://www.providentestate.com/blog/joyriding-lion-dubais-sheikh-zayed-road-safari/>



Questions

- JOYRIDING

- What other activities *feel like* drifting/joyriding? What are the qualities that drifting/joyriding can be broken down to?

- EXOTIC PETS

- Why do wealthy, local individuals/families in the UAE seek to own exotic species? What do they do with these animals?
- What's the government's stance regarding this issue? What's the stance of international authorities/animal welfare groups?
- Are there any problems associated to this practice? Who do they affect? How have they been dealt with?

1. How can we (universally) be convinced to respect other species?
2. How can we stop cheetah extinction?

What?

- "Create something that shows users why exotic animal trafficking and ownership is a problem, but in such a way that they can 'discover themselves' why that's the case"
- **CONCERNS**
 - Preaching vs. persuading
 - Anthropomorphizing vs personhood/empathy
 - Appeal / Familiarity
 - Engagement & interactivity

The Project

"I chose to create a 'guide to the humane ownership of exotic species' that imitates the format and images of a **high-fashion magazine**, but which quickly reveals to be **self-reflective**.

The guide intends to show readers how to obtain what they want (exotic pets) in the most humane way possible (arguing that this is beneficial to the reader), but the guide itself begins to realize there is no way to do this, hopefully convincing the reader of the same conclusion throughout the process of discovery."

Where?

- **UAE**

- Historical precedents (menageries)
- Major player in this issue
- New legislation & current efforts
- Social media

- **CONCERNS**

- Authority as outsider
- Criticism
- Accessibility
- Engagement



Local Reports

UAE approves new regulations about owning dangerous animals

► The regulations provide more detail on a 2016 law stating only zoos, wildlife parks, circuses, breeding and research centres are allowed to keep dangerous, wild or exotic animals

Cheetah poaching crisis in Horn of Africa becoming 'an epidemic'

► Conservation fund estimates that about 300 cubs are stolen from the region each year, with illegal pet markets in the Middle East the likely destination

Cheetah cubs said to be destined for the Middle East illegal pet trade have been intercepted by authorities in Somaliland and are recovering at a sanctuary in Hargeisa. Courtesy: Cheetah Conservation Fund

For Whom?

- PUBLIC

- Internet
- Social media

- High class
- Exotic Pets
- Fashion

- UAE locals

- Youth?



Experts

- FROM ARTICLES

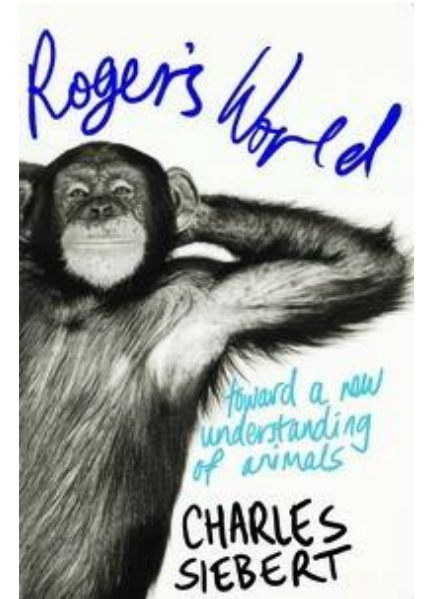
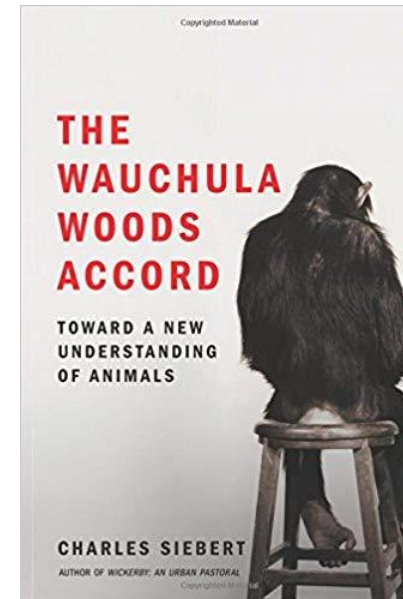
- Ronel Barcellos, manager of the Abu Dhabi Wildlife Center (*CNN* – Jan. 10, 2017)
- Elsayed Mohamed/Mohammad, the Middle East regional director at the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) (*CNN* – Jan. 10, 2017)
- Jasim Ali, manager of the Ras Al Khaimah Wildlife Park (*CNN* – April 4, 2012)
- Ayesha Kelaif, Dubai Animal Rescue Center (*CNN* – April 4, 2012)
- Thani Ahmad Al Zeyoudi, the Minister of Climate Change and Environment (*Gulf News* – Jan. 8, 2017)
- Dr Sara Elliott, founder of the British Veterinary Hospital (*The National* – June 4, 2017)
- Dr Dhiaa Al Rahman Yousef, general manager of Rukn Al Zajel veterinary medicines (*The National* – June 4, 2017)
- Kate Burns, a veterinary nurse at Al Bustan Zoological Centre (*Arabian Business* – Feb. 16, 2019)
- Kinda Jabi, International Fund for Animal Welfare's (IFAW) Middle East and North Africa (MENA) office in Dubai (*Arabian Business* – Feb. 16, 2019)
- Hiba Al Shehhi, Acting Director of the Biodiversity Department at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCAEE) (*Arabian Business* – Feb. 16, 2019)
- Tim Husband, Director of Dubai Safari Park (*Arabian Business* – Feb. 16, 2019)

Interview

- CHARLES SIEBERT

NYUAD profesor, "writes extensively about animal behavior and human–animal relationships"

- Empathy, connection between reader and subject
- Narrative, storytelling
- Real images & juxtaposition



Research & Sources

- News articles (local and international sources)
- Social media (Instagram)
- Images (photographs, videos)
- Book excerpts/abstracts:
 - *Dominance and Affection: The Making of Pets*, Yi-Fu Tuan
 - *The Second Body*, Daisy Hildyard
 - *H is for Hawk*, Helen Macdonald