



Newsletter April 2009

The good...The bad & The ugly...

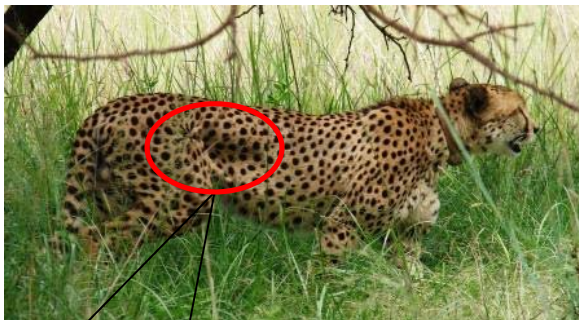
Good news is that a baby hippo has been seen moving with its mother between Bass dam and Woodlands dam. A new baby giraffe was also spotted in the northern section of the reserve. The lions have been mating but we will have to wait and see.

Earlier this month Byala, one of our new cheetah cubs was noticed with a huge gaping wound just below his tail. At closer examination a decision was taken to call in the vet. Norman, the local vet darted him and come to the conclusion that his scrotum had been ripped open and one of his testicles had to be removed. Byala was placed in a boma for about two weeks after which he was released. He has joined up with the other four cheetahs again and seems to have healed nicely.

It has been a very sad month for Nambiti with two deaths on the reserve. Shumba, the male lion kept in the double boma, decided after being in the boma for over a year to take his own action and escape from the boma. Unfortunately for him the Nambiti male lions were waiting for him outside the boma. The lions also killed one of our new cheetah cubs from Phinda. Both these killings were due to the fact that lions don't take to kindly to competition of any sort.

Wanted!

Sailor, Nambiti's own cheetah escape artist has done it again. The collar's battery ran out and he therefore couldn't be tracked. Then it was reported that a cheetah was seen outside the reserve, but the cheetah couldn't be relocated. We are still not sure what his fascination is with the outside world but can only hope that he will return as he has done previously. He was last seen by Idwala on the 1st of February 2009. PLEASE note the below identification pointers and PLEASE report any lone cheetah seen!



- Old injury in right groin area.



- Missing upper right canine.
- Black spot on upper right lip.

Elephant mania...

The Breeding herd of elephants and the Collared bull elephant have been spending a lot of time in the northern part of the reserve. It has been reported that there hasn't been an elephant sighting in the south for approximately 5 months. The southern side of the reserve seems jealous and have been asking what it is with the elephants' fixation with the north. What they don't know is that we have all the Cabbage trees and all the Aloes, the so called "ice cream" species for the elephants. We also have huge Paperbark trees keeping the bull entertained and plenty of water...Sunday's River. The elephants have been spotted numerous times around the lodge, without even putting foot in a game viewer.



The Big bull elephant has also been seen quite often in the north, but as soon as Collared bull makes his appearance in the area, BFE disappears.

Other news...

Winter is on its way and we are expecting massive fires this year due to the exceptionally long grass. PLEASE be on the lookout for any fires that might be hazardous to the reserve and notify reserve management as soon as possible!

For those who aren't aware, I was in a quad bike accident on Easter weekend and broke my left collar bone. I was absent from the lodge for two weeks, but is back and slowly recovering. Thanks for everyone's concern!

That's all the news for this month.

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