



Welcome to your latest N/a'an ku sê newsletter! It's been a very busy few months on the farm so there's lots to update you on.

There are new baboons, a big cat move and a great development at the school. Read these and all our volunteers stories below.

To keep up to date with everything that's happening, join our new Facebook fan page [I love N/a'an ku se](#) which is replacing the group.

---



### A lucky escape

On the 19<sup>th</sup> January, a 9 month old female cheetah cub arrived at the farm with her brother. She was christened Lucky by the volunteers but unfortunately she had a badly injured foot as a result of the trap that was used to capture her.

Rudie darted her, stitched up as much as he could and bandaged her damaged foot. The vet came out to check on the stitches but

unfortunately the wound was just too deep and there was no choice but to amputate. The operation went smoothly and our three legged cheetah has coped remarkably well. She is now living in a lovely enclosure in Marlice and Rudie's garden, with a dog kennel as her shelter! When she walks you can see her limp but she has already adapted and you cannot tell she has a leg missing when she runs.

Look out for Lucky the cheetah's full story on the website soon!

---

### Our School

It is a sad fact that in Namibia, fewer than one in five Bushman children attend primary school. It is therefore with great excitement that we are expanding the school at N/a'an ku sê to accommodate and educate all the children from our workers Bushman village. By offering an education to these children we are giving them choices for their futures and allowing them access to a much wider world than they are currently exposed to. As well as lengthening the duration of the school session to allow all children access to education at their own level, the curriculum has been completely revised to incorporate English language, Numeracy, Geography, Conservation and Art & Craft. The pupils are also delighted to receive a hot meal at lunchtime and enjoy the opportunity to play games and meet each other in a different environment from their village. Currently, *What's the time Mr Wolf?* And *Duck, Duck Goose!* are their favourite playtime activities! The children are thriving under the new structure and developing well both academically and socially and as their current teacher I cannot fail to mention how proud I am of what they have achieved in just a few weeks.

It was an extra special treat for them on 23<sup>rd</sup> February when they were invited to sing and dance at the presentation from Bank Windhoek and Land Rover. They were an absolute credit to N/a'an ku sê, enjoyed themselves thoroughly and won the hearts of many onlookers!



Bank Windhoek generously donated a set of specially made desktops which the children can use to write and draw on, help them with maths and also with the alphabet. In addition, they are developing a sense of ownership and responsibility for their individual desktops and really look forward to getting their hands on them everyday!

**We are now fundraising to build a permanent pre-primary school for our pupils and better housing for the Bushman. Volunteers Lucy and Johan have set themselves some tough kayaking and cycling challenges to raise money for this much needed project. If you would like to make a donation to help these children who really do deserve the chance of an education and a better, brighter future it's really easy! Just visit the JustGiving page at <http://www.justgiving.com/naankusejogleanddw>**

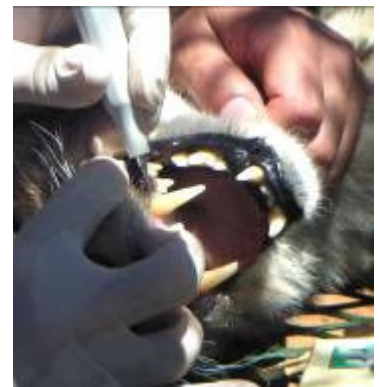
Jill Robson, current volunteer teacher, UK

---

## The big move

Our semi-tame cheetahs, Vasco, Chiquita and Samira were all in need of a dental check up and the opportunity presented itself in mid-January. A huge, all-hands-on-deck operation was launched to relocate the trio of big cats, as well as another resident wild cheetah, to the lion camp, with the lions moving to a new enclosure.

All volunteers were called upon to participate in this manoeuvre, which was exciting, informative and sometimes a little hair-raising! We all observed as Dr Ian Baines, the vet, darted the cheetahs and they were brought out individually for weighing and dental check-ups.



Darting the lions was to prove a far trickier concern. As soon as the first lioness was darted, the other two sought refuge in an extremely long and drawn out game of hide and seek, the male even seeking solace in a tree. Cila, Hardus and the Bushmen transported the second lion to the old cheetah camp, and we stayed to observe as the second lioness finally emerged, sedated and ready to be moved.



Along with several other volunteers, I was lucky enough to join her in the back of the truck as she made her journey to her new home. Up close she was absolutely magnificent, a truly beautiful cat and it was extremely clear exactly how powerful she could be.

I was told to keep an eye on her ears, as they could begin to twitch if she started to wake up. Confusingly, the track we took seemed especially bumpy and I hoped desperately that I hadn't missed a twitch!

The sheer force of this creature was brought home to us once again when we lifted her from the vehicle into the camp. When we returned the following morning, it was lovely to see that all the lions were settling well into their new surroundings.

Sadly, the story didn't close with such a happy ending for all the cheetahs. While Vasco, Samira and Chiquita woke up overnight in their capture cages and were soon becoming accustomed to the smells and sounds of the former lion enclosure, the fourth cheetah was not so lucky. Despite initially waking up, her health deteriorated rapidly and unfortunately she died during the night. Following consultation with our vet, Dr Baines, and analysis of her blood samples at his animal hospital, we established that she suffered liver failure a result of an existing damaged liver.

By Jill Robson, volunteer, UK

## Another new home

At the end of January our female cheetah and her 3 cubs were moved from their current home of one of the research cages to the much larger enclosure with Vasco, Chiquita and Samira. Trying to usher them into a capture cage didn't work so we set the cage and left them to their own devices. Mum was soon caught with the cubs following suit. The cage was loaded onto the car and driven round to their new home. I was given the task of taking a big bucket of meat to encourage the three current residents over to another corner whilst mum and cubs were let out.



After a few days it was clear that our male, Vasco, was eating not only his own dinner but the cubs meat as well so it was decided to split the enclosure in two. The mum & cubs have not been spotted much since then but they have been eating their meat everyday and volunteers have been taking it in turns to watch out for them.

The old research enclosure was immediately filled as we received a pregnant cheetah that evening. We are planning on releasing her as soon as she is fit and well and we can get her a collar.

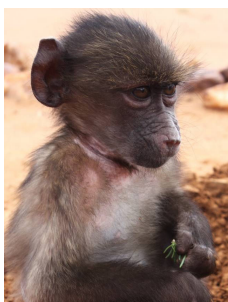
By Lucia Scarborough, volunteer, UK

---

## Baboon updates

Our baboon numbers have grown with the arrival of 3 new babies, a large male and a mum and baby.

14 week old **Bakkis** arrived on New Years Eve, sadly his mum had drowned in a farm dam and he was found still clinging to her body. Then in mid January we received a call from the RSPCA, they had a report of a small baboon in the yard of a house in Windhoek. The person didn't have a permit so we collected six month old **Lala** and brought her to the farm. Both baboons are full of life and love playing with the volunteers.



### Sarafina

Dara tells us about Sarafina: "One morning I met a man called Conrad on the farm. He had heard of the work we do and that we take in injured animals. Within a couple of seconds I was holding this scrawny, skinny, partially bald, baby baboon. Conrad had found the baby baboon, Sarafina, on a building site where she was looked after by the builders. Unfortunately she was in bad condition. She was mal-nourished, covered in burn marks, blisters, raw skin and about half of the size she should have been. But she was beautiful. Her gorgeous little face was lifeless but we knew that we would be able to help this little character. I brought her into the baby baboon camp where she stayed in my lap but allowed Bakkies, our baby boy baboon to groom her. After a few hours and a nice warm bottle, she went and met the volunteers who were to take turns being her foster Mum for the next few months."

### Sarafina's operation

Hamish, a volunteer from England, took good care of her for the first week and showed her that people can be nice. When Hamish left, I became her new "foster mom". We became friends and she learned to trust me

very quickly. We introduced her to the other young baboons – an idea that she wasn't too pleased with at the beginning, but the baboons tried their hardest to become friends with her. After a few days she started to open up more to people and to explore her surroundings.

Unfortunately, one of her lymph nodes got infected quite badly which caused a big abscess under her arm and on her back. It grew bigger every day and she was obviously in pain so we scheduled an operation for her with Rudie. He anesthetized her and cut open the abscess. It was quite unbelievable how much puss come out of a little baboon! Rudie cleaned out the wound and wrapped her in a bandage – small like she was, it looked like a little dress. An hour later, she woke up and I could immediately tell that she was already feeling a lot better. It must have been a great relief for all the pressure under her skin to be gone and that day she ate more than ever. I hope she will keep her appetite, gain more weight and grow up to be a strong and healthy baboon. She is already very brave and the difference in the few weeks I have been her mum has been huge.



By Stefanie Schmidt, volunteer, Germany

### **Mum & baby (Peggy and Lee)**

Our new mum and baby arrived in October from Otjihase mine where a wild troop of baboons had been fed for years. Our three legged mum had already lost a leg in a snare and the workers captured her as now she had a snare attached around her middle. It was buried deeply into her skin and she was carrying a tiny four week old baby. We brought her to the farm to operate and remove the snare and she lived in a small camp we built for her next to the current baboon camp. By January our mum managed to escape from the camp by biting through the wire and jumped into the main camp! She is now most definitely the alpha and the rest of the baboons take it in turns to baby sit.

### **Mowgli**

Uschi, Mowgli's former owner, found him alone as a tiny little pink baby with no fur. She raised him herself and he lived in an enclosure with a shepherd tree to play on during the day. In January, at three and a half year's old, Uschi needed to find a home for him as she was moving house. So he came to live on the farm. Uschi visits every Sunday to take him for a long walk and kindly brings us supplies of eggs, sweetcorn, raisins and nuts. Mowgli will go into the new camp once it's finished along with our bigger baboons including Nemo, Spock and Mum and Baby.

---

## **The fruits (and vegetables) of your labour**

Well done to all the volunteers and Bushman who have built and grown the veggie patch. Snyman and his crew have done a great job and the whole area is really flourishing. We have corn, tomatoes, giant pumpkin, watermelon, carrots, onion, cucumber and lucern (a herb). The chickens and sheep enjoy the lucern with the pigs and baboons getting to eat their way through nearly everything else. We all enjoyed some sweetcorn the other evening which was delicious and sweet. Well done everyone!





## **We welcome Pip, an orphan yellow mongoose**

During the heavy rains of the last weeks he was swamped into a backyard in Windhoek and brought to N/a'ankusê Wildlife Sanctuary the next day.

Dana and Dara (our finance team) are taking care of him now and feeding him every few hours.

“Pip” is only a hand full now but growing quickly. Hopefully soon he can start making friends with the orphan meercat and explore the outside world.

He'll become an up to 57cm mongoose eating snakes, birds and insects.

---

## **The arrival of Fritzey, our one eared pig**

In October a new arrival came to the farm – a little piglet with an attitude. His Mum had bitten off one of his ears and killed his brothers and sisters. Fritzey, the little piglet, was raised by Dara and Jo at their house. When he was old enough he spent the days in the chicken and tortoise enclosure which he loved. It was a difficult job trying to catch him to bring him home every night but once he was old enough he was allowed to stay there. Initially he spent all of his time with the Tortoises but once he met Piggy, it was love at first sight. He follows her everywhere and lately has been a little frisky. She is losing weight as a result of trying to escape from him but all in all she has taken well to her new companion.



---

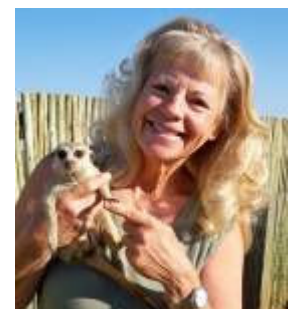
## **Love at first sight**

A young, male Meerkat named Twakkie lived in a small enclosure outside of our room. Each day I would play with Twakkie and it was easy to fall in love. Being from the United States, I had never been close to a meerkat before and it was thrilling to be able to observe him, pick him up, feed him and pretend he was my own for a while. He had broken his back but after a few weeks had finally recovered enough to be able to live with the wild larger female and male who lived in freedom near the Bushman's camp. Unfortunately the first time they were put together the wild meerkats attacked poor Twakkie.

Susan and I were asked to try and lure the wild meerkats up to Twakkies yard so they start to interact with him. We managed to get them into a box to bring them to Twakkies yard and at the same time noticed the large female had a very swollen, red eye. Rudie discovered the female had a hematoma so he sedated her to work on the eye.

While she was inside recovering we let the male meerkats out together. Susan and I donned gloves and were prepared to break up the fight. I slowly let the wild male meerkat out of the cage and they met. Twakkie was submissive so crisis was averted and no fighting occurred. I knew then it was only a matter of time before I would lose my little love to his new life of freedom.

The males stayed together for an hour with no problem. By that time the female was fully awake so we then decided to put her with the males. Again Twakkie was submissive so no fighting occurred.



Whilst the female had to have medication in her eye, the three of them stayed together in Twakkies enclosure for the next couple of days. It was great to see Twakkie interact with the wild meerkats. On the third day we walked all three back near the Bushman's village. With a pang in my heart, I watched Twakkie discover and enjoy his newfound freedom with his new family.

By Loeta Calhoun, Volunteer, USA

---

## New staff

Jeff and Claire have joined the team at the farm this month. Jeff has taken over from his sister Carol working on Wildlife for six months, whilst Carol has joined the research team.

Claire has joined as our new official fundraiser, following eight years of fundraising at the NSPCC.

Both have been part of the volunteer experience at N/a'an ku sê previously and are very excited to be back!

---

## Some important thank you's

- A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work and support over the last few months and for everything you do to help give our animals and the Bushman a better life.
  - Novel Motor Company for generously donating a brand new Land Rover for our carnivore research team to use. Our new vehicle has already made the first trip down to NamibRand to release the female leopard.
  - Bank Windhoek for kindly donating 16 desktops for the Bushman children and their generous donation for a GPS satellite collar and a year of downloadable information for our female leopard released on the 25 February. Look out for updates on her progress in the next newsletter.
  - To Christina Armesto and her friends for donating vital funds to help support the Bushman children.
  - To Carol and Jeff's dad, Roy and Jean for their generous donations; the N\$2550 for a VHF collar for our female cheetah who arrived in January and the N\$2800 for special orthopaedic shoes for Kanna. These will make a huge difference to Kanna's development.
  - To all those who donated funds for collars, including Citigroup, Kirsty & Ian, Tracey, Frankie, and Tommie – these collars have enabled us to release and to provide much better living conditions as well as freedom for some of our large carnivores.
  - Kate, Tony, John & Linda, Loeta and Susan, Jo, Carol, Sarah, Steve, Aaron, Caroline and everyone who so kindly donation funds for our new baboon camp which is now is close to completion. We hope that some day you can come and see how your funds have helped.
  - Uschi for our weekly supply of eggs, sweetcorn, nuts and raisins and the materials for our new baboon camp.
  - Emma Hindson, her mum, TubTrugs, Likit and Proctor and Gamble for kindly donating and shipping loads of horsey things including feed buckets, brushes and bridals.
  - Please check out our website [www.volunteersnamibia.com](http://www.volunteersnamibia.com) for a full list of everyone who has helped N/a'an ku sê. Without your help we would not be where we are today. A big thank you from all of us.
-

## **And finally.....**

**We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support of N/a'an ku sê and the vital work we do with animals and the Bushman. If you would like to get involved further in supporting any of our ongoing projects, Claire would be delighted to hear from you (email Claire at [cwormley@live.co.uk](mailto:cwormley@live.co.uk)). We are adding some great opportunities for you to support to our website over the coming weeks including your chance to adopt your favourite animal, sponsor one of our Bushman children to help give them a brighter future, track a cat by donating the funds for a collar and support our ongoing fund for a new vehicle for which we are in desperate need!**

**Whatever you do, you can help our vision of an Africa where humans and wildlife can live and thrive together, to become a reality.**

**We hope to see you again soon!**

**From all of the Bushman, animals and staff of N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary**

