

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehab Centre

August 2011



The release of a Serval in a private game farm



Release of a wild Civet in a private game farm

Greetings friends worldwide!

Being a Rehabilitation Centre, one of our objectives is to reintroduce wildlife to their natural environment. Many animals come to our Centre every day. Some of them are injured, some are orphaned. We make our effort and our mission that the animals that are brought in make it and have the best life possible.

This month in particular we feel very proud as we have had the opportunity to relocate and release 2 Leopards that were brought in that were trapped in snares, 1 Civet, 7 fierce Honey Badgers that were causing some problems on a pig farm, 2 Servals – one of which had to stay in the clinic a couple of weeks since he was injured when hit by a car- and a brown hyena –also caught in a snare trap.

We were also very fortunate to relocate 7 lion cubs from a nearby game farm which we had to hold for 3 days for Bovine TB tests along with a snared lioness that had been with us for nearly a year.

Our white blind rhino – Rocky- also went back home to his owners where we hope he will have loving care and space to move around.

At the moment we are rehabilitating 3 Duikers, a young Honey Badger, two wild Serval kittens, Genets and many more! We will keep you posted on how they are doing so we can share our joy with you as each day draws comes nearer to them being released.

Ecologically yours,

The Moholoholo Team.

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Latest News

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When humans interfere.

When humans interfere in the natural world they are mostly driven by their emotions, even if sometimes this seems the appropriate thing to do, the natural system has its own ways that should be respected and let alone.

This month we had a 3 month old grey duiker and a baby bushbuck brought in. It was a found by a family next to the road and found with small scratches behind the ears and deep cuts in both the back legs. The family that found it decided to take it a home, which they did for a period of 3 weeks. All though the wounds needed attention they did not take the animal to the vet as they could not afford the fees.

Only when the legs got so swollen that it couldn't walk, they then decided it was time to bring it to us. Her legs were in poor condition and we needed Dr. Muller's help to treat them and we feared she would lose both her back legs. Dr. Muller cleaned the wounds and gave her a week's antibiotic treatment. So far her condition has improved and we've decided to name her Oak. We hope that her legs will recover soon enough to join the other Grey Duiker – Marula in the courtyard.

That same day, we were brought a baby bushbuck badly injured by a troop of baboons and however "considerate" this might seem; it should have been left for nature to take its course. We know this sounds mean, but he had a punctured lung and numerous bites, but everything has its balance in nature and it's up to us to understand it with a greater mind and accept it. Dr. Muller tried to close the wounds and fix the punctured lung. Our students assisted in this and Brian gave him mouth-to-nose respiration, once it was breathing again we however feared and realized that the internal damage caused by the baboon was more severe than we thought, to our great sadness and despite our efforts, the little one didn't make it. Nature took its own course once more and relieved this beautiful animal of many days and months of pain.



Update on Rocky

Rocky -our baby white rhino- is completely blind. This was caused by a hard hit on the head by the poachers that took his mother's life. Due to this setback in his life precautions must be made to avoid unnecessary noises such as a squeaking wheelbarrow passing nearby or even the vehicles coming in and out must go at snail pace. This little "tank" is easily spooked, even if he can't see, he has fortunately grown used to his human mommies voices and he follows them with assurance.

There is always great excitement if an animal especially rhino's have a bowel movement, as 99.9% of the time the stress they have gone through having lost their mothers, causes constipation. A few days earlier, Jessie –our volunteer staff and rhino mom- came running excitedly to the office. She had a bucket with Rocky's first bowel movement, this might seem a strange thing to rejoice about but this means our rhino is finally adapting to his new environment.

Having been stable for a while under the constant care of two volunteer mommies, he has returned to his owner and his home!.

We are sure he will be taken care of and will be given the type of attention he needs.

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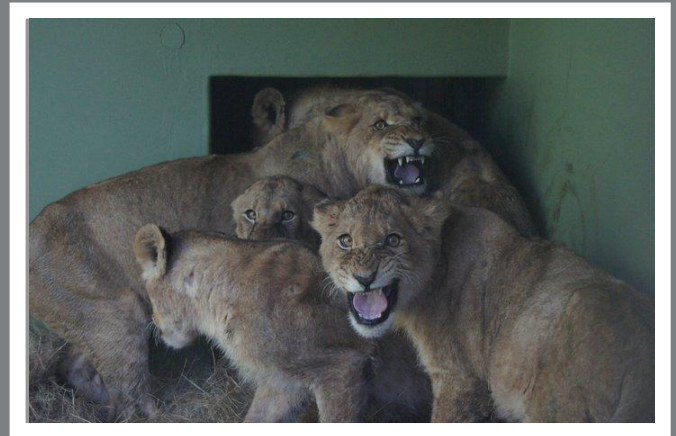
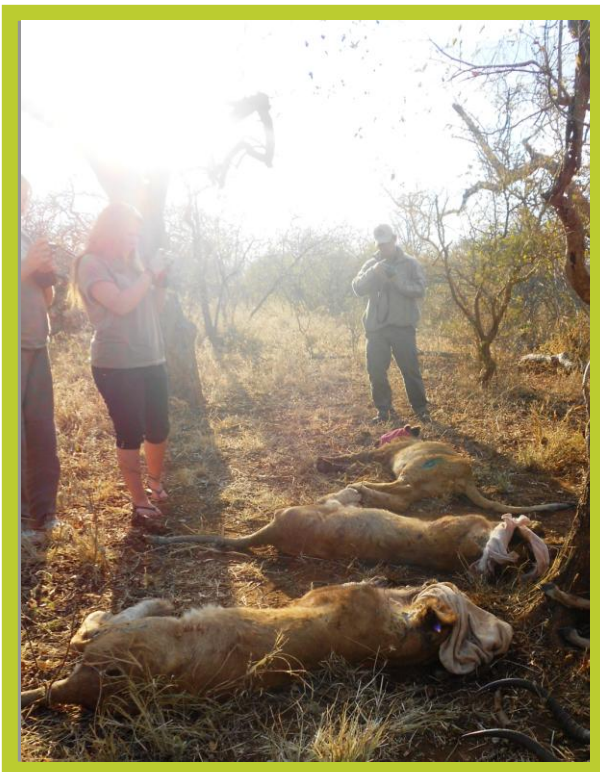
A PRIDE OF BROTHERS.

This month we welcomed 7 lion cubs that were part of a pride of 11 lions; 3 adults and 8 cubs ranging between 5 and 12 months old. Even if it was a brief stay it was full of excitement and adrenaline.

The adults of the pride went missing and we were called in to fetch the cubs! We could only find seven of them, all very thin. We darted them and brought them back to the Rehab where we fed them with meat until their tummies were gorged like a balloon.

On the way to the Rehab the cubs started waking up in the back of the pick-up they were sharing with the students, the top up for some had not been enough!.

When we were moving them to the quarantine quarters some of them were certainly awake and a couple of naughty ones decided to take off!. We caught the first one and the second one had to be held down by our staff while the students held its legs, meanwhile another cubby didn't feel like joining his brothers and sisters in the quarantine cages and decided to find rest in the highest spot he could find. It was quite the adventure!



After all the fun had passed a greater task laid ahead of us: to find them a home. The first step was to test them for bovine TB – an illness that is now amongst the wild lions of Kruger Park and is of our concern. They all proved to be negative!!.

With a bit of luck we were able to quickly find a farmer near the Botswana border willing to take them. Not certain if they would survive on their own in the wild - being so young, Brian stressed the farmer to take the snared lioness that was brought to us over a year ago. He decided to take her and to put her in a camp next to the cubs and once they had bonded (lying next to each other on the each side of the fence) they could be released as a new pride. This will give them a better chance of survival. So we can all hold thumbs.



Donations and Sponsorship

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We would like to thank those who help us keep our centre going by their donations. They don't go unnoticed, they make a difference in all the animals that come, go and stay for life in our Rehab Centre.

- Kobus Neetling – building of leopard cages
- Gill Wright – building of leopard cages
- Justin Sellers - building of leopard cages and leopard collar
- Jackie and Rob Pearson – building of leopard cages
- Sara and Frank Feldman – building of leopard cages
- Clive and Anne Arnold – building and leopard cages
- G. Porter – leopard collar
- J. H. Van der Veen – leopard collar
- Paula Warren – leopard collar

We would also like to thank especially Rieke Wechner -12 years old- who donated money all the way from Germany to our "Animal hospital".

We would also like to thank:

- Gerrie Kruger from Soleil Pakkers – Monthly donations of oranges and grapefruits
- Justin Sellers – Monthly donations for the upkeep of our cages

To everyone who has donated in anonymity, we THANK you as well. You've made a difference!!

If you would like to make a donation towards the Rehab Centre to help us to meet the costs of feeding, medical aid and the building of cages, please email us at moholorehab@wol.co.za. Donations need not only come in money but blankets, old towels, heating pads and so on, will be most welcome.



We would also like to thank our sponsors:

- Avi-Plus Products
- Alzu Feeds