

Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

June 2011

Vol. 1 Issue 1



Landela –our super special baby black rhino- is bigger every day and still enjoys being the center of attention in every tour.



Our baby cheetah – 'Bullet' - is already 1 year old!

Greetings to our friends worldwide!

With the winter on us and the chilly days starting, we have much news to share. Through this monthly newsletter we will keep you updated on what goes on in the life of the crazy Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre!

To achieve this goal, our Facebook "Moholoholo Wildlife Rehab Centre" is also up and running. Remember to befriend us and tell your friends as well! You will be able to get an inside view of what our "normal" days are like. We will keep you updated through our photos and notes, letting you know all about the exciting news, challenges, happenings and the mischief the animals get up to.

Our blog is currently under renovation but will be coming back very soon, full of new stories to read and photos to see. Our aim is to be able to keep everyone updated on how the animals are doing and what they are up to. Through these stories we would like to stress how sensitive our ecosystem is and how fast we are losing it.

The month of May was full of excitement and adventures, seeing 3 Pangolins (2 adults and 1 youngster) brought in, as well as a baby honey badger, a bushbuck and a grey duiker. We were also called for a snared brown hyena and leopard – the leopard had to have his tooth removed- and we collared a hyena to follow his movements in the Greater Kruger Area.

Should you have any suggestions about what you would like to learn about, please do contact us! Our intention is to add value by way of the informative, entertaining and uplifting content of this newsletter.

Ecologically yours,

The Moholoholo Clan

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Our Volunteer Program.

Since 2001 **Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre** has been accepting volunteers. These volunteers travel from all over the world for an experience of Africa which is very unique. Once here at the centre they are involved in day-to-day tasks in the Rehab and have become a pivotal part of the animal care and treatment here at the centre.

Here at **Moholoholo** we are often faced with the difficult decision of what to do with an injured or poisoned animal which will not be able to be released back into the wild. As a result, we have a number of 'permanent residents' here at the centre which are used as **ambassadors** for their species. They remain here at the centre for members of the public to get an 'up close and personal' experience of these incredible creatures, and this gives us the ability to demonstrate to the public the problems that wildlife are facing, as well as giving them some information about each animal here at the centre.

A large part of the volunteer's job is to care for these animals, and this involves everything from feeding, to cleaning, to providing stimulation for our more intelligent residents (such as the Honey Badgers). Whilst working here you may also be involved in any call-outs, drop-offs or hand-raising of babies brought to the centre for our attention.

We are also actively involved in a research forum which looks at the movements and behavior of Leopards. To date we have captured and collared a number of Leopards for this research and the results have been astounding. During your stay here you may be lucky enough to be involved in some of this research, or to be involved in the capture or release of a Leopard. We are often called to remove a 'problem Leopard' and as a result we use these opportunities to gain more information on the species and where funds allow we can release them again fitted with GPS collars. Our research also extends to a number of Vulture species and we monitor those which visit our 'Vulture Restaurant' on a daily basis.

There is no typical day at Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre...ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN! Working with animals can scramble up the day and schedule, it can delay meals and rob you of your sleep, so be prepared for the unexpected. Everything that happens just adds to the African experience.



Our Aims

- Create homes for orphaned, poisoned or injured wildlife, which due to their injuries will never be able to return to their natural environment.
- Reintroduce rehabilitated wildlife to their natural environment where possible.
- Establish breeding facilities for our wildlife, which can be reintroduced back into the wild.
- Attempt through our educational program to stress how sensitive our ecosystem is and how fast we are losing it.
- Our aim to work hand in hand with other conservation bodies, whose objectives are totally conservation.

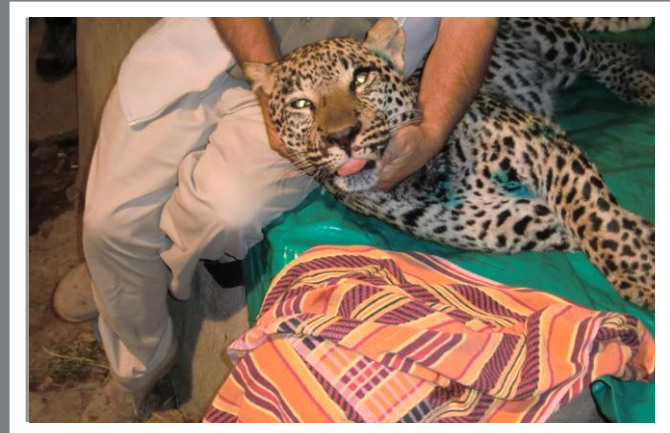
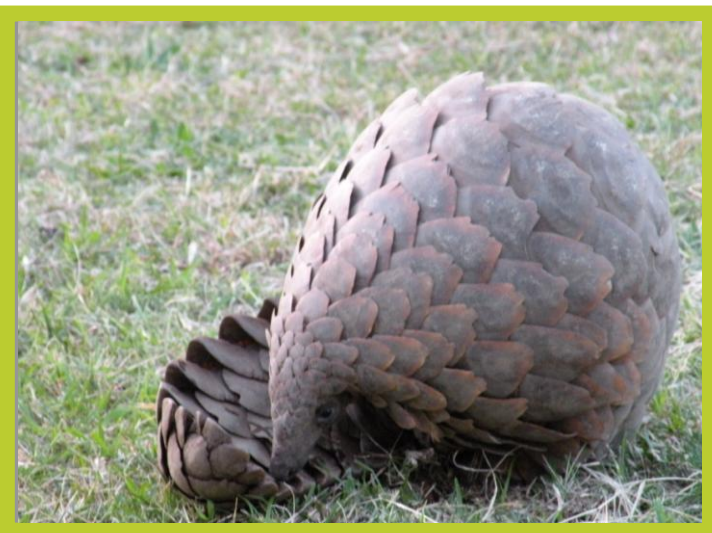
*This is not for the faint hearted!
But one soon adapts knowing there are hungry
mouths to feed.*

The Pangolin visits.

To come across a Pangolin in the wild is a rare occasion; to come across three in less than month, is amazing! They are rare nocturnal animals. We still cannot believe it, but we got the pictures to prove it!

Our first “artichoke” visitor was brought in by a farmer who took him from the indigenous people. We found our second visitor a couple of nights after we had released the first one, while we were driving on the farm to Forest Camp for dinner. Our third friend was brought in a couple of weeks later and to our great surprise, he was still a youngster.

Moholoholo is not big enough for these animals and we are fenced in with an electrified fence as we have neighbors who do not want their animals coming into our reserve. Their territory can be up to 20.000 hectares and they can get caught and die in an electric fence rolling themselves up around it. We then decided to release them near the Kruger National Park where they can help themselves to as many ants and termites they want.



'The Rescue of a Snared Leopard.'

1 o'clock in the morning we were woken with “**Wake up Moholo crew! Officials are bringing a snared leopard found in a fence line; those who want join get up!!**” As all the staff and students helped getting him off the back of the pick-up, we rushed him into the clinic where he was examined for wounds. It was found, his front claws were worn down to the root from clawing the ground to free itself from the snare. His front limbs had many puncture wounds from the barbwire. Parts of his intestines are hanging out. His top right tooth is broken in half with the nerve hanging out. He needs professional help! We contact Dr. Peter Rogers our local vet to make arrangements to stitch up his wounds and to pull out this broken tooth. The next morning, off we went and had the privilege of this all being witnessed under the curious eye of our students. He will be kept in an isolated ward for approx. two months. There is still a way to go, but we trust that once this awful episode is behind him, he will roam the bush once more when he is released back into his territory where he came from! Free as a leopard should be, majestic, sleek and the hunter of all hunters!



Sponsorships & Donations

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We are currently trying to buy a new collar to change the one we put on a leopard a couple of years ago. We've been following his movements to learn more about these great animals and we would like to be able to continue to do so. We would especially like to thank the following for donating towards achieving this goal.

- Mr. James Campbell – R5.000.00
- Corelight - Brad Laughlin USA – R6.000.00

We would also like to thank those who have donated and raised money to help us pay for the Vet bill of the snared leopard featuring in this newsletter. Every bit of help is greatly appreciated.

- Reddam House College - Jeremy Thompsons class
- Joanne Briffit
- Kimberly Shields
- Tacy Wright
- Hannah Daborn
- Dominique Baker

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 center 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 have received welcomed donations from:

- Justin Sellers – Monthly donations for the upkeep of our cages.
- Gerrie Kruger from Soleil Pakkers – Monthly donations of oranges and grapefruits
- Mrs. Bohnschak – Upgrading the clinic building.
- Mr. Shoul – Building and repairing of cages.
- Mrs. Morelli – Building and repairing of cages.
- Tommy Carlsten – Other.
- Vanessa Yelseth – Building and repairing of cages.
- Royal Malewane clients – Upgrading the clinic building.
- Dylan and Tyron Taplin – Building and repairing cages.
- Eric en Tineke Bosch – Upgrading the lecture hall equipment.
- Royal Malawane client - Mascha Schwarz – Upgrading the clinic building.
- John Downey – Trap Camera.
- Nikki Carvey – Vet account.