

N 50/7 cheetah.

N.13/2/2.

Research Section,  
OKAUKUEJO.

30th April, 1970.

The State Veterinarian,  
OKAUKUEJO.

SHORT REPORT ON OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS RECEIVED OF CHEETAH  
ACINANYX JUBATUS RELEASED AT OMBIKA AND HALALI.

INTRODUCTION:

The above report only encloses facts of observations made and reports received from Staff Members and Tourists. The report is by no means complete, as observations are made from the time of release, to date 30/4/1970.

Similar reports will be submitted as more observations are made and further reports received.

RELEASE:

(a) Halali - On the 10th March, 1970, 8 cheetah were released from the holding pens at Halali.

Again on the 13th March, 1970, the remaining 8 cheetah were released from Halali. The method of release was by opening the holding pen doors and allowing the cheetah to go out on their own accord.

(b) Ombika - On the 3rd April, 1970, 4 cheetah were lured into 4 crates, placed at the entrance of each pen, by means of meat. The captured cheetah were transported to Gemsbokvlakte where they were released.

On the 7th April, 1970, another 4 cheetah were captured by means of the same method above, and transported for release at Gemsbokvlakte.

The remaining 5 cheetah could not be enticed into the crates and were thus released from the holding pens at Ombika.

OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS:

On the release of the Halali cheetah it was observed that an immediate South-Easterly direction was followed, but later it was reported that the cheetah had returned to the vicinity holding pens the following evening.

After this very few sightings of the cheetah were seen.

On release of the first four cheetah at Gemsbokvlakte, a Northerly direction was observed *to be followed*.

The second 4 cheetah chose a Southerly direction.

The third and final group went North, but were finally seen South along the boundary fence.

Where possible, dates; eartag numbers; etc. have been given from reports and/or observations:

DATE.	LOCALITY.	CHEETAH/SPOOR.	CONDITION.	EARTAGS.	REPORTED BY:
20/3/70	Rietfontein	Cheetah 2	Poor	Not Visible	Tourist.
28/3/70	Grensplaas (S. Boundary)	Spoor			Stark.
30/3/70	Goas	Cheetah 2	Poor	Not Visible	Reid.
1/4/70	Goas	Cheetah 3	Poor	Not Visible	Tourist.
10/4/70	Gemsbokvlakte	Cheetah 1	Poor	Not Visible	Ebedes.
10/4/70	Southern <i>(Lampfont)</i> Boundary Farms	Cheetah 2	Shot Dead	1) 0006/0007 2) ?	Marais.
14/4/70	6 miles west Ombika; on Boundary	Spoor 2			Leibnitz.
16/4/70	4 miles North Ombika water hole.	Spoor 2			Leibnitz.
21/4/70	3 miles West Namutoni	Cheetah 2	Fair	Not Visible	Hawthorne.
22/4/70	At Starks No.2 camp opposite farm Grensplaas S. Boundary	Spoor 3-4			Leibnitz.
22/4/70	Opposite farm Mooiplaas on S. Boundary	Spoor 1			Leibnitz.
23/4/70	Opposite farm Hesteria South- ern Boundary	Cheetah Dead 1	Very Poor	Not present	du Preez & Leibnitz.
29/4/70	Air-strip Halali	Cheetah 2	Fair	Numbers not Visible	Bernard (Native Employee)
23/4/70	Opposite farm Hesteria S. Boundary	Cheetah 1	Very poor	Not visible	Leibnitz & du Preez.

30th April, 1970.

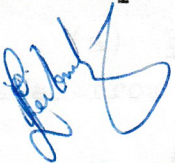
CONCLUSION:

From the result of the cheetah so far recorded, all have been in very bad condition indeed.

This could be as result of the cheetah having been in captivity since August, 1969, and have thus lost the knack of catching prey for themselves, or have become too dependant on humans for their source of food.

The writer recommends that should cheetah or any other carnivora in future be brought into Etosha or any other of our Parks, they be kept in an enclosure of a few Hectar in size. Thereby, live game can be fed to them sothat they do not become too dependant on humans.

After the quarantine period has lapsed, the surrounding fences can then be removed and the animals can then settle down to their respective territories.



RANGER : E.P. LEIBNITZ.  
(RESEARCH SECTION)

(b) Gabixu - On the 3rd April, 1970, 4 cheetah were lured into 4 crates, placed at the entrance of each pen, by means of meat. The captured cheetah were transported to Gamsbuitate, where they were released.

On the 7th April, 1970, another 4 cheetah were captured by means of the same method above, and transported for release at Gamsbuitate.

The remaining 5 cheetah could not be enticed into the crates and were thus released from the holding pens at Gabixu.

OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS:

On the release of the Malali cheetah it was observed that they deviated southwards. It was noted that they were in good health and were well fed. It was also noted that they were well behaved and did not show any signs of aggression towards each other.