

Kate NM. 1975. Preparation for the nursery form a nest with two handtame cheetahs.

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Abstract: Breeding of chaptive handtame cheetahs living near Apeldoorn with the family Nico Mulder and Kate, Netherlands.

Preparation for the nursery form a nest with two handtame cheetahs and very detailed report about the cheetah's birth of 5 cubs and happenings and behaviour afterwards like first nipping, feeding of the mother cheetah, medication, stool and urine.

NURSERY FROM THE FIRST NEST OF CHEETAHS

June 1975

Preparation for the nursery from a nest with two handsome Cheetahs, living near Apeldoorn with the family Nico Mulder ten Kate, Wildernislaan 8, Apeldoorn, Netherlands.

The male Cheetah "Samba", approximate age 16 years^{??}, shoulder height 83 cm, weight 50 kg, has lived with us for 4 years. The daytime run is 300 sq. m and at night 2000 sq. m. Overnight he is in the house, in a beautiful little town, Berg en Bos, near Apeldoorn. He likes riding in the car and often goes with us to a place called Ameland. He has quite some respect for our Pekinees.

The female - named "Cheetah" -, weight 31 kg, is 65 cm high and is about 4 years old. She lives out of sight and sound of Samba, in a run of 6 x 24 m and often goes out on a lead. But before June she walked without a lead in the forest in places where there was no wild game. She always came back when we threw up her playball. We have made a film of this. Her run lies ideally along the wood of a friend at Vaassen who looks with his family every day after her for the preparation of the mating. She has a view of a 60 ha pasture and forest with lots of livestock - small game, deer and birds. Mostly she sits on the night house or on a sand dune.

Both animals eat deepfrozen imported horsemeat and fresh chicken. They do not kill their own food, nor do they eat organs or intestines, but they do eat the chicken heads. On their meat they are given Carnicon from Trouw at Putten.

On the 22nd August 1975 the female who is named "Cheetah" was in heat.

She rolled around swinging from side to side at our feet. I took her to Samba at our run in the garden. On the 23th Samba growled, mewed and made other cat like noises, could not go closer than 2 m to Cheetah. During the day of the 24th the same happened but now he could approach her up to $\frac{1}{2}$ m and at night it went completely silent. Monday-morning 25th, they ignored each other completely. This had never happened before, not even before June when they lived together in our garden, when they continually teased each other. Cheetah would occasionally wound Samba with her claws. Only then did Samba become aggressive. On the evening of the 25th we took Cheetah back to her run thinking that the mating had been a failure.

After 3 weeks we brought them back together. No advances or growling sounds, contrary to this they ignored each other, which was remarkable after all the teasing before June. During this first mating trial which at a later date turned out to be succesful, they had 300 sq. m of garden with grass, trees, and a small hut for their use. During both days we made movies with sound tracks.

In November we noticed that "Cheetah" was growing. On the 10th November we brought her in the house, where she has a fence in part of the livingroom (4 x 6 m) plus a nest area of $1\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 m which is out of view and can be closed off.

OVERTURE TO THE BIRTH

Thursday 20th November 1975

23 hours "Cheetah" is nervous and walks around continually, and calls with a new tone of voice. This new sound she made at 20 h. for the first time in her life. When I approach her she sits calmly down beside me and licks my hand. At 6 o'clock she is quiet again. On checking her vagina was closed. It is full moon, thus very light outside and when I came to look at her she was looking outside, standing on the windowsill. At 10 o'clock she was walking around again.

Friday 21st November 1975. "Cheetah" licks her nipples for the first time. She does not want to go outside and prowls about. Yesterday she had passed a stool (thin inspite of having had chicken). Wednesday was her last well formed stool and this she had passed in her nest.

Friday-morning I put an extra bed in her area as far as possible from the one already there. She immediately takes possession of it and starts licking her nipples. She seems to look for help from everyone who comes in her apartment. Her belly is swollen at the left side looking from behind. She does not eat her chicken.

Saturday 22nd November 1975

For the first time she does not eat all her meat. At night she makes a nest and moves more slowly. She stops licking her nipples. She lays more and more in the straw and hardly mews.

Sunday 23rd November 1975

91st day. In the course of the early morning at 7.45 h. we were called up by the baby-phone which we had put in Cheetah's strawnest.

We went directly to her and we saw the birth of what seems to be the second one. All the straw was out of the nest, everything is wet and the dead first-born one is lying against the outsidewall, stone cold. In the excitement of the birth of the second one we forget to try to reanimate it.

Thus we missed the first one because we must have been sleeping too deeply.

2nd one born around 7.45 h.

3rd one born around 9 h.

4th one born just before 10 h.

5th one born at 11.12 h.

6th one born at 12.40 h.

By the way I (Nico) filmed the birth with sound tracks of the 4th one and the 5th was filmed during the birth by my wife Rieka. During the birth of the 4th "Cheetah" was still licking the 3rd one and I forced her gently to look after the new one.

Number six came unexpectedly fast after one contraction.

Dr. Hermelink, the substitute of our own vet. Dr. Vrij, came along after the birth and checked all of the cubs. I have taken photo's of it. We also made a photo from the nest with the 5 living cubs and the first-born which was dead, to show she had 6 in all.

Cheetah did not take any notice of this "stranger" who took all her youngsters out of the nest to check if she had correctly bitten off the umbilical cords.

You can see this clearly on the photo.

Dr. Hermelink concluded: 2 males and 3 females. The dead one was a female.

At 17.40 h. he gave Cheetah an injection (oxytonine = piton) to help the womb to close. Since the day of birth I watched the nest day and night together with a friend to prevent "Cheetah" from being frightened. We were afraid she might kill her babies.

Monday-morning

The mother and her 5 babies have had a quiet night.

The cubs have been very busy drinking and the mother allowed it quietly. All 5 in the morning in great shape.

One of the youngsters now almost 20 hours old opens its mouth aggressively when I (Nico) come with my hand too close to her. It is hissing and hits my hand with its nails as though it were a fullgrown cheetah. Cheetah's nose wet and cool.

24th November 1975

"Cheetah" turned round again, is lying on her left side like yesterday, Sunday 23rd Nov. 1975. Later on that evening she went to our friend, who helped with the birth and then laid down again with her back towards him - an indication of trust. During the turning round I put fresh straw on the used, it is still smelling but every cub has a dry place. I can half lift Cheetah and put the straw underneath her on a place where some more straw was needed.

At 4.30 h. two are quarling about a nipple. Like other times Cheetah takes the naughty cub carefully in her mouth and lays it on another place.

Cheetah lay until 16.15 h. with her babies in the strawbed. Then she stirred herself and started walking around in her part of the sittingroom from 16.15 h. up till 17.15 h. She

was very quiet, drinks lots of water and greedily ate a small tame rabbit (skinned). Before Nico gave her the rabbit it had lain in the kitchen a while and was therefore not too warm. "Cheetah" had urinated in her 2nd bed. She was given ear drops (both ears) for ear mites, which she has. She stood up several times but was shaky on her feet. From time to time she went back to the nest area to inspect her young ones. In between times I have cleaned the nest (and washed it out as well as I could). At about 20.30 h. I gave "Cheetah" more food, almost 1 kg of horsemeat with 2 small spoons Esbilac and 1 small spoon Vitacal, which was also greedily devoured. On Tuesday morning at 5 mins. to 3 she was outside for 2 minutes. She stretched herself for a while in the sittingroom, then went back to her babies. Further it was quiet the whole night.

25th November 1975

In the course of the day "Cheetah" came out of her bed several times and walked around. A few times she made a big puddle. She was a bit more rough with the babies and one time I had to take action when she pressed them a bit robust to herself. One seemed to be dead but we were happy to see that it soon came to life again.

26th November 1975

Her ears were again treated with drops against ear-mite.

About 11 o'clock 650 gr. horsemeat with 2 small spoons Esbilac and 1 small spoon Vitacal. Several times Cheetah came out of her nest and during that time the babies laid themselves together and fell asleep. Today she ate 1 kg horsemeat and 1 tame rabbit, this time she ate also the heart and liver.

The babies drank several times. Cheetah lost some drops of light red coloured liquid out of her vagina. We don't watch the nest during the night since today Cheetah is much more quiet now.

She urinated twice in her second bed in her area sittingroom.

20 h. 1 kg horsemeat in pieces with 1/8 liter full milk with horseblood.

Up till now "Cheetah" had not passed a stool, the last time was Saturday 22nd November which was somewhere thin.

27th November 1975

13 h. a tame (skinned) rabbit with 2 teaspoons Isogel (to encourage bowel movement) was given to her. Again her ears were treated with drops. The vets., Dr. Vrij and Dr. Her-melink, visited me.

19.25 h. a very large pool of urine in the 2nd bed of her area in the sittingroom.

23.30 h 1/4 liter full milk including blood and 900 gr. horsemeat + a spoon of Vitacal.

28th November 1975

14.45 h. 600 gr. heart with some pieces of meat mixed in.

Today again 2 very large pools of urine in her second bed in the sittingroom. My wife changed the straw in this bed for crumpled newspapers.

1 kg horsemeat given with a teaspoon of strong laxitive.

1st December 1975

750 gr. meat and 1 spoon Vitacal. The babies' eyes are now open.

2nd December 1975

1 kg horsemeat with milk + Esbilac. A tame rabbit, about 1 kilo which "Cheetah" finished. More eardrops.

3rd December 1975

This morning "Cheetah" passed a large well formed stool in her 2nd bed.

750 gr. meat and 1 spoon Vitacal, a tame unskinned rabbit of which she ate 1400 gr.

Normally she does not eat the liver. The babies react for the first time to the camera's flash. Cheetah drinks a good quantity of milk.

4th December 1975

10.45 h. 940 gr. meat + 1 spoon Vitacal.

12 h. a large pool in the 2nd bed.

13 h. 1/4 liter bouillon with som blood from the meat.

16 h. One of the babies came out of the nest and Cheetah carried it back in her mouth.

19 h. 925 gr. meat + 1 spoon Vitacal.

The little ones now growled if you came near them.

5th December 1975

1 rabbit (800 gr.) + 1 kg horsemeat with Esbilac.

"Cheetah" was out for 1/2 h. in the outside run.

6th December 1975

At 9.30 outside she passed a large stool after she had eaten 1 1/2 kg horsemeat with Esbilac 9 o'clock.

7th December 1975

Cheetah one hour in the outside run (13-14 h.). Today there was no food given. Cheetah drank a lot of water. As she walked in her area in the sittingroom she lets clear drops fall. I don't know where from. Twice today she vomited white foam, it was mostly water with foam. At 20 h. that night she passed a very watery stool. Drops all over the place and brown pools. It smelled strong as a normal stool. The few times after the birth she had a bowel movement it was soft. She had runny bowels for an hour.

I opened the outside door for some fresh air. We cleaned up inside with soft green soap. After that she was quiet. Then when she lay with her babies I cleaned her with toilet-paper. The babies would have nothing to do with her and crept towards me and crawled about me as though they were looking for nipples. Cheetah picked them up by their necks and put them back by her in the nest. Again they crept away and went to lie by the ventilator. One crawled in the direction of the nipples, sneezed then crept quickly back to its place by the ventilator. Meanwhile they are crying with hunger and "Cheetah" is mixed up. Finally at 21.15 h. they are sleeping between the head and forpaws of their mother. Lights out and it stays quiet.

8th December 1975

12 h. The babies are drinking for the first time. This morning they were very hungry. They were creeping over me searching for nipples. "Cheetah" picked them up by the neck and sat them one by one in the nest. This scene was repeated. "Cheetah" drank a lot of water but did not bring up foam, or urinate. She was very bright. We weighed her young and they were heavier. "Cheetah" ate about 1 1/2 kg calfsheart (defrosted) while we weighed the babies. She left about 600 gr. uneaten. She sauntered about for 2-3 minutes and then lay down with her babies. She did not nurse them and they didn't seem hungry.

9th December 1975

"Cheetah" eats normally, about 1 kg horsemeat, no bowel movement. Urinates in her bed and no longer in her usual place - in the box.

10th December 1975

Same as 9th December, only 1 1/2 kg heart.

11th December 1975

As 9th December - only 2 1/2 kg tame rabbit.

12th December 1975

Weighed the lightest baby today. There is one who often does not nurse when the other 4 are nursing. From this day this one must be weighed each day and given extra nourishment with Esbilac. - Will not accept it. - Weighs 1020 gr. this afternoon. I have placed this one at the nipples, while the other are playing. At 16 h. 1 1/4 kg heart (calfsheart) with

fast working red powder, one teaspoon. The 5th day without a bowel movement. The films of the birth have arrived and are good, including the sound.

13th December 1975

This morning at 8.30 h. a large stool and a puddle in the wooden box. We left it hoping that the odor would always draw her to that place to relieve herself. The whole day lying with the babies. Comes only from the bed at 16 h. when I come home and she hears my voice. This morning she ate almost all of 2 wild rabbits and a $\frac{1}{2}$ spoon Foscalgist. Tomorrow we won't feed her cubs. Weighed this evening. The smallest one was placed twice on the nipple and gained suddenly 120 grams in 2 days, the heaviest 75 grams in two days.

14th December 1975

No bowel movement - looses now and then a few drops urine. Today the left over rabbit and heart. Together about 1 kg.

15th December 1975

More drops of urine. 2 Kg horsemeat. No bowel movement.

16th December 1975

Many drops of urine. A few spots of thin stool around the floor. Again the babies don't want to lie by the mother. They walk well and almost fall out of the bed. Already for a week the bed must be completely cleaned every other day. It seems Cheetah just lets her water run. She does not sit in the bed to urinate. She vomited again and there were worms in of 3 to 4 cm. The vet. could not find any eggs in the first examination, by a second examination of the same stool, there were eggs of the "spool-worm" and 2 eggs of trichina. By this evening, still no report on what I should give for this. (See also 7th Dec.)

At 10 o'clock weighed cubs and gave 2 wild rabbits to Cheetah. Outside - very sunny and temperature about 0°. Cheetah was about 1 hour outside, in 4 15 minutes periods.

17th December 1975

$\frac{1}{2}$ kg heart and $1\frac{1}{2}$ kg horsemeat, no bowel movement.

18th December 1975

At 12.30 h. a bowel movement - thick -. The veterinarian Hermelink was here. $1\frac{1}{4}$ Kg horsemeat and the same time as the weighing of the babies $\frac{3}{4}$ of a large wild rabbit. This evening she is very restless - has perhaps cramps in the stomach. Tries to pass stool but nothing happened. Lays down again with the babies, grumbles and growls at them. After 10 minutes, tries again to pass stool. I close the wire-netting door, but she didn't like that. I open the door and Cheetah walks in her area sittingroom. She made a big puddle in her 2nd nest, which I cleaned and put some clean newspapers in. After this the wormcure seems to be working.

Cheetah goes at 19.45 h. and lies quietly with the young ones.

19th December 1975

1 Small hard stool, but several large puddles everything in the box (a child bed stuffed full with crumpled newspapers). No more drops of urine or stool. Last night the living-room kept very warm. Perhaps the drops of urine have something to do with the cold. $\frac{1}{4}$ Hour outside - about 3° C.

This evening Cheetah ate a large tame rabbit, about 2 kilos. We made one piece of about 75 grs. into fine mince and gave it to the little ones. The 2 smallest had to be encouraged but later they ate well. 20.15 h. everything quiet.

20th December 1975

Two large puddles by Cheetah, no stool, 2 kg meat and rabbit. The little ones each got a small portion rabbit and horsemeat ground to a fine mince. They seem to like meat.

21st December 1975

"Cheetah" a large quantity stool with tape worm, spoolworm, and also thinner longer worms. The stool and puddles of the young are still being consumed by Cheetah in spite of the meatdiet.

The young got finger size portions of rabbit and rabbit liver in pieces, finely ground. Weighed this morning. Much faster growth.

22nd December 1975

No stool. But puddles, only now and then drops of urine. The bed was wet. Cleaned it. Veal with horsemeat. They don't like it. The youngest one however eats two small trays. See the weightchart.

December 1975, 24th, 25th, 26th

No stool from Cheetah, each day she eats $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 kg horsemeat.

27th December 1975

Anti-worm medicine. Worm cure for Cheetah in pieces of meat as the previous week. The young are sick, 2 slightly, 2 vomit, 1 has a runny stomach. Their heads are all wobbly.

28th December 1975

Two of the three are much better today. The one still sick was the one who liked meat the most and 3 days ago ate $1\frac{3}{4}$ portions. A part of the bowel movement of this young had blood spots in the part which was thicker and the normally thinner part of the stool was thicker than before.

At 20.30 h. Cheetah makes a big stool. Black, smells normally strong as usual. She seems relieved. Maybe it comes because $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours ago she ate 1 rabbit and 1 chicken and so was stuffed. She plays now wildly with the babies. Lights out. Rest.

29th December 1975

This morning 3 babies had blood in their stool. One vomited thick, white. One is completely healthy and playful. They spent the whole day in their area. The vet. came at about 12 h. "Can't do anything about the black blood spots", says Dr. Vrij, "no worm medicine in the mouth with a squirter. Thin stool won't do any harm. It will pass." Babies not weighed. Cheetah makes a large lovely stool behind the curtains at 11 o'clock. Later she does a large brown puddle in the wooden box (see photo with 2 cubs). $1\frac{1}{2}$ Kg horsemeat with Vitacal. From today the young eat course ground horsemeat, rabbit and chicken with egg and Foscil yeast.

30th December 1975

No stool from Cheetah. One of the young did a small stool, $\frac{1}{2}$ hard, $\frac{1}{2}$ soft. For Cheetah $1\frac{1}{2}$ kg horsemeat and 1 medium chicken. The young are playing again sometimes. For the first, $\frac{1}{2}$ bowl "Artisvla" (a mix of meat, eggs and cream 20 %).

31st December 1975

Cheetah had a good bowel movement, 3 young did a stool in the box. All the young are playing hard now. Not one has thin stool. This morning Cheetah 1 kg horsemeat, in the evening 1 big chicken. In the evening the cubs did not want any more artisvla.

4th January 1976

Sunday. The 5 young are 6 weeks old, playful and completely healthy.

6th January 1976

Tuesday. The young are inoculated with the proper dosage of dead vaccine against cat distemper.

The medical care of the two parents is in the hands of veterinarian J. P. Vrij, Friso-
laan 7 in Apeldoorn.

Cheetah, the mother, was raised till spring 1975 by Ruud van den Boogaard in Schaes-
berg, near Heerlen.

Samba, the father, was previously a guard animal (guard Cheetah) by a shepherd in South
West Africa. He was bought from the trader fa. Man in het Veld, Apeldoorn.

Both are completely hand tame.

During the first 2 months no one was allowed to see the animals, except the people
mentioned.

Apeldoorn, January 1976.

GEWICHT VAN DE WELPEN TOT 6 WEKEN

Ze zijn 23 november 1975 geboren, tussen 7.45 en 12.40 uur.

24 nov. 1975 te 13.00 uur

- 370 gram
- 399 gram
- 405 gram
- 410 gram
- 430 gram
- 450 gram dood

25 november 1975 's avonds

- 470 gram
- 475 gram
- 500 gram
- 505 gram
- bijna 510 gram

27 november 1975 te 13.30 uur

- 515 gram
- 525 gram
- 525 gram
- 525 gram
- 550 gram

29 november 1975 te 13.15 uur

- 600 gram
- 615 gram
- 615 gram
- 620 gram
- 625 gram

1 december 1975 te 15.30 uur

- 675 gram
- 650 gram
- 650 gram allen ogen
- 685 gram open
- 750 gram

3 december 1975 te 18.30 uur

- 725 gram
- 725 gram
- 800 gram
- 825 gram
- 850 gram

5 december 1975 te 19.30 uur

- 775 gram
- 1000 gram
- 825 gram 2 lopen op
- 875 gram 4 benen
- 900 gram

8 december 1975 te 22.00 uur

- 1150 gram
- 1025 gram
- 1020 gram
- 950 gram
- 900 gram

11 december 1975 te 18.30 uur

- 1250 gram
- 1100 gram
- 1080 gram
- 1050 gram
- 980 gram

13 december 1975 te 20.00 uur

- 1325 gram
- 1175 gram
- 1150 gram
- 1125 gram
- 1100 gram

16 december 1975

- 1400 gram
- 1300 gram
- 1300 gram
- 1250 gram
- 1150 gram

18 december 1975

- 1475 gram
- 1350 gram
- 1340 gram
- 1285 gram
- 1225 gram

21 december 1975

- 1725 gram
- 1550 gram
- 1525 gram
- 1525 gram
- 1400 gram

23 december 1975

- 1825 gram
- 1725 gram
- 1700 gram
- 1600 gram
- 1600 gram

26 december 1975

- 1940 gram
- 1825 gram
- 1825 gram
- 1725 gram
- 1720 gram

6 januari 1976

- 2400 gram
- 2250 gram
- 2150 gram
- 2100 gram
- 2000 gram

Deze was 18 dec. de zwaarste, maar werd na dunne mest en enig bloed in de mest de lichtste. Is nu kerngezond!