



1000 BIG CATS RESCUED



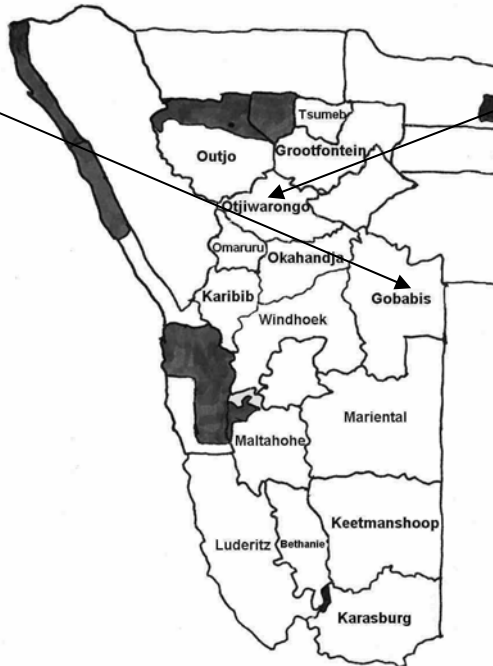
In the middle of this year AfriCat rescued their 1000th big cat. This milestone cat was a three-month-old leopard cub that was caught with his mother (cat number 999). In good health and condition and totally unaware of their significance in AfriCat's history, the two were released together within a day of their rescue – contributing to our record of over 85% of the cats rescued being released back into the wild.

Over the last 16 years a total of 650 cheetahs and 350 leopards from all over Namibia have moved through the project. A brief summary of the geographical, demographical and physiological statistics taken from the data collected from these cats follows.

What part of Namibia are the cats from?

CHEETAHS

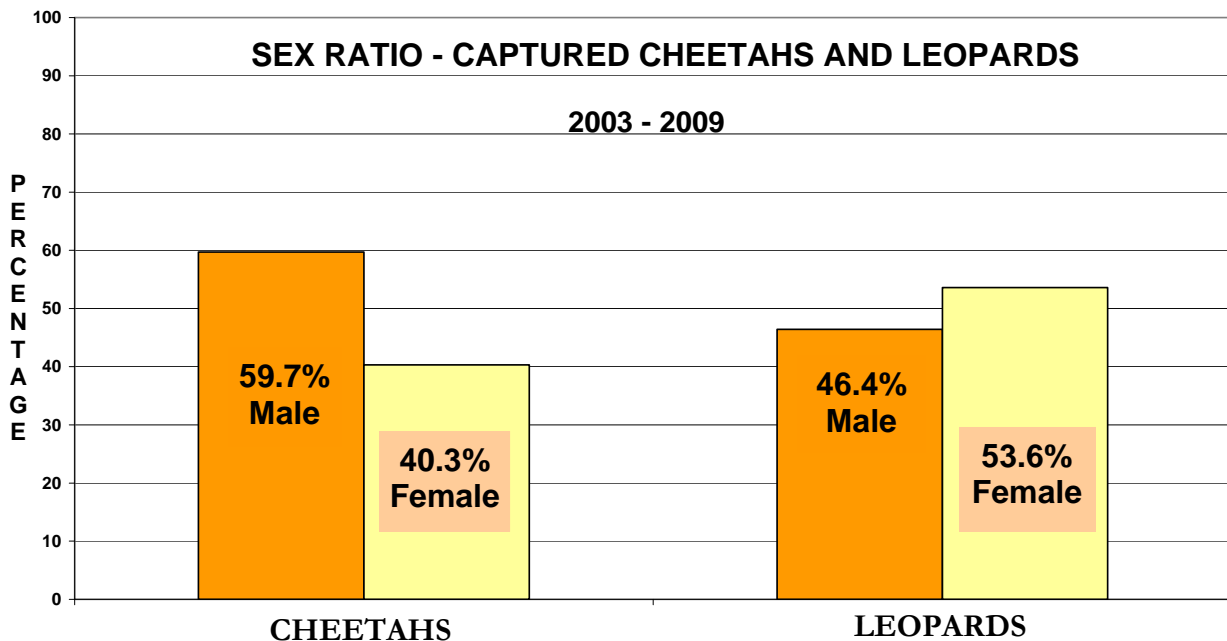
Gobabis	29.1%
Okahandja	16.6%
Otjiwarongo	15.5%
Omaruru	12.2%
Windhoek	11.5%
Grootfontein	6.5%
Outjo	6.5%
Tsumeb	1.2%
Maltahöhe	0.9%



LEOPARDS

Otjiwarongo	39.7%
Windhoek	19.4%
Okahandja	11.4%
Grootfontein	10.3%
Omaruru	8.6%
Outjo	4.9%
Gobabis	1.4%
Karibib	1.4%
Tsumeb	1.1%
Maltahöhe	0.9%
Bethanie	0.6%
Luderitz	0.3%

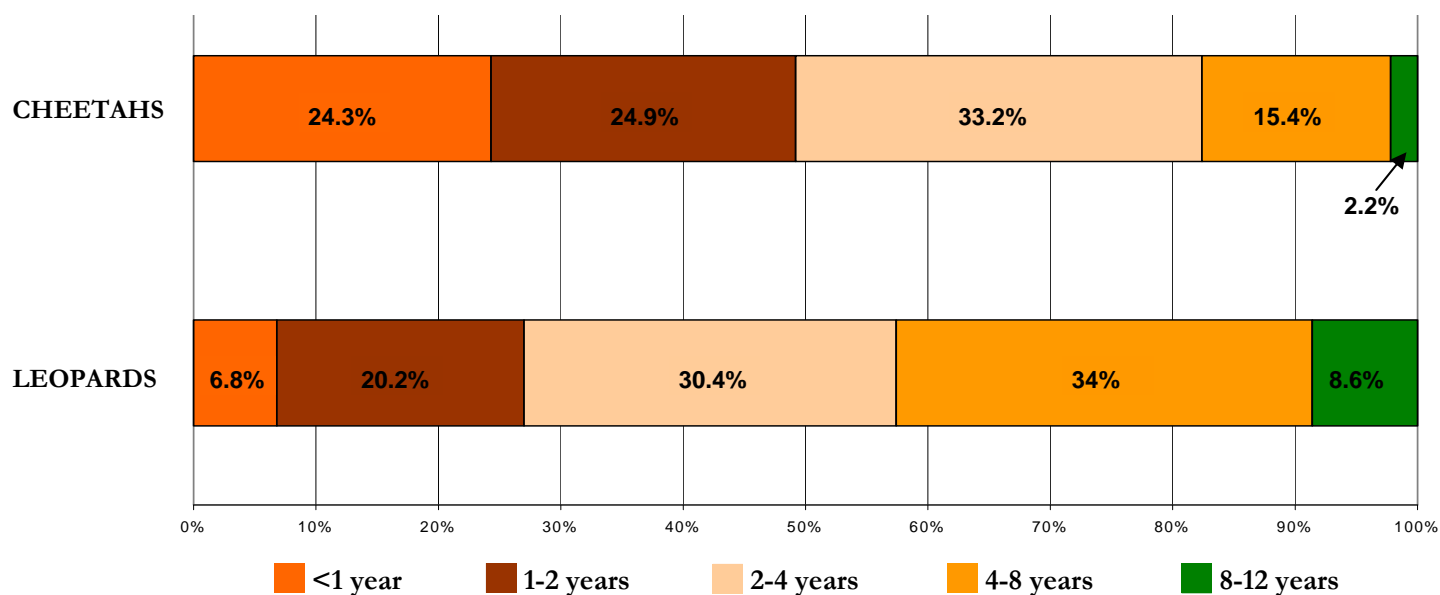
Males vs. Females



The graph above shows the difference between the number of male and female captured cheetahs and leopards. The total ratio of male to female cheetahs caught (adults and cubs) is 1.48:1, excluding cubs the ratio is 1.65:1. More adult female than male leopards were captured but the overall ratio is more equal at 1 male to 1.1 females.

How old are they?

AGE COMPARISON - CAPTURED CHEETAHS AND LEOPARDS



Just under half the cheetahs captured were under the age of two years (49.2%) at time of capture with the majority of adults being between the ages of two and four years. On the whole the captured leopards were significantly older than the cheetahs with the majority being between the ages of four and eight years (34%). 42.6% of the leopards were over the age of four years whereas only 17.6% of cheetahs captured fell into this age category.

The little ones.....

176 cheetah cubs compared to 9 leopard cubs were captured with their mothers. The average litter size for cheetah females captured with their cubs was found to be 3, whereas the litter sizes for leopards was less than half this at 1.4. The ratio of male to female cheetah cubs is fairly equal at 1.2:1. With leopards there are nearly twice as many male than female cubs with a ratio of 1 male to every 0.6 females.

The figures used in the demographic analyses exclude all orphaned cubs as well as those animals that have been in captivity elsewhere before coming to AfriCat.

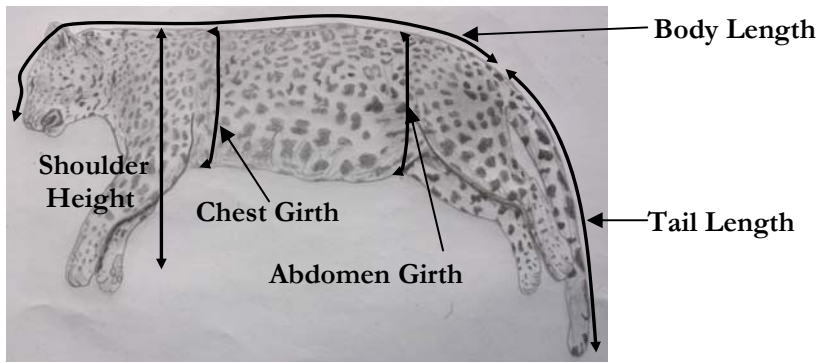
The big ones.....

Cheetahs and leopards are routinely measured and weighed when they come to AfriCat. Measurements of the skull, muzzle, chest, abdomen, tail, feet and canines are taken for each cat. In order to interpret overall size however, none of these measurements, or the cat's weight, can be used in isolation. Body length (tip of nose to base of tail), shoulder height and chest girth have therefore been taken into account for the purpose of calculating the overall size and determining which of the cats is the largest. Going through the records it was interesting to note that the biggest male and female leopards recorded at AfriCat were both caught on Okonjima as part of our research. The largest male cheetah was also captured on a farm in the Otjiwarongo area. The largest female (captured with three five-month-old cubs) came from the Okahandja district.

CHEETAH

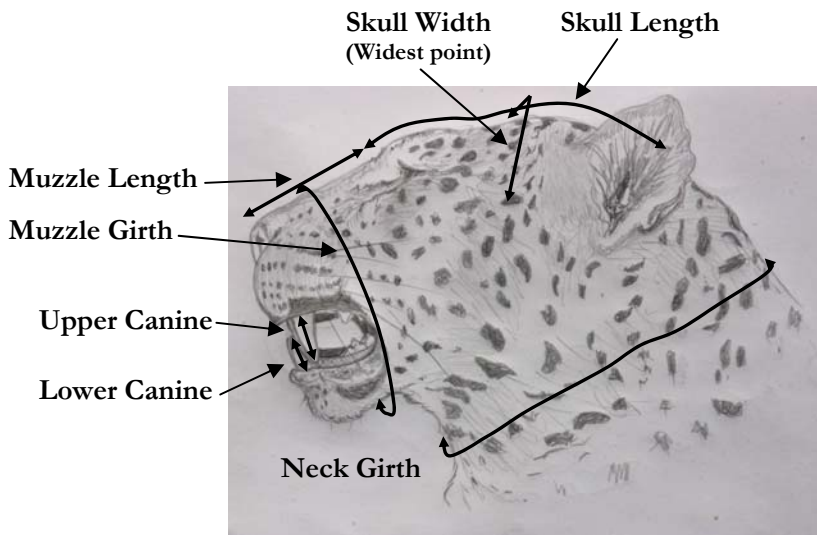
LEOPARD

MALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST MALE	FEMALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST FEMALE	MEASUREMENT (Centimetres)	MALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST MALE	FEMALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST FEMALE
133.76	142	129.40	141	BODY LENGTH (Tip of nose to base of tail)	133.54	150	114.98	130
79.84	87	77.48	81	SHOULDER HEIGHT	69.23	78	60.44	65
73.71	80	68.3	74	CHEST GIRTH	77.16	89	61.67	72
60.01	64	56.97	58	ABDOMEN GIRTH	73.17	86	59.28	67
77.88	89	74.87	82	TAIL LENGTH	83.03	87	75.77	79



Foot Width

Foot Length



CHEETAH

LEOPARD

MALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST MALE	FEMALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST FEMALE	MEASUREMENT (Centimetres)	MALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST MALE	FEMALE AVERAGE	SINGLE LARGEST FEMALE
38.57	43.5	33.8	36.5	NECK GIRTH	50.69	59	41.07	44
19.69	23	19.03	23	SKULL LENGTH	20.58	25	18.23	24
15.55	18.5	14.47	15	SKULL WIDTH	16.51	21	13.79	15
7.72	9.5	7.03	8	MUZZLE LENGTH	9.07	11	7.45	8
29.32	31.5	27.16	28	MUZZLE GIRTH	33.87	37.5	28.17	29
2.38	2.6	2.23	2.3	UPPER CANINE	3.44	4.2	2.78	3.2
1.74	2	1.58	1.6	LOWER CANINE	2.88	3.4	2.31	2.6
8.39	9.6	7.89	9.2	FRONT FOOT LENGTH	8.58	10	7.37	7.9
6.55	7.8	6.11	6.7	FRONT FOOT WIDTH	7.77	8.8	6.47	7.1
9.58	10.8	9.13	9.9	BACK FOOT LENGTH	8.25	9.2	7.43	8
6.77	8	6.28	7.2	BACK FOOT WIDTH	6.69	7.4	5.55	6.1
45.45	62	39.77	45	WEIGHT (Kilograms)	51.09	69	31.99	40
3.87	5	4.27	4	AGE (Years)	5.54	5.5	4.47	5

For analytical purposes the measurements of all the cats under the age of 2½ years, as well as those that have been in captivity for any length of time, have been excluded.

