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## Zaza's teeth shine again after cat fight

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By Hanti Otto

Being involved in a cat fight can leave a girl scarred, even if she is a 12-year-old leopard.

Zaza was involved in a fight with her sister on the game farm Shayamanzi, in the Waterberg.

Her right fang was broken in the process. Her sister also bit her on the head, damaging the nerve that controls the lip muscles.

But after an operation on Monday she can flash her grin again.

Dr Gerhard Steenkamp, of the dental clinic at University of Pretoria's faculty of veterinary science, said the nerve damage would take about six weeks to heal.

But it would not be problematic as Zaza would still be able to eat.

"As fangs are too long to crown and can easily break again, I did a root canal and sealed the tip of the tooth where it was broken. She will be able to bite with it," he said.

The 50kg cat arrived at the faculty early on Monday morning. She had to be darted before the experts could get close to her.

The operation lasted an hour and a half. Even her teeth were polished.

Shayamanzi owner Jannie Parsons said he ran a leopard project on the game farm.

"I felt that as they are on a game farm and not in their normal eco-system, humans are responsible for them.

"We also feared that Zaza's wounds could lead to severe infection and we Therefore we intervened and helped," he said.

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