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TOBY'S BAD LUCK ... By Chris Moshosho

Following on from our June edition, it is hard to believe how much bad luck Toby has had since his initial release into the wild.

<http://www.africat.org/newsletters/2011/june.html>



In April 2011, he had to be brought in after an injury to his right eye, which recovered well and Toby was able to go back to hunting again. However, on 24th October 2011, Toby was found again with a teary eye and this time it was his left eye. He was darted and brought back to Africat's Carnivore Care Centre, with the piece of thorn still stuck inside his cornea. It was carefully removed - two pieces of one of our invader thorn-bushes – the *Dichrostachys cinerea* - more commonly

known as the 'sickle bush'.

Note from Dr Gerhard Steenkamp after viewing images of Toby's second injury:

"There was a penetrating corneal foreign body in Toby's left eye. Around this foreign body there was oedema (that is the 'blueish' opaque discoloration around the thorn). The foreign body was removed and was a thorn of the *Dichrostachys cinerea* bush. The thorn luckily only penetrated very shallow and none of the deeper structures of the eye was damaged."



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spot predators like lions and leopard sneaking up on them and killing them.

Toby was following his natural instincts and would not have known better than to give chase to prey which unfortunately led to both his eye injuries. His misfortune was a combination of bad luck and bush encroachment.



READ MORE ABOUT OCULAR ABNORMALITIES OF CHEETAH EXAMINED AT AFRICAT BY DR GARY BAUER GA, BVSC, DRMEDVET(OPHTH).



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