



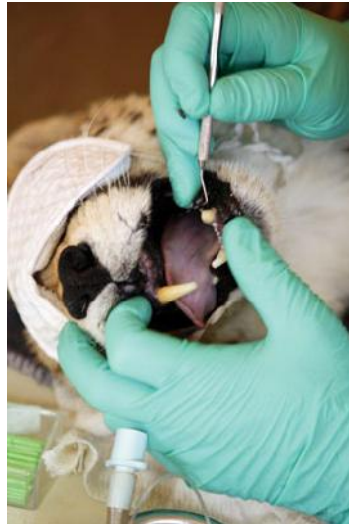
# THE AFRICAT FOUNDATION




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## DENTAL CHECK PROCESS



Within a big cat's mouth three different types of teeth all work together to enable a rapid eating style. The large pointed teeth are called the canines. They're also known as eye teeth or fangs. They're designed for gripping and holding, and help the cat to suffocate its prey.

With the Cheetah - although effective, the canines are small compared to those of other big cats because everything about the cheetah is designed to enhance its amazing running speed. Running fast requires large amounts of oxygen, and to breathe in lots of oxygen the cheetah needs very large nasal passages. This doesn't leave much space for long canine roots.

The front teeth, known as incisors, are used for quickly skinning the prey. This helps the cat to get access to the protein-rich flesh as fast as possible. Finally, behind the canines are the carnassials, also known as pre-molars or back teeth. The carnassials work in a scissor-like fashion to help shear off large pieces of meat, which are then often swallowed whole.

However, a big cat's teeth are not the only tool it has in its armoury when it comes to eating swiftly. Big Cats have a rasp-like tongue covered in small hard spines called papillae. These give the tongue a sandpapery quality which helps to remove the meat from the bones.

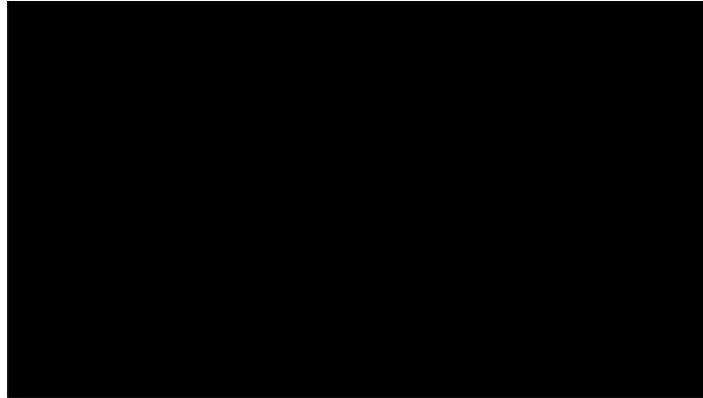
3) The night before the cat is going to be darted it is moved from its large enclosure into a holding area where it can be darted easily. The vet darts the cat in the shoulder as the dart is less likely to bounce off and the dart will not harm the cat.

1) The vet draws the drug for the dart. The amounts of different drug are determined by the weight of the cat as the drugs are given by mg of drug/kg of cat.

2) The vet prepares to put the smooth needle dart, which has no barb, into the dart gun which is propelled by compressed air, adjusted to the correct pressure required for the distance that the dart is required to travel.

**AfriCat Annual Dental Procedures and Veterinary Assistance**

FILMED AND EDITED BY ITV, UK - © itv 2010. Each year, the AfriCat Team including supporting Veterinarians, successfully undertake a Dental Check on the resident cheetah, leopard, lion & wild dog at our Carnivore Care Centre based in the Okonjima Nature Reserve. This way, AfriCat's welfare, rehabilitation & carnivore programmes can assist long-term carnivore research, adding to the over-all conservation of the species. Also, when a carnivore is injured at AfriCat or in the Okonjima Nature Reserve – local vets assist wherever they can with emergencies.

**AFRICAT'S ANNUAL HEALTH, DENTAL & VETERINARY CHECK – 30 JUNE TO 10 JULY 2014. DO YOU WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER?**

**THIS YEAR STEPPES IS OFFERING 2 EXCLUSIVE 'BEHIND-THE-SCENES' SAFARIS TO OKONJIMA**

**STEPPES DISCOVERY UK, IS THE MAIN AFRICAT ANNUAL HEALTH-CHECK SPONSOR** and has long been an admirer of AfriCat's innovative approach towards the conservation of Namibia's large carnivores; "We have been impressed with their ability to adapt as the demands of conservation change and commend their commitment to using responsible tourism as an essential tool in protecting Namibia's big cats. While they continue to rise to the ever changing challenges of conservation in Namibia we will continue to support their crucial work."

**Contact JARROD or JACKIE** [www.stepsdiscovery.co.uk](http://www.stepsdiscovery.co.uk) **for wildlife and conservation travel and book your space – FIRST COME, FIRST BOOKED – 8 PAX MAX!**



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Mudumu National Park  
Mamili National Park

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