

STATISTICS

ADMISSIONS:

<i>Small birds:</i>	30
<i>Large birds:</i>	11
<i>Raptors:</i>	8
<i>Small mammals:</i>	7
<i>Large mammals:</i>	10
<i>Reptiles:</i>	6

RELEASES:

<i>Small birds:</i>	20
<i>Large birds:</i>	5
<i>Raptors:</i>	2
<i>Small mammals:</i>	0
<i>Large mammals:</i>	4
<i>Reptiles:</i>	1

NOTICES

COURSES:

15/06/2019 – Owl Rescue Course – R150 for Custodians – Bookings essential – projects@freemekzn.co.za

19/06/2019 – Custodian Insight – Tortoises under our care – no charge for Custodians – Bookings essential – custodian@freemekzn.co.za

27/07/2019 – Junior Custodian Insight – bird nests and nesting – no charge for Junior Custodians – Bookings essential – custodian@freemekzn.co.za



EDITORS NOTE:

We were recently asked a very pertinent question by a member of the public: 'Why is it legal to own a Serval in the USA, but in South Africa, you need a permit?'

This is a very good question and brings to light the irony of the exotic pet trade. Simply put, in countries where animals are indigenous, permits are required to keep them in captivity, as a measure to protect wild populations from exploitation. Yet these same animals can be legally owned as pets in countries where they are not indigenous, providing they have been bought from registered breeders of captive stock.

CITES (the Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species) is a regulatory body set up to keep track of the legal trade in wildlife.

But despite CITES, many, many wild animals still end up trafficked illegally due to the growing demand for exotic pets. After all, there is a simple loophole in this lucrative wildlife harvesting trade. Illegal traders forgo the expense of a captive breeding operation, the red tape and the legalities, and instead resort to stealing animals (usually babies) out of the wild, smuggling them out of their country of origin, and selling them (for a small fortune in the case of an endangered species) in a country where no permit is required to keep them as pets. And this is exactly why authorities globally have such a challenge controlling illegal wildlife trafficking, and why, in many cases, it is driving indigenous species to extinction in their country of origin.

And so the message behind the answer to the question becomes much simpler: legally and ethically you have to have a permit that justifies keeping any indigenous wild animal in captivity, because by not having a permit, you are not contributing to the protection of our wildlife, but encouraging its exploitation.

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THANK YOU:

Howick High School - for doing a social responsibility fundraiser for FreeMe KZN at the Spur.

Amur Falcon enclosure:

Outpost Treated Timbers - for sponsoring the poles.

Merensky Timber - for sponsoring the slats.

Bolt and Nut Centre - for sponsoring the screws.

Mr C Carson - Pmb Rotary Azalea - for sponsoring the sand, stone and cement.

ADMISSION STORIES:



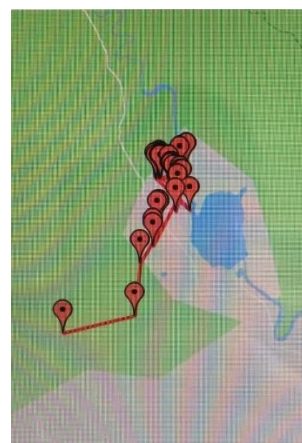
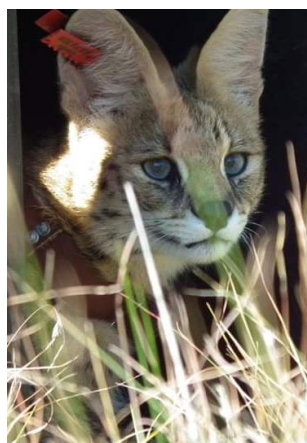
Our first baby Barn Owl of the season arrived after he took a tumble down a chimney into a fireplace. This was an accident as the homeowner had no idea there was a family of Barn Owls living in the chimney! Although we still have this youngster under our care, two other siblings were safely moved from the chimney and into an owl box, where the parents have continued to raise them.

The Barn Owl was not the only winter baby admitted and was followed soon after by a Scrub Hare leveret rescued from dogs, a Grey Duiker lamb found at a construction site in Underberg, and another Grey Duiker lamb found in the middle of a busy road.

Two Serval kittens were also admitted during May, both found wandering alone and confused on farms. An adult Caracal was also admitted after being caught preying on poultry on a farm. The Caracal will be safely relocated somewhere it will not come into further human/wildlife conflict.

As far as birds go, we had a Grey Heron admitted from the Hilton area with a broken wing, a Cattle Egret from Midmar, weak and emaciated, and a Black-headed Heron from the Pietermaritzburg SPCA with a damaged right elbow and left leg.

RELEASE STORIES:



FREEME KZN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRE – MAY 2019

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RESEARCH:

FreeMe KZN has been assisting the SAOBC (South African Ostrich Business Chamber) and DAFF (Department of Agriculture and Forestry) with the collection of fecal samples from birds as part of **Avian Influenza** surveillance.

We are also assisting Jennifer Cele from UKZN (University of Kwazulu-Natal) with her study conducted on **Cattle Egrets and Heron Species**.

Two of our young male Servals were ready for release into the wild. Both young males were fitted with tracking collars that have provided some interesting movement data on the cats, both of whom have been doing well post release.

A young Common Reedbuck ewe that had been hit by a vehicle made a fantastic recovery and was able to be released on a farm in the Dargle, where she was later seen in the company of two others.

Twelve of our White-faced Ducks made Fountainhill Estate their new home after they were ringed and released there onto one of the dams.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:



Our outreach team has been busy with the educators at Siyabonga Helping Hands for Africa care centres in Edendale and Imbali, focussing on Grassland and Rainforest studies with their enviro clubs as part of their 12-month Biodiversity Program.

Work with the Mpophomeni Enviro Champs was re-established this year as part of their continued Owl Awareness campaigns in the Mpophomeni community.

The Grade Two's at Oasis Preparatory School had a presentation done on the work FreeMe KZN does for wildlife, and what an important service this is to our communities.

CONTACT US:

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