

STATISTICS

ADMISSIONS:

<i>Small birds:</i>	34
<i>Large birds:</i>	7
<i>Raptors:</i>	13
<i>Small mammals:</i>	4
<i>Large mammals:</i>	11
<i>Reptiles:</i>	0

RELEASES:

<i>Small birds:</i>	18
<i>Large birds:</i>	5
<i>Raptors:</i>	5
<i>Small mammals:</i>	2
<i>Large mammals:</i>	2
<i>Reptiles:</i>	0

NOTICES

COURSES:

21/08/2019 – Custodian Insight – Parasites; their hosts and life cycles. Free for Custodians. Booking essential – custodian@freemekzn.co.za

07/09/2019 – Snake Awareness Course – Snake rescue and handling – Cost R750 - Bookings essential – projects@freemekzn.co.za

26 – 27/10/2019 – Kids Bush Camp – R600 for Junior Custodians, R700 for non-Custodians – Booking essential – projects@freemekzn.co.za



EDITORS NOTE:

The word 'poaching' most often brings to mind savage scenes of dead rhinos or elephants killed for their horns and tusks. Or perhaps scenes of dog hunting and animals caught in snares. But there is also a slightly more insidious side to the world of poaching.

Any indigenous flora or fauna removed from its natural element and kept without a permit can be deemed as being poached. From plants removed from the veld, to fish from the rivers, to reptiles and mammals picked up, caught or collected from wild areas and kept as pets – all of these activities can in fact be labelled as poaching.

And poaching lies at the heart of the illegal international trade in wildlife, and the infamous exotic pet trade. All animals originated somewhere, and despite it being 'legal' to own a Serval in the USA, or a Sugar Glider in South Africa, somewhere at some time the ancestors of these 'pets' were the victims of poaching.

ADMISSION STORIES:



We had two Common Reedbuck lambs come into the centre during July. Both lambs were casualties of the fire break burning season. Mother Reedbuck leave their lambs safely hidden in the long grass, but when the fire burning starts, the mother will often flee the danger, and the lambs will wander around lost and bewildered. Thankfully these two were found and will be raised and released from the FreeMe Centre.

FREEME KZN WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRE – AUGUST 2019

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THANK YOU:

Mike and Lesley Bentley – Sponsorship of industrial mincing machine

Connect Office Solutions – Servicing and maintaining our office printer

Cut Papers – Sponsorship of the printing of our brochures.

(The late) Warwick Furguson – Donation of power tools.

Another young animal admitted was the juvenile African Harrier-hawk treated by Dr Leon Bruggemann from the Margate Veterinary Hospital for a broken wing. The young raptor will spend some time recovering with us before being released again.

A Fiery-necked Nightjar joined our list of admissions in July when it was found in the Pietermaritzburg area with a small wound underneath its mouth. This species is notoriously difficult to feed in captivity due to its habit of hunting insects on the wing. Fortunately, it did not have to stay with us very long, and as soon as it had picked up sufficient condition, and had recovered from its wound, it was released again in the area it was originally found.

We have several Scrub Hare leverets under our care. These babies are often picked up because their mothers tuck them into long grass or under bushes to hide them, and folks finding them alone often assume they are abandoned. We appeal to the public to not pick up any baby animal if it is looking healthy and quietly hidden away. Mom knows exactly where it is!

RELEASE STORIES:



A safe release site was found for the Caracal that came in as a poultry killer. The release site was selected in a large natural area far away from the temptation of poultry farms. She has been tagged so that it will be easier to monitor her movements post release.

Barn Owls featured highly on the rescue and release side in July, with the first three youngsters being relocated out of a ceiling into an owl box in the Nottingham Road area. Later in the month, a young fledgling Barn Owl that got into a spot of trouble in a cattle pen was safely ensconced in an owl box back on the same property. He was followed soon after by two of the young Barn Owls who had recovered from injuries at the centre, and who were ready for a return to life in the wild. These too were settled into an owl box on the property that is to become their new home.

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RESEARCH:

Spotted Thick-knee Research – Kyrone from UKZN is researching the species in urban areas. Please report sightings to 214560913@stu.ukzn.ac.za

Tortoise Release Project – Working on the DNA of Leopard Tortoises in KZN

Raptor Rehab Bahrain – Collaboration on Owl Box Project and raptor rehabilitation and research

Both a Black Sparrowhawk and an African Goshawk were among the raptors released during July. The African Goshawk suffered a concussion after being hit by a car and was released again back into her home territory after recovering, and the Black Sparrowhawk was a fledgling bird startled by firebreak burning. He was returned to his parent's territory, and it was with great delight that the release team watched one of the parent birds join the youngster near the nest site.

We were very relieved when the pregnant monkey that was admitted after being hit by a car made a speedy recovery. With a slight head wound, and a severe concussion, she slowly regained her strength and balance under our care. We had to be very careful when administering medications because of her pregnant state. It was with great joy that we were able to release her again into her troop's territory, with her baby still safe and sound.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:



We hosted the SYMCO 2019 tour group for part of their trip around South Africa. The group consists of first and second year veterinary students from around the world interested in finding out more about the various wildlife facilities around the country.

The Siyabonga education team focussed on rivers during July, with the educators taking their groups out to rivers for various activities from looking for life in the water to stream clean-ups in their local areas.

One of our FreeMe Wildlife Talks during July was for the 'Time-out' Ladies club, who also donated to our ongoing work. Thank you ladies for your support.

CONTACT US:

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Custodians: custodian@freemekzn.co.za

Owl and Bat boxes, Talks and Courses: projects@freemekzn.co.za