



AUGUST

MONTHLY OVERVIEW REPORT / 2025

COLCHESTER
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Charity no. 1105621



THE ZOO

ANIMAL TRANSFERS

Female smooth-coated otter, Sai Lam, joined female, Dara, in an off-show habitat on the 1st August in preparation for their transfer out of the collection. Six otters remain on-show at Otter Creek.

Male Kirk's dik dik, Squash, transferred to Howletts Wildlife Park on 8th August.

The 5 new Cameroon sheep completed their quarantine period and moved on-show in Wallaby Walkabout on the 8th August. They have been named Bridget, Gertrude, Norma, Patricia and Rita.

Our 2 large hairy armadillos, who lived off-show, but regularly featured in our animal experiences, left the collection on 20th August for Ashlyn's Farm. We no longer have this species in the collection.

33 silver dollar fish arrived on the 14th August. These are currently off show in quarantine.

MORE ZOO NEWS

Female red river hog Charlie was put to sleep on 6th August. At 14 years old, Charlie was an elderly animal and was under veterinary care for ongoing chronic arthritis.

Male cheetah Abasi sadly passed away on 7th August. A definitive cause of death has not yet been identified, but we hope to have confirmation once we receive full post-mortem results.

HABITAT MAINTENANCE

Work continued in the elephant house this month, installing the new heating system and carrying out welding work to improve enrichment and open up the stalls.



EDUCATION



2

SCHOOLS VISITED
COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY THIS MONTH

7

EDUCATIONAL YOUTH
GROUPS VISITED COLCHESTER
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
THIS MONTH

BRINGING IN A TOTAL OF

286

STUDENTS

1

SCHOOL SESSION
RAN AT THE ZOO



0

OUTREACH
SESSIONS

No outreach sessions ran this month.

0

HOME EDUCATION
SESSIONS

No home education sessions ran this month as they are only conducted September to May.

With the school holidays upon us, we still had schools and educational youth groups visit.

The team focused on summer activities, educating visitors around the Zoo.

VOLUNTEERS

10 VOLUNTEERS
ATTENDED
PER DAY

REACHING OVER

2,000
VISITORS IN A DAY

137 VOLUNTEERING
DAYS ACROSS
AUGUST

Collectively, volunteers engaged with 24,158 visitors, although some visitors may have been engaged with more than once.

Educational activities particularly focused on great apes and their intelligence, as well as African animals, using props and games.



2,395

VISITORS ENGAGED WITH
AT THE EXPLORATORIUM

EDUCATED USING

2,085

DISCOVERY BOXES

UMPHAFA NATURE RESERVE



WINTER RETURNS

With winter in full swing, palatable food on the Reserve reduces. The buffalo have been traversing the Reserve looking for nourishing grass. With a little rain, hopefully the grass will improve, but they will be provided with hay and molasses if they lose condition.

FAMILY VISIT

The two interns who arrived in July had a packed four weeks on the Reserve. Following their departure, a family visited for a 2-day placement for their 16-year-old daughter, who is looking at a future career in the safari industry. They got involved in monitoring of cheetah, feeding cheetah, alien plant control and working with the field rangers.

FIRE MONITORING

The team have been on high alert watching for fires this month. Towards the end of the month, wind speeds were reaching up to 50-70 km/h and are hot and dry – perfect conditions for spreading wildfires. Luckily, with good fire breaks in place, the Reserve didn't experience any this month.

MAINTENANCE AT UMPHABA

The maintenance team have been busy this month fixing roads, weather proofing roofs, finishing the outpost for the rangers, fixing fences and carrying out maintenance work on the intern accommodation.

PROJECT RHINO

Project Rhino joined us again this month for 1 night to judge the rhino artwork at the local schools; at least 10 certificates were given out.

UNIVERSITY GROUP VISIT

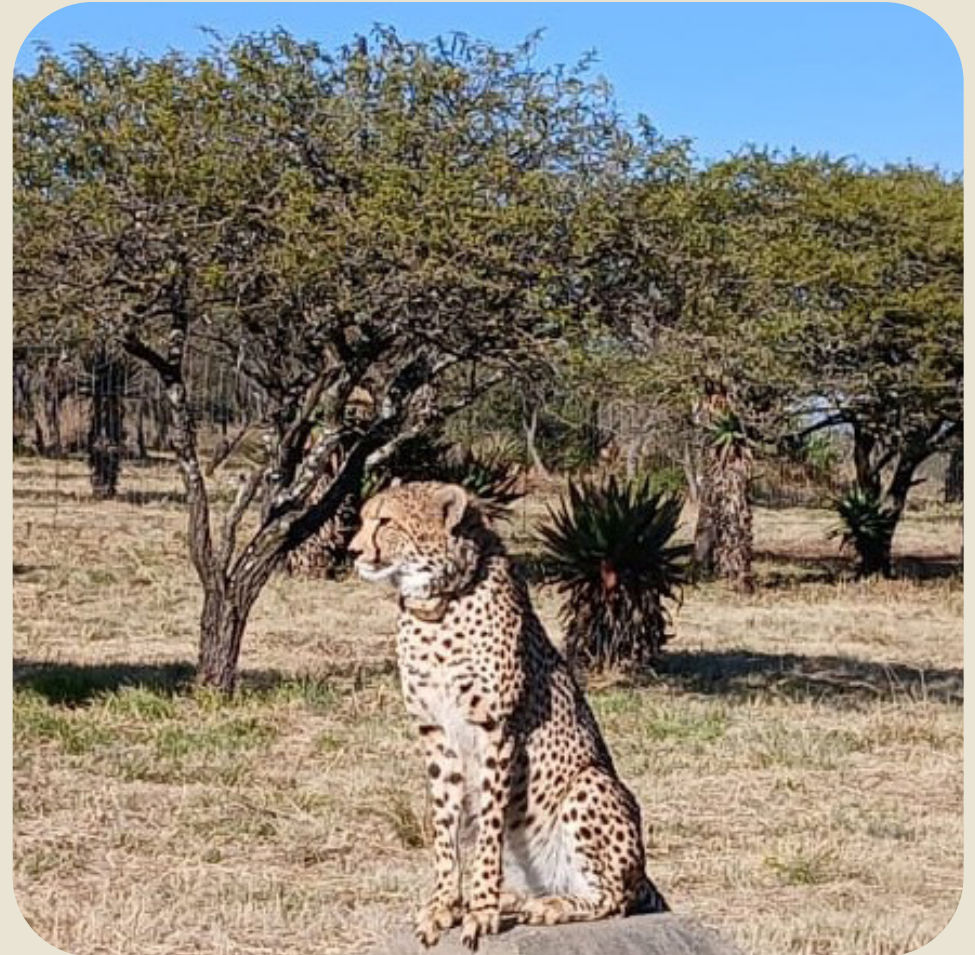
A group from the University of Suffolk joined towards the end of the month. They had a great two-week trip with leopard sightings, cheetah monitoring and feeding, maintenance, camera trapping, game count, and a trip to the Drakensberg mountains.

CHEETAH NEWS

Ashia, the female cheetah, has spent the last month on the fence line of the neighbouring property; she is using the fence as a boundary to push her prey towards it to make an easy catch. We know this as the amount of animal damage and repairs required on that particular fence section has quadrupled since she has been there.

Sadly, on the 25th August, the team arrived at the boma to find male cheetah, Tswalu, had passed away. The day before, he was eating and moving around normally. A vet was called and a post mortem was conducted, with no confirmed cause of death. Further tests are being conducted to see if we can find a definite cause of his passing.

The plan had been to release both cheetah males at the end of the month. With Tswalu's passing, the remaining male, Duma, was still released onto the Reserve. Following a large meal, the boma gates were opened and Duma headed up the hill to get a better look at his new surroundings. So far it looks like the release has gone well. The team will continue to monitor him and will supplementary feed if necessary, although are hoping he successfully manages to hunt.



HYENA SPOTTED

Male spotted hyena, Billy, was seen by interns this month. Billy has been an inhabitant of the Reserve for many years. Despite a cataract in one eye, he successfully manages to scavenge.

RESEARCH



This month, our Research Coordinator helped our Carnivore Section set up a red panda behaviour project and reviewed their lion-tailed macaque behaviour project on ZooMonitor. (ZooMonitor is an app developed by Lincoln Park Zoo that allows members to record animal behavioural data, visualize the information, and export the data for analysis.)

The Research Coordinator met various students to discuss their projects and improve the quality of the data they collect.

The Research Coordinator collected data on our elephants' behaviour using CCTV and investigated the behaviour of our white-lipped tamarins by setting up a dash cam.

There was a discussion about how to integrate behaviour into animal husbandry decisions and the Research Coordinator and Team Leader of Africa Section started to produce behaviour data collection templates and collect data to feed into this and welfare assessments.

No university student studies commenced this month.

CONSERVATION

On the 2nd August, members of the Reptile Team surveyed the Hog's fennel plants and monitored feeding signs of the Fisher's Estuarine Moth at the National Trust property, Copt Hall.

