

## CHEETAH FIRST RESPONSE CARE

The time during and immediately after a seizure is the most important for collecting evidence for law enforcement, and also for the welfare of animal(s). Cheetahs are often transported in badly made cages, baskets or boxes without food or water, so a high proportion die in transit. **Good first response care is essential.**

These first response steps should be followed to give animal(s) the best chance of survival:

**1**

Photograph the scene, plus both sides of each animal(s)' body and head.

**2**

If seized container(s) are inadequate, place cheetah(s) in suitable, secure cage(s).

**3**

If available, wear surgical gloves when touching cage(s) and wash your hands after.

**4**

Provide clean drinking water.

**5**

Minimise stress - move cage to a quiet, shaded area away from people and other animals.

**6**

Prevent heat & cold. Ideal temperature is 20°C to 25°C.

Continued overleaf...

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**7**

EVIDENCE NO.: CT23  
ITEM: CHEETAH SKIN  
DATE: 2 AUGUST 2022  
SIGNED: [Signature]

Identify and label each piece of evidence. Prepare chain of custody forms.

**8**

Report to national authorities. See factsheets and kit for info.

**9**

Seek veterinary and expert advice as soon as possible.

**10**

HEALTH CHECK LIST

Is the cheetah responsive / dehydrated / sick / injured? Refer to health checklist.

**11**

Do not mix cheetahs from different groups / incidents.

**12**

Keep sick animals separate with space between their cages.

### How to evaluate a cheetah's state of health

- **Is the cheetah responsive?** Is it taking notice of what is happening around it and reacting (e.g. growling, snarling, watching intently) or lethargic and not paying attention to its surroundings?
- **Is the cheetah dehydrated?** Once provided with clean water, did the cheetah drink any of it? Do its mouth and/or eyes look dry? Is it producing saliva? Do its eyes appear sunken?
- **Does the cheetah have signs of illness** such as diarrhoea or vomiting? Are its eyes bright? Is there any discharge from its eyes or nose? What is its Body Condition Score? See **CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'First Response Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs, Body Condition Score'**.
- **Does the cheetah have any open wounds?** Are the wounds fresh or have they scabbed over? Are any wounds bleeding? Do they look infected (e.g. signs of swelling or discharge)?
- **Does the cheetah have any other injuries?** Do the cheetah's limbs look ok or is it refusing to put weight on any of its legs? Are any of its legs or its tail bent at odd angles? Can it sit and stand?
- **If the cheetah is unresponsive, severely dehydrated or in distress then seek immediate, emergency veterinary advice,** and see **CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'Veterinary Care, and First Response Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs, Common Health Issues and First Aid Treatments'**.