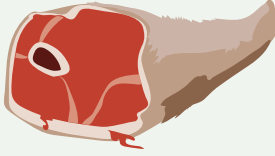


## CHEETAH EARLY CARE



If possible feed cheetah with fresh game meat.



Domestic animals / poultry can also be used.



Cheetah food must be whole carcasses or include internal organs and bones.

### How much should cheetah be fed?

**The amount of food a cheetah requires varies between individuals and across ages.** Males and females usually need similar amounts, but females that are pregnant or lactating will require approximately 10% more food. For guidelines on how much to feed cheetahs at different ages, see *CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'First Response Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs, Diet - Cubs and Adults'*. To estimate age, see *'Identification Guides, Cheetah Cub Ageing Guidelines'*, and *'Adult Cheetah Ageing Guidelines'*. For full details on nutritional needs and necessary supplements see *CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'Long Term Captive Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs'*.

**It is crucial to monitor the weight and body condition of cheetah(s)** – if they are losing condition they may require additional food. Faeces should be monitored for signs of diarrhoea or constipation (indicated by a lack of faeces). If cheetah(s) vomit multiple times, this is also a sign of illness and veterinary attention should be sought.

### What should newborn / very young cheetah cubs be fed?

**If cubs are seized along with their mother then they should always be left together.** If the mother is cared for appropriately, she will produce milk and feed the cubs herself. This will give the cubs all the nutrients they need in their early weeks. After around 2 months, cubs will begin to eat some solid food, however they will continue to suckle until they are weaned at around 4-5 months.

**If newborn or very young cubs are seized without their mother, they need specialist diet and care.** At this age, cubs require milk, as it is easier for them to digest than meat. **However, milk from cows, goats or sheep is not suitable – it is likely to cause them serious gastric problems which may be fatal.** Newborn and very young cheetah cubs should only be fed specialised milk replacements, designed for carnivores - see *CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'First Response Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs, What Not to Feed, and What to Feed'*.



Photo © Dennis Minjia, Serengeti Cheetah Project

Captive Care and Husbandry Guidelines for cheetah are available from:

<https://www.eaza.net/assets/Uploads/CCC/EAZA-Best-Practice-Guidelines-FINAL-SM.pdf>

## CHEETAH EARLY CARE

### How to find suitable cheetah housing

**Suitable housing should be found for cheetah(s) as soon as possible after seizure.** Please contact a cheetah expert who will be able to advise and link you to the best support. A list of cheetah experts can be found in **Factsheet 8** and the **CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit, 'Resources and National Carnivore Coordinators'**. A list of experts in cat conservation is also available from the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group: <http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=46>.

If a facility to provide long-term care for the cheetah cannot immediately be found, a suitable enclosure or cage should be found or built. See **Factsheet 6** and **CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit, 'First Response Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs, Temporary Housing Needs'**.

### How to transport cheetah

**If the cage that the cheetah was seized in is strong and safe enough to survive the journey, the cheetah should not be transferred to a transport crate.**

If a transport crate is necessary, then a design like the one shown in **CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'First Response Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs, Transporting Cheetahs'** is advisable. Extreme caution is needed when transferring cheetah between cages and transport crates to ensure there is no possible risk of escape.

#### Transportation crates must:

- Be made of strong, durable materials
- Have plenty of holes to allow the free flow of air
- Have sliding doors that can be securely locked in place
- Be big enough for the cheetah to stand comfortably at full height but not large enough for it to turn around
- Have enough securely attached handles to enable the crate to be carried as smoothly as possible
- Have drainage holes in the floor
- If being transported by air, the container design must comply with International Air Transport Association guidelines.



Photo © Daniel Assefa

### STAY SAFE - AVOID DISEASE TRANSFER

**Diseases can be transmitted from cheetahs to humans and vice versa. Wear gloves when touching the cage and anything cheetah have been in contact with.**

**Do not eat, drink, smoke or touch your face until you have removed the gloves and thoroughly washed your hands.**

