

LONG-TERM CHEETAH CARE

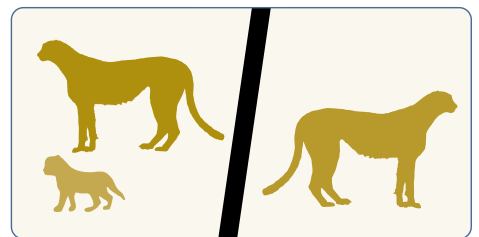
Cheetah enclosure features continued from Factsheet 6;

- Cheetahs must have access to **clean water at all times**. If buckets are used, avoid any material the cheetah can chew. For young cubs ensure water is not deep to prevent drowning.
- Create areas for cheetah to **climb, rest and shelter**. Removable materials on the outside can provide privacy for the animals but enable keepers to monitor them. Ensure climbing features are not located near fences so animals cannot jump and escape.
- See *CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'Long-Term Captive Care and Management Guide, Enclosure Design'* for building material information.



Housing multiple cheetahs

Cheetah should generally be housed individually. However, if multiple individuals are seized in one cage, they should be kept together if they are mother and cubs or litter mates. See *CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit, 'Long-Term Captive Care and Management Guide, Housing Multiple Individuals'* for a key to establish if group housing is appropriate.



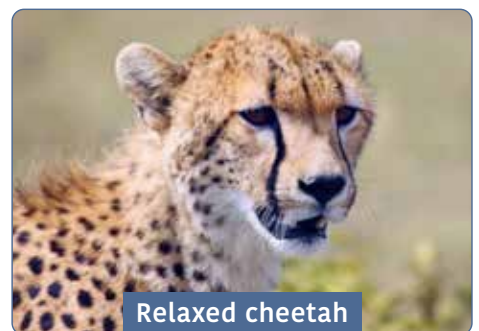
Minimising cheetah stress

Captive cheetahs are very prone to stress, which can cause and exacerbate health problems. Minimising stress improves cheetah welfare and saves the longer-term costs of veterinary treatment.

Signs of cheetah stress include lack of appetite, hiding, pacing, repetitive behaviour, aggressive displays (e.g. growling, snarling, hissing, mock charging), self-mutilation and harmful behaviour (e.g. tail sucking or excessive wound licking), any behaviour that cannot be stopped by distracting the cheetah.

Identify causes of stress through monitoring cheetah behaviour, recording patterns and triggers.

Minimise or eliminate causes of stress where possible, such as blocking line of sight to other animals, reducing frequency of people visiting, create sight barriers between the cheetah and keeper activities, establish a routine of activities, give the cheetah somewhere to hide, avoid over-cleaning the enclosure and try clustering stressful experiences to avoid repeat stress.



Cheetah feeding

Apart from very young cubs, cheetahs should be fed fresh meat with internal organs and bones. For more information on feeding see *CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit 'First Response Care Guide for Seized Live Cheetahs, Diet – Cubs and Adults'*.

