

Proceedings of a Symposium on Cheetahs as Game Ranch Animals

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Source: Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 35(3) : 630

Published By: Wildlife Disease Association

URL: <https://doi.org/10.7589/0090-3558-35.3.630>

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BOOK REVIEW. . .

Proceedings of a Symposium on Cheetahs as Game Ranch Animals. Edited by B. L. Penzhorn. Published by the Wildlife Group of the South African Veterinary Association, P.O. Box 12900, Onderstepoort, 0110, Republic of South Africa. 1997. 209 Pages. R140.00, US\$40.00.

This book is one of a series of soft-bound volumes recently published by the Wildlife Group of the South African Veterinary Society, on proceedings of symposia discussing the suitability of various wildlife species as game ranch animals. It is composed of twenty-seven articles on the cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) presented at a meeting of the same organization, held in Onderstepoort, Republic of South Africa on 23 and 24 October 1998. Most of the authors represented South African organizations and institutions, although Namibia, Zimbabwe, and the United States also made significant contributions to the symposium.

The introductory paper discusses the current status of the cheetah in 30 African and two Asian countries. The remaining papers consider various aspects of cheetah ecology, husbandry and management, dietary requirements, a review of parasitic diseases and strategies for ectoparasite control, recognized diseases, neonatal mortalities in captive bred animals and other veterinary considerations, chemical immobilization, cheetah translocation, post-release movements and behavior, reproduction and

breeding management, and cheetahs as problem animals on private land. An extensive indexed bibliography is found at the end of the volume, listing 1,033 scientific articles on the cheetah.

The papers range in length from three to 17 pages, contain helpful tables, figures and maps, and are, for the most part, appropriately referenced. Many of the authors are well known scientists with recognized contributions to the subject of concern, representing a variety of disciplines. The papers are well written, providing in-depth, current information on the cheetah, a species considered vulnerable or endangered by the World Conservation Union. Although many of the issues discussed have direct relevance to the African continent, the book would be of interest to anyone involved with the care and handling of either captive or free-ranging cheetahs. As in previous volumes published by this group, these proceedings compile information that has not been published together elsewhere, providing a base for an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to the question of utilization of this wildlife species as a game ranch animal.

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