

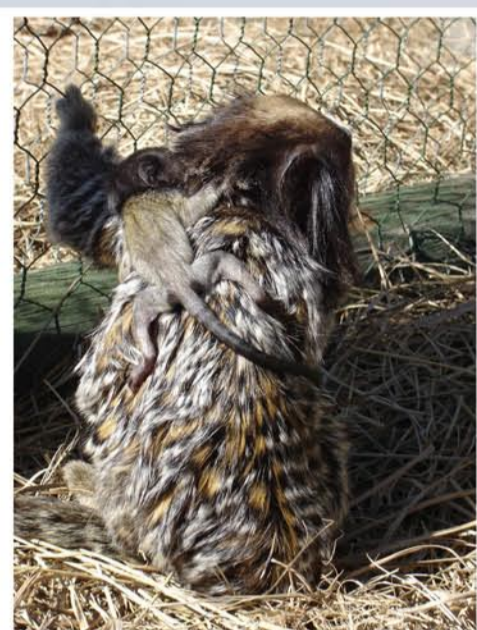


News From The Wildlife Sanctuary October 08



Baby Boom at The Wildlife Sanctuary!

Maybe it's the weather or something in the water but this winter has seen many new additions to the sanctuary with the births of several animals including Marmosets, Meerkats, Wallabies Lynx, Goats and even a Giraffe!



In August a pair of Marmosets became the proud parents of twins. It is typical for Marmosets to have twins and there are rarely more than two offspring at a time. Marmoset mothers carry their babies for approximately 150 days so now that she has given birth it is Dad's turn to do some of the work and the twins are usually seen being carried around on his back. The babies are about eight weeks old now and are starting to wander off on their own after clinging onto Mum and Dad who I think are quite relieved!

Hitchin' a ride

Another two Lynx have also been born over the winter. The kittens are now around two months old and are still with their Mum who is very protective over them and won't let anybody come near them!

Six Meerkats have just been born after what seemed like the longest pregnancy on earth! Once the mother has given birth, it is the job of other females in the group to look after the youngsters. Unfortunately the adults were not doing a very good job at looking after the babies and were leaving them outside in the cold. The decision was made to take the babies away and hand raise them. Three of the Meerkats have gone to a new home and are doing well. The other three are being bottle fed milk every four hours and are fattening up nicely! This feeding will continue until they are weaned between 7 and 9 weeks old. The babies opened their eyes a week ago and are now starting to stand up on their hind legs and climb anywhere they can!



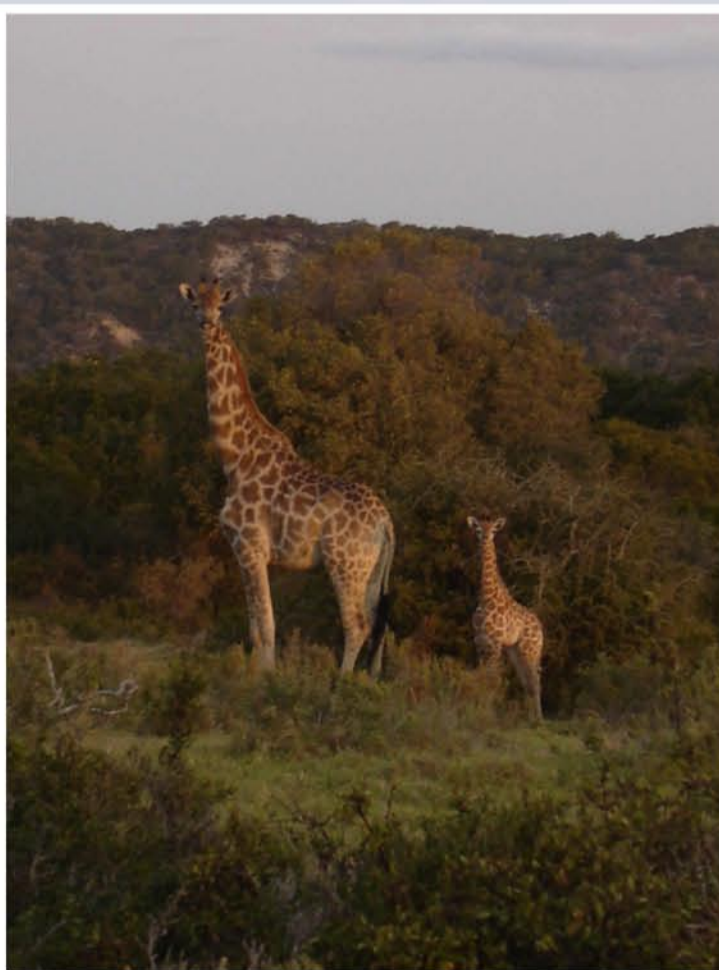
Everybody say cheese!



Interpouch – The only way to travel

The winter months also saw two new faces pop up in the wallaby enclosure. The two babies are still being carried in the pouches with the odd head or leg poking out from time to time!

Besides the sanctuary, there are also some newbies over on the game farm with Zebra being born and also a Giraffe. The colour of Giraffe's coats vary depending on the vegetation they eat which of course is different throughout areas Africa so the new giraffe is significantly darker in colour than it's parents who were originally from Etosha in Namibia.



A tall Giraffe and a not so tall Giraffe



Volunteer Steve Lewis with local school kids

We have had several visits from local schools with children of all ages coming to the sanctuary over the past few months to learn about the different animals and birds both indigenous to South Africa and those from further a field.

After a busy winter, the sanctuary has had a quiet month on the volunteer front with only one volunteer to help the small team of permanent staff. Needless to say, everyone has been kept very busy and it has been all hands on deck to ensure all the inhabitants are fed and watered on time everyday and the park is looking good. We are now starting to get a few more volunteers and will all be very happy to see the next batch arriving at the end of October!