



From the Chairman

Since the issue of the last newsletter there has been two significant developments benefiting the welfare of the Painted Dog in two very distant parts of the world.

At Perth Zoo, there has been the birth of 6 healthy puppies at the recently opened Painted Dog exhibit in the African Savannah, press release on page 2 and during April after much preparatory work, the pre-release of four dogs on to an island in the Lake Kariba area that had been recovering in the rehabilitation facility in Zimbabwe.

Thanks to Nicholas Duncan and SAVE FOUNDATION, who provided an airfare for John Lemon to oversee the completion of a crush cage and the transport of two dogs by air from South Africa.

John hit the ground running and spent a very intensive four weeks working for the Project.

Painted Dog Conservation Inc (PDCInc) also assisted in the funding of this trip.

On behalf of the membership, thanks to HSI for

their generous donation of \$2,500.00. HSI has donated \$4,750 to PDCInc enabling much of our work to continue.

At a meeting in May of the Committee, PDCInc welcomed, Mark Tyler and Marnie Taggart, our two newest members to the Committee. As well Jon Keates role as Chair of the Marketing sub committee was reviewed and he will now take a position on the Committee as the Events coordinator.

This leaves us with a need to appoint a person to the Sales or merchandising role and also a person to handle Memberships. Both positions are as part of the Committee and we are seeking nominees to fulfil these positions.

Please consider helping us build on our past achievements.

One of our founding members, Lyn Clune, has asked to resign from the Committee due to work pressures.

Poaching, snaring activity, is still very much of a

problem in Zimbabwe and particularly so in the area of the Dog Project. Recently an email from Sharon Pincott, Elephants, was forwarded by SAVE FOUNDATION highlighting the need for more patrols.

SAVE FOUNDATION have pledged an amount of \$US10,000 to assist the APU. PDCInc will be using monies currently in the account to supplement this generous commitment by SAVE. John Lemon and myself will liaise with project staff in Zimbabwe.

Please mark in your diaries **Wednesday the 17th August, 7pm** start at Perth Zoo for a meeting of members where both John and myself will provide the latest information and pictures from the project.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will be in England as Greg Rasmussen's guest before going to the project for four weeks, arriving back in Australia on the 30th July.



Lycaon pictus "
African Painted Dog

◆ Special points of interest:

- ◆ The Association is formed for the betterment of the species.
- ◆ 75% of membership subscription is put towards the Dog. 25% is used for fundraising and news.
- ◆ 100% of donations and fundraising is put towards the Dog.
- ◆ No member gains financially from the Association.
- ◆ The membership will be notified through this newsletter or by email of merchandise offers.

Please consider an emailed newsletter and advise us with a message to:

pdinc@iinet.net.au

Help us put more funds for the dogs benefit

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Painted Dog Card Game - Family Fun & Learning



PDCInc has obtained on consignment from Holland, a quantity of a card game suitable for all ages. The game is for 4 players and you will learn the basics while having fun about the animal we are trying to conserve.

Available for \$AUD10.00 through email, pdinc@iinet.net.au + \$2.00 postage & packing within Australia or \$5.00 International. Call for multiple purchases.



MEDIA RELEASE
27 May 2005

The highly threatened African Painted Dog has had its numbers boosted with the birth of six pups at Perth Zoo – the first litter born at the Zoo in 10 years. The Zoo's African Painted Dog pack has expanded three fold with the new additions who were born seven weeks ago but have only just emerged from their underground den and into the public spotlight.

The tri-coloured pups – four males and two females – spent their first few weeks of life under the watchful eye of their mum, four-year-old Collar, inside a specially prepared den where Collar gave birth.

“The first couple of months are the most critical period so we are extremely pleased to see the pups out of the den and the males

cooperating with the care of the young,” Perth Zoo Chief Executive Susan Hunt said.

“Father, Evander, and his brother, Half Tail, have been regurgitating their meals to help feed the offspring and Collar. “This is natural behaviour that ensures that the young develop and become a part of the group.”

The Zoo's new breeding pack of African Painted Dogs, comprising two males and a female, arrived from Monarto Zoological Park in South Australia in February and moved straight into a purpose-built exhibit in the Zoo's African Savannah zone.

Perth Zoo is part of an Australasian breeding program for this endangered species and plays a key role in the program. A Perth Zoo Keeper is responsible for the management of the regional studbook for Afri-

can Painted Dogs and for all regional breeding recommendations.

“The importance of the regional breeding program for the African Painted Dog is underlined by the disturbing fact that until recently there were tens of thousands of Painted Dogs in Africa and now it is estimated that there are just 3000 left in the wild,” Ms Hunt said.

One of the world's most mysterious and exceptional species, the African Painted Dog is threatened with extinction in the wild in Africa where its numbers have declined dramatically due to human actions including road kills, snares, culling by farmers, introduced diseases from domestic dogs and habitat loss/fragmentation.

Unlike most animals, they often care for their old, sick and injured pack members.

However - highlighting their enigmatic nature – social hierarchy can be determined by aggressive behaviour sometimes even ending in death.

In addition to its community education initiatives and involvement in the Australasian captive breeding program for the African Painted Dog, Perth Zoo also supports in situ conservation work (conservation efforts in the wild) with this species through a Memorandum of Understanding with Painted Dog Conservation Inc which operates in Zimbabwe.

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***CONSERVATION
THROUGH ACTION
AND EDUCATION***



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Project—Community Outreach Programme



The Painted Dog Conservation Project and Wildlife & Environment Zimbabwe work together to provide a Community Outreach Programme currently serving fifteen selected communities situated around Hwange National Park. The goals of the programme are:

- To raise environmental conservation awareness to schoolchildren.
- Promote an active caring for the environment and develop healthy conservation values.
- Promote conservation of painted dogs and other endangered species.
- Teach and promote methods of conserving healthy ecosystems.
- Provide training and promote development of environmentally friendly sustainable income generating projects in local schools and communities.

Promote opportunities for communities to benefit from nature conservation.

During visits to the primary schools of the local communities, the Community Development Officer conducts lessons based on the conservation of the five natural resources – soil, water, air, plants and animals. The lessons are mainly targeted at Grade 4 to 6 pupils. The lessons, which are practical in nature and emphasise environmental conservation, are designed to link up with the Primary School Environmental Science Syllabus.

In the schools, environmentally-friendly, sustainable, income-generation projects are initiated. The schools are assisted in the identification of these projects, which include the establishment of fruit tree orchards, indigenous and fruit tree nurseries, vegetable gardens and soil erosion control within the schoolyard. Permaculture ideas are also encouraged. In vegetable production, for example, usage of agro-chemicals is discouraged, while preference is given to non-poisonous pest control methods. When a new concept is introduced to the school, the CDO prepares a comprehensive handout to beef up the knowledge the teachers have on the topic. Films, mainly on wildlife and environmental conservation, are also shown to the pupils.

In addition to schools the CDO works directly with communities assisting them establish their projects. Mabale, Gwaai, Nabushome and Songwa are some of the community gardening projects currently working with the CDO. The CDO provides these projects expertise on environmentally friendly, sustainable vegetable production. Whenever possible, the CDO attempts to link up community needs with local and international donor organizations.

The aim of the Community Outreach Programme is to provide expertise and assistance to the communities bordering Hwange National Park. By improving the lives of local people, the programme hopes to lessen the pressure on wildlife and natural habitats, and to decrease the demand for bush meat that is driving the local poaching industry. A decrease in poaching ac-

tivity will help us preserve the wildlife of the Hwange ecosystem, including its endangered species.



PDC's Community Development Officer, John Nylika, teaches conservation and ecology concepts to grade 5 and 6 students at nearby Mabale Primary School. This lesson, in which he uses specially designed cartoons drawn by long-term eco-volunteer Ester van der Meer, includes a portion about the negative effects of poaching.



John Nylika also works with schools to turn their campuses into permaculture labs that teach children how to raise food most effectively in the local climate and to conserve natural resources. The school gardens and orchards also help raise money for school projects. He is also currently working on linking school needs, like wells and garden fencing, with donor organizations, like Fence Africa and US AID.



Project—Rehabilitation Centre News

For all of our loyal members who have been following the trial and tribulations of our rehabilitation facility, it **has evolved** into a complex of immense value and importance in the struggle to conserve Africa’s most persecuted Carnivore.

Constructing a rehabilitation facility in a country where the socio-economic and political climate is strained, and most people consider wildlife a food source which hasn’t been harvested was a strange concept. The thought of how we were going to achieve acceptance from all the stakeholders and still successfully complete a world class facility is now long behind us all.

Was it all worth it? You better believe it!!!!!!!

Designed to:

- Rehabilitate and release injured Painted Dogs

- Aid in the relocation of problem Painted Dog packs.
- House orphaned Painted Dogs for future release.
- Aid in the building of new packs from elements of comprised packs.
- Serve as an educational facility for guided groups.
- Plus any other scenario involving the dogs that one could dream up.

Since its first inception in August 2002, it has been continually improved. The final addition of a squeeze cage to aid in smooth and stressed reduced anaesthesia and medication of dogs in our care was completed by John Lemon in May 2005, and possibly marks the last alteration.

The ultimate aim in a perfect world would be to have

an empty disused facility. A climate where dog numbers were escalating and all threats were alleviated. Wishful thinking.

The facility has to date held 10 Painted Dogs for rehabilitation purposes. Four of these have already been translocated to Tashinga National Park on a prey rich, predator deprived island for hunting training, and later back into the wild proper NB. “world first”.

Three other dogs have been introduced together from separate circumstances and await training on the island for later release.

Due to the pressures on the wildlife, we have also had to utilise the intensive care clinic for an injured cheetah on route to a Veterinarian. Without the facility, I have no hesitation in saying that all the above mentioned

animals would have perished.

In Previous issues of the newsletter, we spoke of pressures from large game and carnivores on the perimeter of the facility and the associated design measures to combat them. To date the secondary barrier fence has been tested by herds of Buffalo, Kudu and various other ungulate species being chased by prides of Lion and other carnivores. Additionally, the resident Elephants are ever present; along with the comical Chacma Baboons trying their best. None of them have succeeded to penetrate the enclosures themselves.

The facility has already paid for itself and will continue to do so.

The precious cargo it protects and conserves on a daily basis is PRICELESS.

John and Angela. The first inhabitants. Arrived with rickets and associated wounds. Victims of the wildlife smuggling trade. Now well on the way to recovery.



The “Sibambane” pack, meaning coming together in Sindebele.

Another casualty of the illegal trade. After five months of intensive care they are one step away from a new life in the wild.



Day One of Rehab for a very precious cargo.

Boot Camp dog style. Training for the front line, Starvation Island, Tashinga National Park 2005.





Feature—Other Wildlife—Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*)

The kudu is considered to be the most handsome of the tragelaphine antelopes, which includes the bongo, eland, nyala, bushbuck and sitatunga Kudus, both the greater kudu and its close cousin the lesser kudu, have stripes and spots on the body, and most have a chevron of white hair on the forehead between the eyes. Overall pelage colour is grey-brown to rufous, with the neck usually greyer than the rest of the body; this is most pronounced in older bulls. Six to ten clearly defined vertical stripes are present on each side and there is a distinct white chevron between the eyes, with several white cheek spots. Both sexes have a long-haired mane on the neck but in bulls this extends to beyond the shoulders; bulls also have a fringe of long hair on the throat and lower neck. The tail is bushy, dark above and white below, and may have a dark tip. When they run the tail is usually raised vertically. The ears are very large and rounded, clearly showing the pink interior skin. Greater and lesser kudu males have long, spiral horns. The greater kudu's horns are spec-



tacular and can grow as long as 181.6cms, making 2 1/2 graceful twists. These beautifully shaped horns have long been prized in Africa for use as musical instruments, honey containers and symbolic ritual objects. In some cultures the horns are thought to be the dwelling places of powerful spirits, and in others they are a symbol for male potency.

Distribution: The only large antelope to have expanded its range in recent times, most markedly in South Africa. They occur widely in southern Africa, but the distribution is more patchy in eastern Africa with an apparently isolated population in adjoining areas of Chad, Central African Republic and Sudan.

Behaviour: Gregarious, although herds are generally small and usually average between three and ten individuals. Larger herds, up to 30

animals, are occasionally seen, but these are temporary groupings. The herd usually consists of cows and their young, and may also be accompanied by an adult bull. Bulls are normally only associated with the nursery herds during the rut but may mix freely at any time of the year. Bulls may be solitary, or form temporary loose bachelor herds.

Habitat: Habitat includes mixed scrub woodland, acacia, and mopane bush on lowlands, hills, and mountains. Kudus studied in the Kruger Park made seasonal movements, dispersing in woodland in the rains and in the dry season clustering along rivers and the bases of hills where the nutritious, evergreen growth is found.

Diet: Herbivorous; A browser, the Kudu eats many kinds of leaves, shoots, seed pods, herbs, fallen fruits, vines, tubers, succulents, and flowers, sometimes varied with a little new grass. They are also able to eat a number of plant species that have a toxic sap and are avoided by other herbivores. During long periods of drought they will also eat tree

bark, scraping it off with their incisors

Reproduction: Calves may be dropped at any time of the year, but most births coincide with the rainy season(s). A single calf is born after a gestation period of about 270 days and weighs an average 16kg. The calf may remain hidden for up to two to three months after birth.

Predators: Lion, leopard, Painted Dogs and Hyaena.

Newborns also vulnerable to smaller carnivores

Fast Facts:

Common Name: Kudu

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata (Vertebrata)

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Suborder: Fissipedia

Family: Bovinae

Genus: *Tragelaphus*

Species: *strepsiceros*

Total Length 2.3-2.9m

Tail Length 43cm

Shoulder Height 1.4-1.55m

Weight Males 250kg

Females 180kg

Horn Length avg 120cm to record along curve 181.6cm

Gestation 270 days

Calf Birth Weight 16kg

Longevity Over 15 years

Membership

Please welcome the following new members to our association:

Yvonne Morant (WA), Dean Withers (SA), Renate Allcock, (Germany).

Members of note: Dean Withers is a chartered accountant who has offered his services to the association for accounting, taxation and auditing. Thank you Dean.

Our membership for 2005 is 73 and includes 8 international members.

Thank you for your continued support.



Flame Lily - Zimbabwe's national wildflower



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Conservation through action and education

The objects of the Association are

To advance conservation for the public benefit of the African Painted Hunting Dog, (also referred to as a Wild Dog) *Lycaon pictus*, through education promoting and disseminating research into such conservation and seeking to achieve their sustainable management.



WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.PAINTEDDOGCONSERVATION.IINET.NET.AU
EMAIL
PDCINC@IINET.NET.AU

For the diary

Late news

17 August 2005—Members Meeting - Perth Zoo 7pm

Would you like to help

The project in Zimbabwe does **NOT** receive any Government assistance and is wholly reliant on donations to continue its operations.

The key factor in retaining the workers from the local communities both skilled and unskilled who are classed as

staff is to have sufficient funding available to pay them a reasonable wage.

Please consider a donation for the work to continue.

All donations received are put **without deduction** to the benefit of the dog.

Here's what to do

Please forward a cheque or money order, (within Australia) made payable to:

"Painted Dog Conservation Inc."
 C/- The Secretary
 10 Blackboy Way
 Morangup WA 6083

Credit cards: We can accept either Visa or MasterCard. Please tear off the slip below and forward to the Secretary whose address appears above.

Credit card transaction

Please photocopy or cut along the line below and mail to the Secretary, address details above.

Thank you for your generous donation

**Circle card Visa / MasterCard Payment

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____ (mm/yy)

Name on Card: _____ ****Block Letters only**

Amount: \$ _____ : _____ \$USD / \$AUD ****Circle Currency** Signature _____
****Other Currency Please specify**