

The background is a stylized illustration of a savanna. It features several acacia trees with flat, green canopies and brown trunks. The ground is a mix of yellow and light green, suggesting grass and soil. The sky is a clear, light blue. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Safe Spot

Cheetah Brothers Will Be
Released into the Wild

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Cheetah Brothers Will Be Released into the Wild

- [What are cheetahs?](#)
- **What is being done to protect cheetahs?**
- **How have cheetahs adapted to their environment?**

Two UK born cheetahs are going on a trip! They will be released back into the wild in South Africa.

Saba and Nairo are brothers. They were born in the UK. In early spring this year, they will be going to South Africa!

Soon, they will be making history! They will be the first hand-raised and [captive-born](#) UK cheetahs to be released in the wild.

The two cheetahs were raised by Damian Aspinall and his wife Victoria. They run the Aspinall Foundation. This charity aims to stop some of the most [endangered](#) animals from going [extinct](#).

“It will be difficult to say goodbye,” Damian said, “but finding ways to return animals to the wild is something I believe in passionately.”

Cheetahs are threatened. The IUCN Red List lists them as ‘vulnerable’. They say there are fewer than 7000 left in the wild.

Lots of organisations, charities and governments are working to protect their [habitat](#). They are also finding ways cheetahs and local people can live together.

Read the full article online [here](#).

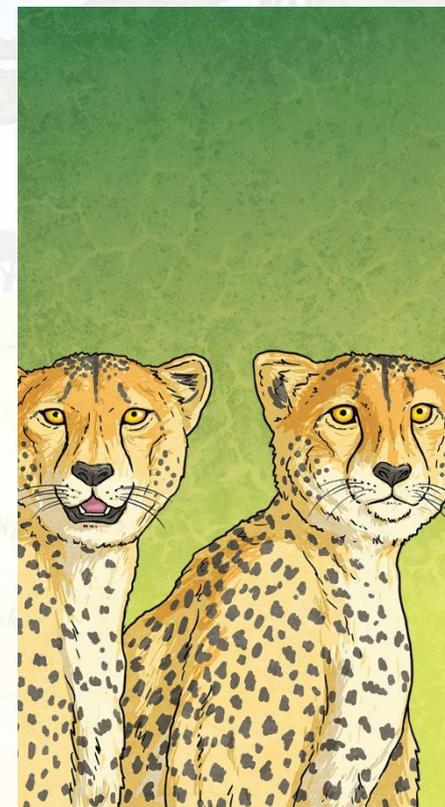


Illustration: Brothers Saba and Nairo.

Click here to explore the 60-Second Read





What are Cheetahs?

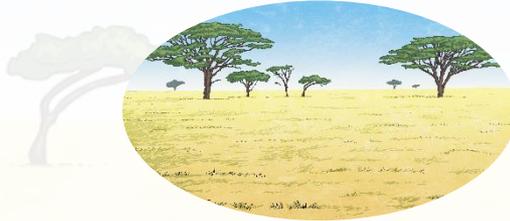
Cheetahs are big cats. Most wild cheetahs in **existence** live in parts of Africa.

Cheetahs are known as the fastest land animal. They can race from 0 to 60 miles an hour in only three seconds!

They grow quite large. Adult cheetahs can be as long as 150cm.

Cheetahs **frequently** live in grasslands and open plains.

According to the IUCN, cheetahs move and hunt across a wide area of land.

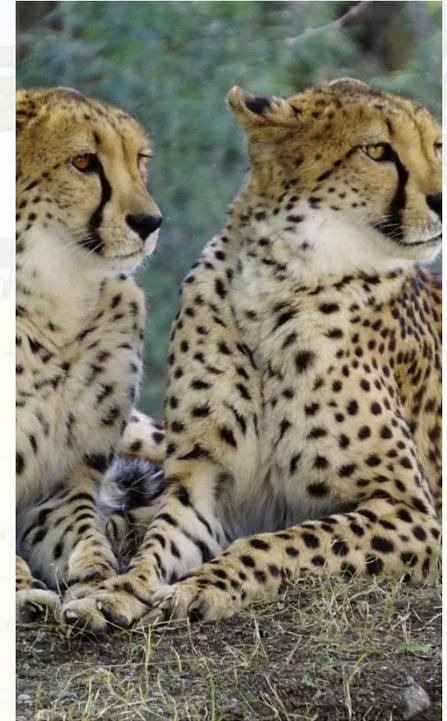


This means that losses to their habitat can threaten cheetahs.

The IUCN say that some of their habitat has been lost to farming and roads.

They have also struggled because of loss of prey and are sometimes hunted for their fur.

existence
frequently
according



Write three facts about cheetahs.



Find two reasons why cheetahs are at risk.

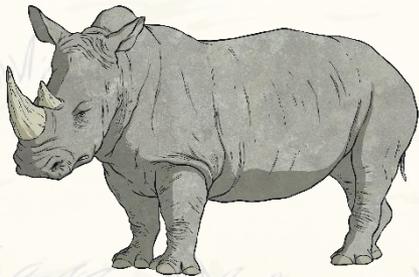


What Is Being Done to Protect Cheetahs?

Governments, charities and organisations are working to protect cheetahs.

Some cheetahs raised in captivity are being released into the wild.

Other endangered animals have also been released to the wild. Last year, 5 black rhinos were given a new home in Rwanda.

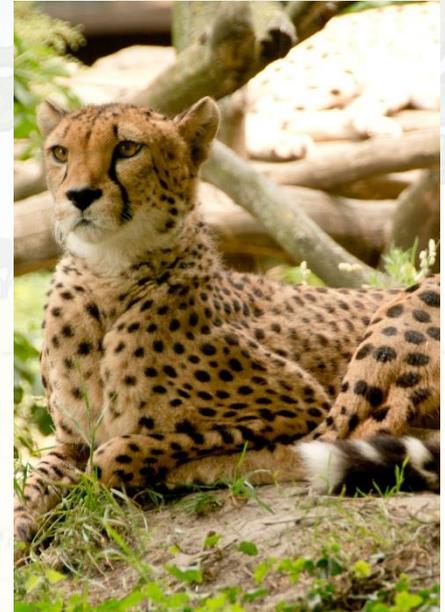


According to wildlife organisation the IUCN, governments are working to preserve the habitat of the cheetah and the **environment** they live in.

Many cheetahs live in national parks, where they are protected from humans.

They are also working with local people to help them live alongside cheetahs.

governments
according
environment



Use [Twinkl NewsRoom](#) to research what else is being done to protect endangered animals.



Find a word
meaning at risk.





How Are Cheetahs Adapted to the Environment?

environment
developed



Cheetahs, like lions and tigers, are big cats.

They have adapted to their **environment**. This means that over a long time they have kept traits which are helpful to them.

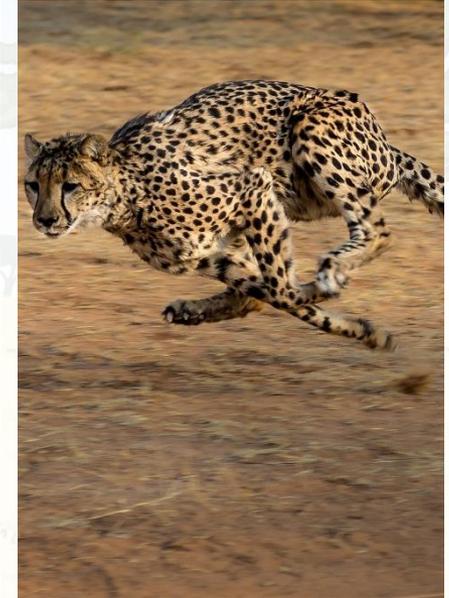
They are carnivores. This means that they hunt and eat other animals.

Cheetahs are very fast! This is so they can catch their prey.

Unlike lions and tigers, they have **developed** long, strong legs to move quickly.

The famous cheetah spots are another way they have adapted! They allow the cheetah to blend in and camouflage to their surroundings.

The black marks around a cheetah's eyes also help protect their eyes from the sun.



Investigate how other animals have adapted to their environment.



Why do you think its useful for cheetahs to camouflage?





Cheetah Brothers

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20 will be released back into the wild in South Africa.

29 Saba and Nairo are brothers. They were born in
40 the UK. In early spring this year, they will be going
43 to South Africa!

50 The two cheetahs were hand-raised. This means
58 that humans, not cheetahs, raised them. They were
66 raised by Damian Aspinall and his wife Victoria.

75 "It will be difficult to say goodbye," Damian said,
85 "but finding ways to return animals to the wild is
90 something I believe in passionately."

98 Cheetahs are threatened. The IUCN Red List lists
105 them as 'vulnerable'. Lots of organisations, charities
112 and governments are working to protect their
120 habitat. They are also finding ways cheetahs and
125 local people can live together.



Quick Questions

1. Read the last paragraph. Find two words which mean 'at risk'.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

2. "It will be difficult to say goodbye," he said. This suggests that ... **Tick one.**

- He finds it hard to talk.
- He likes the cheetahs a lot.
- He is not going to let the cheetahs go.
- He won't be travelling with the cheetahs.

3. Which season will the the two cheetahs be heading to the wild?

- winter
- spring
- summer
- autumn

4. Summarise this news story in 20 words or fewer.



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Accept threatened and vulnerable

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4. Summarise this news story in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary which is 20 words or fewer, e.g. The first hand-raised and captive-born cheetahs will be released into the wild in the early spring this year.



Glossary

Word	Definition
captive-born	Not born in the wild.
endangered	An animal species which is at risk of becoming extinct.
extinct	An animal which has no living members in existence.
habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant or living thing.



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