

We have had a very busy time as of late. We managed to place three new puppies as well as 4 alpacas, unfortunately one of the puppies has since passed away. This was very bad news as it was our first venture with a community. Unfortunately it was too late to perform an autopsy on the body, therefore we can only speculate as to the cause of death. We do believe that it was either a tick borne disease or a snake bite. We are very saddened by the loss as we have not lost a dog in a long time. None the less we are not giving up as the community has had terrible losses to leopard in recent months and have poisoned two leopards since losing calves. Therefore it is imperative to educate and work with the community to reduce the conflict between the community and predators. Our other dogs are doing very well and are continuing to conserve predators on farmland and community land outside of protected areas. Our alpacas have been a huge hit with farmers in the Northern Cape, one of the reasons we are trialling alpacas is because we have struggled to successfully place Livestock Guardian Dogs with dorper sheep in the Upington area. Our biggest challenge was to bond the dogs to the sheep, because dorper sheep don't have a herding instinct it was extremely difficult for the dogs to bond with the sheep and eventually one of the dogs sat at the water most of the day and wouldn't allow the sheep to drink. The dogs have become rather large and the sheep remained intimidated by the dogs and because of the size of the camps it was very difficult to bond the dogs with the sheep. Two of the dogs in the Northern Cape are working successfully with goats and one is still working with a combination of sheep and goats. Because of this we spoke to a number of farmers in the area and one suggested we trial alpacas as he knew of a fellow farmer who was having a lot of success with Alpacas as Livestock Guardian animals. So I went to meet him and decided to trial alpacas on these farms. We managed to source 4 male alpacas from a farm in the Western Cape. Females are just too expensive. We managed to place the four alpacas last month and recently split them up once we were happy with their condition as the veld in the Northern Cape is much different to the lush green Western Cape. My initial thoughts on the alpacas as well as the farmers is very positive. We have already witnessed guardian behaviour in the alpacas and I hope this continues. We will be collecting data and hopefully publishing the effectiveness of Alpacas as Guardian animals.

As for our individual animals out there. Diana has been placed on a farm with sheep and goats in the Waterberg. She will be protecting her flock against leopard jackal and caracal. She has settled in very nicely and is bonding with her flock.





Bull was a difficult puppy to place its very different working with communities and we had to get the Chiefs permission and build a suitable kraal for him. He was a very large male puppy and we were hoping he would be a huge success. He was going to protect cattle against leopard conflict in the area. Unfortunately he passed away unexpectedly. We are not sure on the reason for his death. RIP Bull!





Our third puppy has not received a name as of yet. However she is doing very well. She was recently filmed for a documentary on our project, She is protecting cattle from mainly leopard conflict as well as some jackal. She is a very lively puppy and has caused some problems biting a very young calf. However I have no doubt she will develop into a fantastic working dog.





All of our other dogs are doing very well.

Meet our latest bodyguards a first for the Endangered Wildlife Trust. These four alpacas have been placed on farms in the Northern Cape to protect sheep from jackal and caracal and brown hyena conflict.





Lastly I have some great news to tell you. I have been nominated as conservationist of the year for the SATY 2016 awards, while completely unexpected it has given our project some great exposure. I recently was interviewed for a 30 minute interview and I will let you know when it will be aired. I am up against 6 great other projects and need all the assistance I can get to be voted Conservationist of the year. Therefore I would really appreciate if you can vote for my project, the simplest way to vote which takes a second and doesn't cost a cent is to email: CONS 3 to satyvoting@ann7.com or vote online at the following link <http://www.ann7.com/saty/votes/>. Alternatively you can sms the word CONS 3 to 43043 sms's cost R1.50. Votes make up 80% of the final decision so every vote will be greatly appreciated. If we win it will give us some great exposure and hopefully funding so that we can increase our footprint in communities outside of protected areas to save carnivores getting unnecessarily persecuted. Lastly thank you for your generous ongoing support, without you none of this would be possible.

Kind regards,

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