

LEDIBENG



ECO ESTATE
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LEDIBENG ESTATE NEWSLETTER

Issue 28 - August 2012

Operation *Warthog*

Recently the wildlife management team was called to a storm water drain located in Sand Crescent.

What the game rangers found resembled a scene that could have been from the Lion King movie. Pumba was stuck inside the storm water drain and could not get out. The question now is how did the warthog get inside?

The only explanation is that the warthog went into a storm water pipe underneath the road and just kept going until she ended up at the roadside inlet.

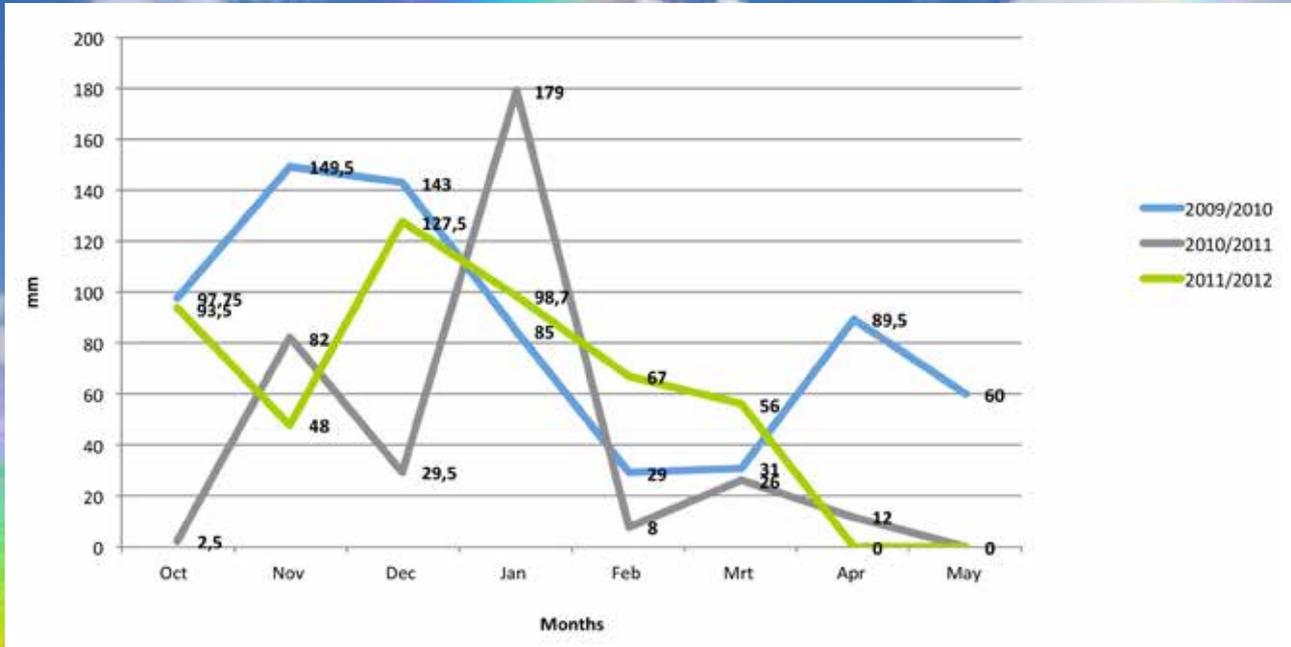
Now she had a problem; she could not turn around and the water inlet on the road surface was too small for her to get out.

The game rangers had to remove one of the concrete slabs to give the warthog space to get out.



Rainfall recorded (mm) over the past three rainy seasons

October 2009 - May 2012



Going Once, Going Twice...**Sold**

In South Africa large numbers of game are sold yearly on game auctions.

There are two kinds of game auctions, a regular game auction where the buyers can look at the different game species in the holding pens prior to the auction and then you have the so called catalogue auctions.

At a catalogue auction wildlife are purchased from a catalogue and the money paid for the wildlife goes into a trust account. After the action the various lots sold will then be captured and delivered to the buyer, prior to the money being released. The prices paid for wildlife at regular auctions are usually higher than the prices paid during a catalogue auction. One of the reasons for this is because the bidders become emotionally involved in the process.



In preparation of a regular game auction the mortality rate of the wildlife on auction is significantly higher due to the fact that the animals get captured, then transported to the holding pens, there they get off-loaded and then they have to be fed the week prior to the auction. After the auction they get loaded again, transported and at their end destination they get off-loaded once more. A lot can go wrong during this time.

On the other hand, the wildlife put on a catalogue auction is often captured, transported and off-loaded at their final destination.



Like most things in life traditional game auctions hold both the good and the bad. It certainly is a place where you could get a good deal but the opposite is also possible. Often breeders of rare game species will make use of game auctions to get rid of animals from their herds that are old, have bad genetics or are trouble makers. When purchasing such an animal on a game auction somebody else's problem will become yours. It is always good to consider the future financial implications resulting from a purchase at the auction.

This consideration is over and above the actual price you will pay to initially acquire the animals you want. A good example of this is the fact that a large number of very young male impala are often grouped with some mature females in a lot. If you already have impala on your ranch such a grouping would not be a problem, but if you are a first time impala buyer, it would make more sense to buy a lot that has mature females and mature males.

This will result in an immediate increase in reproduction when the season changes. If you purchased the lot consisting of the mature females and the very young males you will have to wait 18 months for the young males to become sexually mature and another 6 months for the first offspring originating from the young males, to arrive. This could very well result in a total of 24 months before you get a return on your money.

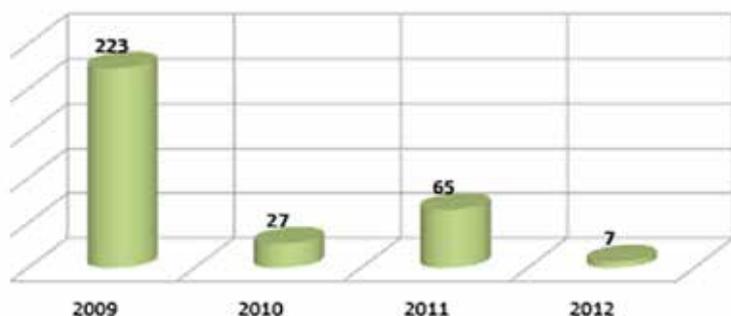
It is advisable to target or purchase sexually mature animals when considering buying species like giraffe, rhino, elephants and buffalo. This will bring about the possibility of reproduction when the season and conditions are right.

When animals are captured they are often chased at great speed over a long distance to the capture boma and after this they are confined. This results in stress which could contribute to a condition called capture myopathy or also known as "overstraining disease".

This condition can also be experienced by humans the day after they've had an exceptionally hard training session. The stiffness and sore muscles the next morning can be compared to capture myopathy. For some wildlife species, such as nyala, tsessebe, zebra and springbuck, capture myopathy can be deadly. Animals suffering from this condition appear to be stiff when moving around and will often lay down. Thereafter getting up proves to be difficult. The prospective buyer should look out for these symptoms.



Number of **snares removed** on Ledibeng over the last four years



LEOPARD



- Claws can be retracted like a true cat.
- Patterns all over the body are in the form of rosettes.
- Rely mainly on their hiding and stalking ability to make a kill.
- Preferred habitat: mountainous areas and river vegetation.
- No teardrop marking from the corner of the eye to the side of the mouth.

VS

CHEETAH



- Claws can only partially be retracted, similar to that of a dog.
- Patterns all over the body consist of spots.
- Rely mainly on their speed to make a kill.
- Preferred habitat: open areas or grass plains.
- A tear drop marking from the corner of the eye to the side of the mouth.



CRANBROOK^{Ltd}

For information on property sales contact:

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We would like to hear your story!

Should you have an event or story you would like to share, please send us your photos and a few words to **wildlife@lantic.net**

From your Wildlife Management Team

