

CRAZINESS... OR GOOD BUSINESS SENSE?

At the beginning of August the biggest trophy nyala bull in the world was sold on a game auction in Vaalwater.

The previous record price paid for a nyala bull was R83 000. This was paid on a game auction held at Sun City in 2012. This monster nyala was discovered by accident during a game capture operation in the Marken area. The price paid for this animal was a staggering R1,65 million rand. The horn length on this nyala measured 34 and 5/8 inches. Some individuals have questioned the purity of the animal, suggesting that it could be a cross between a nyala and a kudu.

*DNA testing revealed that the animal was indeed a cross between a nyala and a kudu. This resulted in the sale being cancelled.



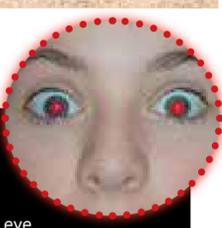
RED EYE REDUCTION

Cats and dogs have some cells behind the retina that act like a mirror. These cells are found in a part of the eye called the tapetum. These mirror cells reflect light and in the process the rods and cones are given a second chance to pick up the small amount of light available at night in an attempt to see well.



flash, the picture often comes out in the form of a red eyed individual.

Why is this? The human eye doesn't have a tapetum and the red eye is a reflection of the red blood vessels located behind our retinas. Many cameras have a red eye flash reduction function. What this option does is to send out a small flash prior to the regular flash that comes with the picture. This premature flash causes the pupil of the eye to close and when the regular flash and the picture goes off the reflection from the red blood vessels is significantly less, thus reducing the red eye effect.



When taking a picture of a human at night whilst using a

Can animals see colour images?

The answer to this question is explained by the quantity of rods or cones or both of them in the eye of an animal or human.

The rods contain a photosensitive pigment called rhodopsin and are therefore the cells dealing with seeing in low light situations. Rods however cannot detect colour, other than black and white or "greyscale". The retina of nocturnal animals almost entirely consists of rods whilst very few cones are present. The cones on the other hand can detect particular ranges of colour. It is therefore reasonably safe to argue that nocturnal animals are colour blind with regards to bright colours and that diurnal (active in the daytime) animals can see colour in varying degrees. The human eye has three types of cones and can detect varying degrees of blue, red and green. Cats and dogs have only two kinds of cones



that can differentiate between blue and green. It is therefore fairly safe to say that animals that are predominantly nocturnal cannot see bright colours.

Diurnal (active in the daytime) animals tend to have varying degrees of colour vision due to the fact that a lot more cones are present in the eye. According to the scientists, birds have four different kinds of cones. The fact that birds use colourful plumage to attract females is a clear illustration that they can see colours very well. Some animals like primates rely on their ability to see colour when it comes to finding ripe fruit to eat. It appears that fish also have a lot of cones in the eye due to the fact that colour plays a significant role in finding the same species and subsequently breeding.



KUDU COW IN TRENCH

A kudu cow managed to end up in a trench dug by a contractor responsible for the construction of a new sewerage pipe line going across the Estate to the Paarl sewerage treatment facility. The game rangers patrolling the area discovered the kudu cow in the trench. The arrangement the wildlife management team had with the contractor was that at the end of every trench a 45 degree slope be made, just in case something like this would happen. This arrangement worked very well and the kudu cow was able to climb out of the trench by herself with a little encouragement from the wildlife management team.

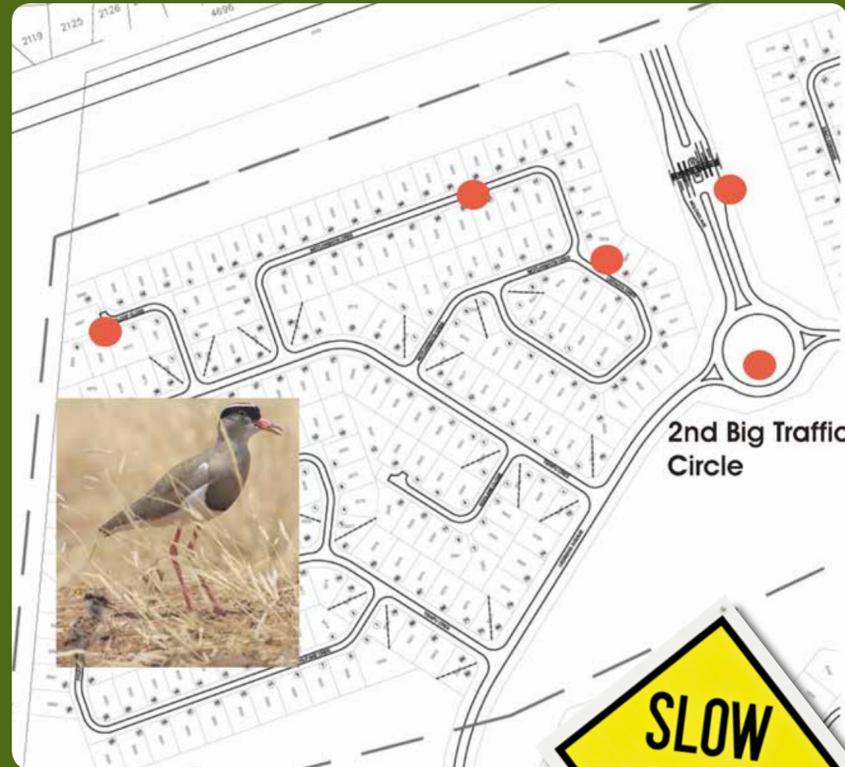
"...the kudu cow was able to climb out of the trench by herself with a little encouragement..."

LEDIBENG BACKYARD WALLS



The contractor assigned the project of building backyard walls for all of the houses that belongs to Eskom has commenced with site establishment. The initial date for construction to start was 16 September, but this date has come and gone. The intention is to start building brick walls from the street side corners of the house and around the back.

PLOVER NESTS on the estate



This year the wildlife management team has seen an increase in crowned plover nests on the Estate. The breeding started early in September and some of the first chicks have grown half the size of the adults. In the vicinity of the big traffic circle if often happens that the chicks end up on the road surface and then have trouble climbing onto the curb. Motorists are requested to drive slowly in the area of the big traffic circle.



Ledibeng Veld Fire

Like many other parts of the country Ledibeng didn't escape veld fires. On the afternoon of 8 October a fire started burning on the berm located between Ledibeng and Onverwacht. Despite the fact that the game rangers got to the fire in a very short time almost half of the berm burned down. A fire break that was made with a grader between the berm and the houses prevented the fire from getting to the properties. Two possibilities for the cause of the fire has been identified and currently the situation is still being investigated.



THE SANGOMA SAYS...

...if you have problems with sore and burning eyes, use Mkoekoe eye drops, ...one drop in the eye and the eye drops out!

...the fastest way to a man's heart is ...through his chest with a sharp knife.

...there is no Disneyland in China because there is not enough tall people to go on the good rides.

...a smart blond is called a golden retriever.

From your Wildlife Management Team



CRANBROOK^{Ltd}

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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