

Cheetah Fun Facts



The world's fastest land mammal is also one of its most endangered.

Their coats are golden or yellowish, embellished with many small black spots, and their tails are long with a few black bands and sometimes a white tip. Black stripes run from their eyes down to the corners of their mouths.

Cheetahs grow to between three and a half and four and a half feet long, not including their 30-inch tails.

They weigh between 75 and 145 pounds and stand 2-3 feet tall at the shoulder.

In the wild, they may live eight to 10 years.

A sprinting cheetah can reach 45 miles per hour within 2.5 seconds. Top speed—up to 64 miles per hour—can only be briefly sustained.

During their first few weeks of life the mother moves her cubs every few days to avoid these and other predators. However, being a single mom, she must leave them alone to hunt and consequently mortality is very high, possibly 90%, during this period.

To avoid lions and leopards, cheetahs usually hunt in the middle of the day.

Savannas, both open and more densely vegetated, give cheetahs the open areas they need for quick stalks and chases. They are not found in forest areas or wetlands.

Female cheetahs live alone, except when raising cubs. They rarely associate with other cheetahs, except when ready to mate.

Cheetahs eat small antelope - Springbok, Steenbok, Duikers, Impala and Gazelle. They also eat the young of larger animals - Warthog, Kudu, Hartebeest, Oryx, Roan and Sable; as well as game birds and rabbits. They can even mimic some bird sounds, perhaps to attract them.

Source: www.cheetahspot.com/food.php