

Happy New Year 2018!

Dear hunting friends! From our side, we wish you all the best and many successful and memorable hunts to come!

For Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris it was a great start with the SCI show in Las Vegas! We had a record number of bookings come in after the shows and look forward to busy hunting times ahead!



SCI Pathfinder recipient 2018: Mr Matt Cole, his wife and three children will be joining us on a donated hunt for 10 days, 10 animals! We look forward to your visit!!!

An Engineer's dream come true... Alex has finally had the heart to buy a brand-new milling machine! Although expensive, it will be a quick return on investment once Alex can now design and produce various machine parts himself! He is currently working on the design of a multi-injecting syringe to faster vaccinate Kudus against rabies. Other projects are already underway...



More on Pathfinder Matt Cole

Matt Cole served in the Marine Corps from 1999 to 2006 with a combined 4 years of active duty and 2 years reserve. He was a Crew chief of an Amphibious Assault Vehicle, commonly known as an "AMTRAK".

On May 17th 2005, while on his second tour in Iraq, Matt was wounded in action resulting in a spinal cord injury at T-8. After rehabilitation, Matt returned home to Louisiana and was medically retired in 2006.

He then began helping other disabled veterans by volunteering with Support our War Heroes Foundation, which aids severely injured Post 9/11 veterans through advocacy and financial assistance as well as honoring those who were killed in action and Wounded War Heroes of America, which helps heal disabled combat veterans mentally and physically through outdoor recreational activities.

NEWSLETTER May 2018

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"I just wanted to add my thanks to Don's. We so enjoyed our stay with you all – the facilities and staff were all first rate. I'd especially like to extend our gratitude to Steve for all his hard work and for Bridgette for her management skills and her creative, delicious food. She had her hands full with the 4 of us. Please forward our thanks to them from me. (And Rudy was the perfect PH for Rocky and Mary!"

I have been to Africa 4 other times and this is the first time I have really been able to enjoy the night sky and do some stargazing. It was beautiful. So that was a big plus for me!

You have a beautiful place there in Namibia. Hope that we can see you again."

Nancy Stoner, Ormond Beach FL



Some news from our family...

When little Jan is two years old, he will be meeting his little sister, due to be born around 4th July 2018! What a great due date :-) Carola is now 32 weeks pregnant. The parents have already decided on a name, but will keep it secret until her birth, which will be in Swakopmund.



he was separated from his mother while still on another reserve. Chobe was seemingly doing well for months while in Annettes care, but after enduring another infection, multiple of his organs suddenly gave in.

On November 30th 2017, a white rhino female called Girla, was brought to the orphanage from another resort. Girla's mother had been poached, and without second thought, Annette bought the little calf, who, still dependent on milk, could not have chosen a better fate for herself. The young lady is doing well, and now at about 14 months old, is receiving up to 25 Litres of milk per day.

On 18th March, yet another little white rhino lady found her way to Annette's doorstep. Again, the mother was poached at another reserve, and the owners felt it would be best to catch, sedate and hand the baby over into Annette's experienced care. Annette called her "Chayka", meaning "Life" in Hebrew.

Rhino news

Black rhino Yandja, whom the Ministry of Nature Conservation decided to relocate to Mount Etjo and into the care of Annette when he was around 4 months old, was successfully released into the wild last year when he reached 2 years of age. But having been bottle-fed and pampered, the big friendly giant decided that returning back home was a good idea when foliage became scarce, looking for Annette for comfort and nourishment. True to her belief that each hand-raised rhino needs to become part of its own specie when the time is right, Annette had Yandja released to another part of the property where Yandja would find more food. Quite easily, Alex lured the big creature into a truck with some alfalfa and had the doors closed within minutes. Annette and PH Rudie monitored Yandja after releasing him onto new grounds, he is visibly enjoying the new area and fresh foliage!

Sadly, black rhino male Chobe passed away due to unforeseen circumstances. After doing an extensive autopsy, the state vet believes he must have given in to a chronic kidney infection, which likely was the result of severe dehydration from the time



RIGHT TOP: Annette and the "Chayka" becoming friends. It takes special care and a LOT of patience to become a surrogate mother for a rhino... RIGHT BELOW: Annette and dedicated caretaker Orlando with both Girla and Chayka.

The latest FISH AND WILDLIFE regulations...

dictate that trophy hunts for ALL species listed as CITES I (lion, elephant, rhino) will be treated on an individual case-by-case basis. A non-detriment finding is necessary to motivate each and every trophy hunt applied for.

Chayka's story was one of tremendous success, although it did not seem so at first. After being separated from her mother, surviving dehydration and a few stressful days by herself in the wild, she did at first not take to the bottle easily. Two days in confinement and non-stop efforts from Annette and PH Rudie did not entice her to taste the life-saving milk they offered. An expert veterinarian (Dr HO Reuter) was called in, who injected the reluctant girl with a sedative that would calm her down and increase the effect of the suckling reflex. Not long after the treatment Chayka was suckling away contently.

Annette had wanted to bring the two girls Girla and Chayka together after letting Chayka first get to know her environment, carefully letting the two social animals get accustomed to each other... but after only a few days, Chayka managed to break out of her small pen in the middle of the night and joined up with Girla. Both rhino ladies were found happily grazing, enjoying each other's company, the next morning. Chayka had miraculously evolved from a feisty, scared, starving little animal to a healthy, suckling, sociable and happy little rhino within a week's time!



Lion Trophy imports

PHASA (Professional Hunters Association South Africa) members have voted for the approval of canned lion hunting during their AGM end of 2017, resulting in much criticism from NAPHA (Namibian Professional Hunters Association) and other African hunting communities such as APHA (African Professional Hunters Association). But regardless of disputes happening on the African side, US Fish and Wildlife will have the final word if lion trophies are to be imported to the US. For

the years 2017, 2018 and 2019, US Fish and Wildlife have approved of the hunting of wild and wild-managed lions. According to them, "The presence of private reserves has increased the number and diversity of wildlife in South Africa, thus fueling the hunting industry, which funds the ongoing success of private reserves. It appears that without the hunting industry, these reserves, which have become islands of wilderness in a sea of civilization in much of South Africa, would not be economically viable, and therefore would not exist." But what will happen in Namibia?

The greatest challenge for authorities will be to categorize lion hunts into those deemed acceptable or unacceptable from an ethical point of view and in favour of conservation efforts. Each case will have to be analyzed and pondered on in order to condemn those terrible practices that give the hunting community a bad name and to simultaneously support outfitters who hold high the principles of fair chase. The solutions may not always be clear-cut. For lion hunts in Namibia, hunters have reason to be optimistic. A hunting couple from Hawaii who have visited us several times in the past have applied for a lion hunt this year and received approval from the Namibian Ministry of Nature Conservation, developments on the US side of the application are looking equally promising. We will keep our fingers crossed!



TOP: Britt and Debbie Nishijo successfully hunted a seasoned, free-range male during May 2018, guided by PH Steve Tors. Well done Britt, on a great shot and on a truly majestic trophy animal. A lion hunt is always a special experience, we know you will appreciate and value his life for eternity.



The future of the Wildlife Industry in Southern Africa

In his new role of vice-president of WRN (Wildlife Ranching Namibia), Alex had the privilege of attending the annual WRSA (Wildlife Ranchers South Africa) congress in Polokwane, South Africa this March. Some interesting information that he gathered:

Extensive research is being conducted to test the tenderness and other properties of game meat to make it more attractive to the consumer. Paradoxically, beef currently sells for more than game meat does in Namibia. Latest research found that Golden Wildebeest produces better quality meat than normal wildebeest does. The best game meat is produced by impala, with maximum tenderness achieved during the shortest aging period. A research team from Stellenbosch University will be visiting Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris to test the quality of giraffe meat in June, in comparison to other game and beef.

Currently, CITES has categorized rhino horn from black and white rhino as appendix 1 – meaning that rhino horn may not be legally traded. **Ironically, white rhino in South Africa are categorized as appendix 2 – not critically endangered.** South African rhino owners are now appealing to change the status of the rhino horn to equal that of the animal, which would essentially open up the trade in rhino horn. Currently, the value of a live rhino is plummeting in comparison to the value of its horn. If no commercial value is to be gained from owning and keeping rhinos safe, many rhino owners and custodians will think twice before taking the risk of owning and caring for these animals.

With South Africa and Namibia having struggled with tremendous droughts over the past years, the price of live animals has dropped tremendously. But this comes to an advantage to farmers who wish to start up with game farming, as some rather expensive animals such as roan and sable antelope are becoming more affordable. For the hunting

industry, the drop in live sales might mean a drop in trophy fees as well.

The strangest rescue operations...

How on earth does one rescue a baby hippo, that probably weighs about three times as much as a grown man and does not know how to use a ladder, out of a swimming pool? End of December 2017, one of the little hippo babies did not expect getting out of the swimming pool at the Villa to be so difficult! After trying to lift the distressed animal out of the water with long poles, the rescue team finally decided the easiest option would be to throw all sorts of sturdy objects into the pool in order to provide an adequate platform for the animal to stand on, finally lifting its heavy buttocks over the brim of the deep swimming pool.



TOP: PH Rudie and a helper trying to assist a stressed hippo baby climbing out of the swimming pool. Although still a “baby”, getting on the wrong side of a hippo can be quite dangerous.

The baby hippo has probably learnt it’s lesson! But just in case he finds clean, chlorine water more appealing than the water of the dam, a small electric fence was erected to prevent a hippo from ever trying this exercise again... guests staying at the Villa would probably not appreciate such ill-mannered splashing!

OUCH...! This is what PH Steve’s hand looked like after wrestling with a Springbuck that he took for meat. The shot was a bit too low and the animal was on the ground, but not quite dead when Steve arrived. He decided to quickly sever the spine, when unexpectedly, the adrenalin-filled Springbuck gave one final kick to his hand. A large piece of skin was severed off and Steve had to see the Doc for some stitches, but no further damage seems to be done. Steve was still able to load the carcass and drive back home... it will be just another one of the myriad of scars left on Steve from various animal encounters...



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First hunting guest of the season: Mr Kim Upton and some of his beautiful trophies, Lechwe, Hartebeest, Dik-Dik and Black Wildebeest.

Lion collared

After having escaped their usual territory twice, squeezing through what should have been a game-proof fence, it was decided that two male lions should roam the area of their selected preference. But in order to keep a better eye on the two escape artists, one of them received a radio collar. The collar sends out a signal that can be located over quite a distance using an antennae and appropriate equipment.

Before crossing over to the big area that is Okonjati game reserve on the other side of the public gravel road, the lions had previously made a pit-stop at the neighboring cattle farm, taking a few snacks along – a few cows here and there, and two donkeys.



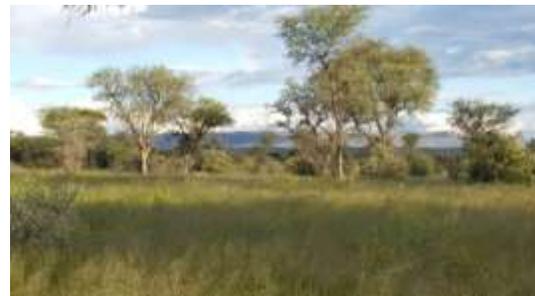
The neighbor was compensated for financially for his loss. The damage could have been worse – and possibly life-threatening. With the help of the radio collar, the two brothers were observed to have remained within the Okonjati game reserve for quite some time now. If they should escape again at least they will be easily located!

Cheetah collared

End of April, a large male cheetah was caught at Okonjati Game Reserve. The animal seems to be strangely tame and used to humans, his trusting behavior ideal for photographic safaris. Because of the CITES listing, cheetah trophies are not allowed to be imported to the USA. The cat was collared and released again. We hope to be able to now gain some insight into his movements and to be able to observe this beautiful species more often than a chance encounter allows for.



Elephant Pencil Sketch by Carola Oelofse.



Yet another animal needed rescuing last month: a beautiful nyala bull had for some reason or another jumped the fence and was hopelessly wandering the corridor. Coincidentally, wildlife expert veterinarian Dr HO Reuter was currently on site, and offered his time and experience in darting, tranquilizing and translocating the disturbed animal back home. Unexpectedly, the nyala bull crashed into the fence trying to find his way back in, cutting open his lower lip and gums so terribly that Dr Reuter found it necessary to conduct some reconstructive surgery.

The nyala bull was sedated, sown back together and released. Though a bit shaken and probably a bit numb from this unwelcomed visit at the dentist, the proud animal took off into the bush and is believed to be doing well.



When it comes to wildlife, there are few who can compare their experience, know-how and practical ability to veterinarian Dr HO Reuter. He is a born Namibian and has previously worked at the state, handling various rhino programs before becoming a self-employed game capturer and expert at darting operations, offering his much sought-after service to game farmers all over Namibia.

Rain! Better late than never...

Rain in Namibia this year has again been scarce. Most parts of Namibia have only started receiving rain during March, which is rather late... but rather late than never!!! At Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris, we have received enough to keep us going

until later this year, hopefully we will have to feed only some alfalfa during the months preceding the next rainy season. Other parts of Namibia have been less fortunate...



As if Alex had known that the rains were going to be late and somewhat average, he started an enormous excavation project at one of the big dams at Okonjati game reserve in October 2017 already, removing about 24 000 cubic metres of sand to deepen and increase the capacity of the dam. The project lasted until end of February, and miraculously Alex managed to even finish building a new overflow and dam wall just before the rains started. His hard work and determination was rewarded by this: perfectly smooth flowing water and a dam filled to the brim!

We look forward to a great year!!! With enough water, anything is possible and "alles sal reg kom" – as the Afrikaner says (all will be fine in the end)!



Best wishes from all at Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris!