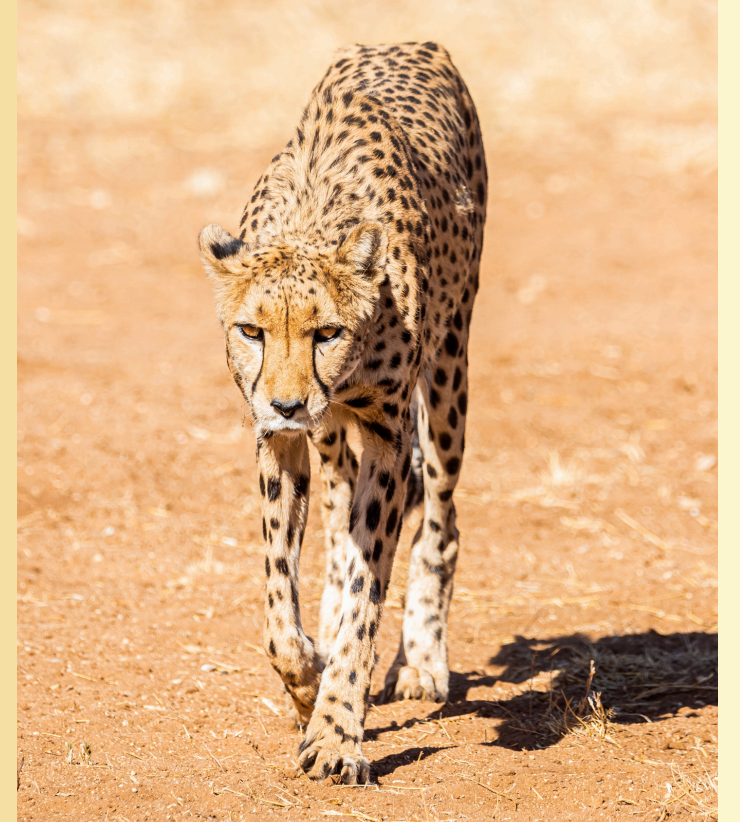


INTRODUCTION

THE CHEETAH: *Acinonyx jubatus*

- African big cat, found in savanna and woodlands of Sub-Saharan Africa
- Fastest land animal, with many anatomical adaptations for high-speed running
 - can reach >100 km/hr
- Adult females are solitary in the wild; males often form coalitions
- Large home ranges/territories, some > 2000 km²
- Decreasing populations, habitat loss & human-wildlife conflict mean many cheetahs end up in captivity at wildlife centres



METHODS

STUDY SITE: *Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia*

2009 & 2011 Dataset

- Group 1:** 4 males (adolescent to adult)
- Group 2:** 2 females (adult)

2023 Data Observations

- Group 3:** 3 males (adult)
- Group 4:** 1 male, 3 females (adolescent)

All groups observed for 60 mins/day over 11-31 days during scheduled feeding times - 1 bowl with meat per cheetah. Feeding & social behaviours recorded, then compared between groups & observation periods.

RESULTS

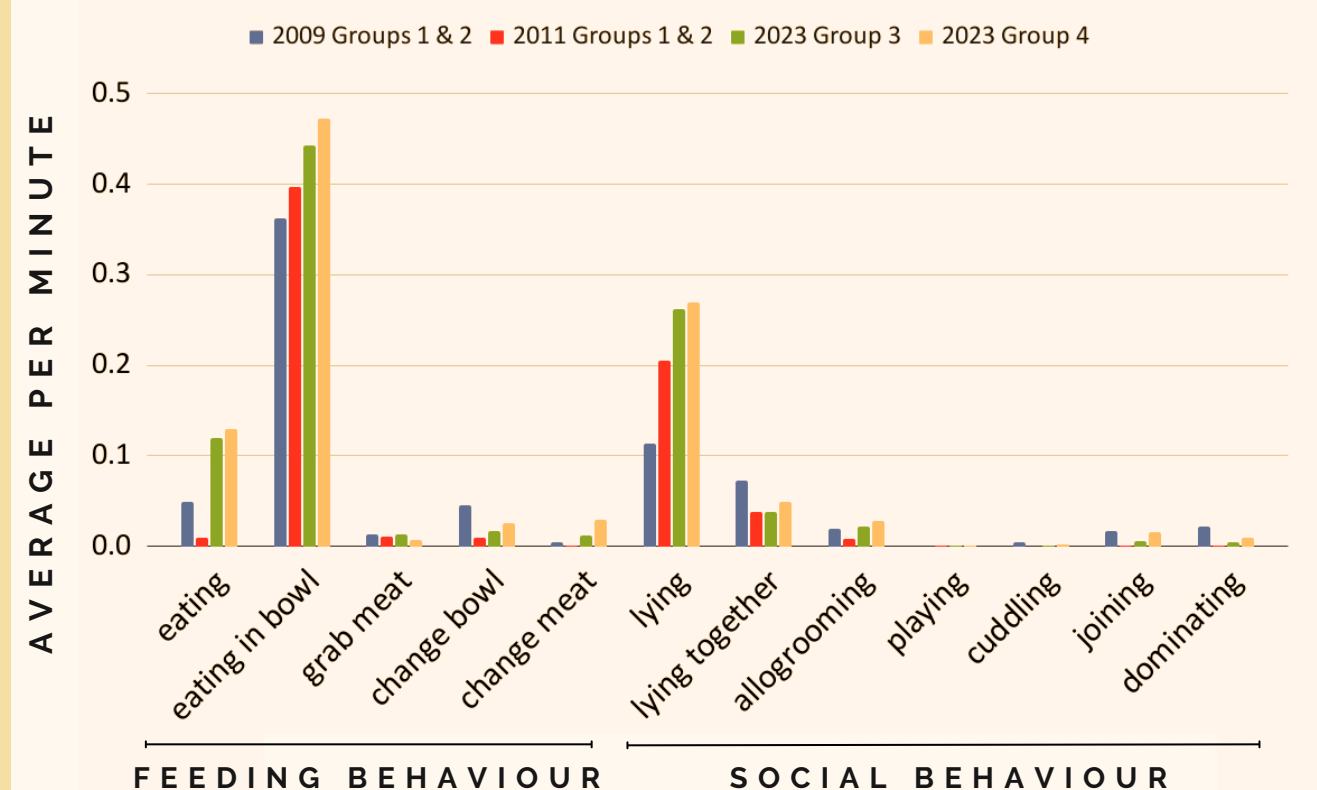
BEHAVIOUR CHANGES OVER TIME

Feeding

- Between **2009** and **2011**, group feeding behaviour became more settled:
 - more eating in bowl
 - less changing bowl/meat
- In **2023**, **both groups** had similar feeding behaviours, with individual differences

Social

- Between **2009** and **2011**, social behaviour decreased
- In **2023**, the older cheetahs (**Group 3**) were less social than the younger ones (**Group 4**)
- 2023 has a similar trend to 2009 vs 2011



DISCUSSION

CAPTIVITY MAY CHANGE FREQUENCY OF SOME BEHAVIOURS

- Cheetahs in captivity are often kept in unnatural social groupings in small areas
 - forced proximity may change social behaviour
- The preference for eating in bowls is similar to tidy wild feeding behaviour
- Siblings or cheetahs introduced at a young age are more likely to interact positively
- General low level of play is consistent with wild cheetah behaviour
- Overall, behaviour was similar to expected, with some individual differences