



# CHEETAHS

An Endangered Cat

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<http://www.photorena.com/photos/images/cheetahs/cheetah-female-image.jpg>

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[http://www-tc.pbs.org/wnet/nature/files/2008/06/590\\_ag\\_cheetah.jpg](http://www-tc.pbs.org/wnet/nature/files/2008/06/590_ag_cheetah.jpg)

## Introduction

What is the fastest land animal in the world? If you guessed the cheetah, you are right! Whenever running or chasing their prey, the cheetah can go up to 65 miles per hour. If you were racing a cheetah, the cheetah would catch up to you like a bolt of lightning. The cheetah's long legs and long body help it run much faster.

## Names



[http://www.wildlife-pictures-online.com/image-files/king-cheetah-esc\\_0339.jpg](http://www.wildlife-pictures-online.com/image-files/king-cheetah-esc_0339.jpg)

The cheetah has more than one name. Its common name is cheetah. The scientific name is *Acinonyx jubatus*, which is Latin.

There's also the King Cheetah, which has larger black spots than other cheetahs. Leopards, panthers, servals, jaguars, and ocelot are re-

lated to cheetahs.

## Description

The cheetah is an amazing animal. It has a small head and a yellowish coat, with black spots on its body. The female cheetahs are smaller than male cheetahs. Male cheetahs grow up to seven feet long. Male cheetahs can weight up to 125 pounds (55 kilograms). With this description, maybe you could identify a cheetah in a zoo or in the wild.



## Habitat

The cheetah lives in Africa and Asia. They also can be found in India and Iran. They need to live under trees and tall grass to escape from the heat. Cheetahs need open spaces to chase their prey. Their prey include rabbits, antelope, some birds, gazelles, wildebeest calves, impalas, and smaller hoofed animals. Therefore, if the cheetahs weren't fast enough, they wouldn't catch their prey. As you can imagine, if cheetahs didn't have these kinds of foods, they would become more extinct.



Two cheetah cubs (above). A cheetah family (below).

[http://into-mind.com/2012/03/08/more-cute-tiny-things-2/tumblr\\_lwn0itmjh1qktjvo1\\_500-2/](http://into-mind.com/2012/03/08/more-cute-tiny-things-2/tumblr_lwn0itmjh1qktjvo1_500-2/)



[http://images.hitfix.com/photos/696456/Cheetah-cubs-in-African-Cats\\_gallery\\_primary.jpg](http://images.hitfix.com/photos/696456/Cheetah-cubs-in-African-Cats_gallery_primary.jpg)



This park ranger found a cheetah that was trapped.

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/mongabay-images/12/snared-cheetah\\_Kafue.568.jpg](http://s3.amazonaws.com/mongabay-images/12/snared-cheetah_Kafue.568.jpg)

## Threats

Cheetahs are getting extinct. One reason is due to habitat loss and the land is getting destroyed because people are building towns over their habitat. Another reason is because humans hunt them for fur and for meat. The last reason is the cheetah's cubs are getting eaten by lions and hyenas.

Clearly people have to stop killing cheetahs and stop building on their home.

## Solutions

There are things we can do to help cheetahs. Instead of farmers getting mad at cheetahs and killing



them, they could use guard dogs to protect the farmers' animals. That would be one solution. The more that people know about animals, the more they usually want to help them.

[http://news.bbcimg.co.uk/media/images/51176000/jpg/\\_51176498\\_cheetah011222720.jpg](http://news.bbcimg.co.uk/media/images/51176000/jpg/_51176498_cheetah011222720.jpg)



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