



CPWplus Scale Becomes an Integral Part of Husbandry Protocol

Cheetah Outreach Uses CPWplus Scale to Care for Animals



<https://www.cheetah.co.za/>

Cheetah Outreach is an education and community-based programme designed to raise awareness of the plight of the cheetah and to campaign for its survival. Founded in 1997 by Annie Beckhelling, the facility sits on about 4 hectares of land on Paardevlei in Somerset West.

A dealer of Adam Equipment scales and balances in South Africa, Scaletec, sponsored a CPWplus scale for Cheetah Outreach, where the scale is used to weigh various animals.

Challenges

Despite the name, Cheetah Outreach houses not only cheetahs, but also several small carnivores, including serval, caracal, black-backed jackal, bat-eared fox and meerkat as well as Anatolian shepherd ambassador dogs. They also raise 4 young cubs, who must be weighed weekly, since their food intake is based on percentage body weight. “Their metabolic pathways are very sensitive to change and offering an incorrect quantity of food for their age and weight could lead to serious bone deformities and other developmental issues”, explains Liesl, a curator at Cheetah Outreach.

In order to ensure the animal’s health, Cheetah Outreach implements a very strict protocol, and they needed a scale that was both versatile

and precise. Liesl adds: “All the animals at Cheetah Outreach, from the smallest meerkat to the largest cheetah are weighed weekly or monthly, depending on the need. These measurements are recorded in our husbandry manuals and used to adjust food intake and caloric offerings to all individual animals.”

How the CPWplus Helped

Liesl tells us that “the scale has become an integral part of our husbandry protocol. Maintaining an optimal body weight and condition in exotic animals is paramount to their health and welfare in captivity”.

The CPWplus has a generous platform size and a high capacity, which is useful since, as Liesl tells us: “an adult cheetah of 60+ kilograms needs a considerable space to fit on completely”. The handles and wheels make the scale easy to transport since it does not have to be carried. The extension cord allows the scale to operate in the animal’s enclosure without the handler being present: “some animals are more likely to step on the scale if the handler is on the other side of a gate or fence. This feature makes this possible”.

The enclosures try to mimic the animal’s natural environment, and as such it can be difficult to find an even surface, so the handlers often use the adjustable wheel brackets to steady the scale.

Education, Conservation and Protection

Cheetah Outreach Trust is a non-profit conservation organisation dedicated to the protection of the free-ranging cheetah and the stability of cheetahs held in captivity as an assurance population. The work of the Cheetah Outreach Trust is focused in four key areas: environmental education, reduction of wildlife-human conflict through applied and effective in situ (field-based) strategies, advocacy for the elimination of illegal trade using the South African DNA studbook (hosted by Cheetah Outreach) as a monitoring tool for legitimacy

“Honestly, I cannot even imagine how we ever used to get along without this scale.”

- Liesl, curator at Cheetah Outreach

of animals traded and research. For more information on Cheetah Outreach, visit <https://www.cheetah.co.za/>.

For more than 45 years, Adam Equipment has designed and manufactured precision balances and scales for professionals worldwide in the laboratory, medical, education, industrial, food, animal/veterinary and jewelry markets. Adam is committed to offering an extensive selection of weighing equipment with best-in-class value. Headquartered in the United Kingdom, the company has strategically established offices in the United States, South Africa, Australia, Germany and China to provide product support and speedy delivery.

For more information on CPWplus, visit <https://www.adamequipment.co.uk/cpwplus-weighing-scales>.



Bat-eared foxes and a caracal on a CPWplus scale

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