



# The Meerkatter

*The Friends of the Kalahari Meerkat Project Report - www.kalahari-meerkats.com - May 2022*

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## 15 to 5: The Make-e-Plan pups

In April, four Make-e-Plan females were pregnant, and we were anxiously waiting to see how many pups the pregnancies would yield. Dominant female Bridget (VQLF011) and subordinate yearling females Cassie (VMPP050), Bonxie (VMPP054) and Sophie (VMPP055) were all pregnant at the same time. We were concerned for Sophie's litter as there was a possibility that she had aborted (VMP2205) as she gave birth very early, but not early enough to classify the litter as aborted with certainty. By the end of month three pups, VMPP068, VMPP069 and VMPP070, had emerged and we were certain they were from Bridget's litter. Heading into May we started to see more pups. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Jude (VMPP071), James (VMPP072) and Ranger (VMPP073) emerged. On the 18<sup>th</sup> all the other pups emerged bringing the total number of pups at the group to fifteen! However, at the time we were not certain of this number, as nervous babysitters, like adult subordinate male Sketchy Bongo (VTSM019), kept alarming at our presence and drawing the pups down into the burrow entrances, taking them out of sight and reach.



Adult subordinate male Sketchy Bongo (VTSM019) gives the observer one of his classical 'sketchy looks' as they try to approach him. Photo credit: Life History Coordinator Lila Chillingworth.

We had one more session at the group on the 19<sup>th</sup>, before the reserve was hit with huge amounts of rain for two days: 77.6mm of rain on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 47.6mm on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The group was next visited in the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> and this is where the story begins.

The observer arrived at the babysitting burrow to await the group's return. At the burrow were ten pups: Jude, Ranger, Romance (VMPP075), Fleetwood (VMPP076), Bob Morane (VMPP077), Freddie (VMPP078), Sunshine (VMPP079), Lizzy (VMPP080), Ziggy (VMPP081) and Little Hare (VMPP082). Sadly, Little Hare was found dead, its sodden little body lying by one of the sleeping burrow's entrances. Although saddened by this loss, the observer carried on, taking the opportunity to work on hand habituation with the pups whilst skittish individuals like Sketchy Bongo were not around to draw them into the sleeping burrow. It was a bizarre session as the group appeared to have left no babysitters. Long after the group's average return time, there was still no sign of any adult meerkats. The observer tried checking for a beep from dominant male Sushi's (VTSM006) collar but heard nothing. Eventually, after the sun had set and the pups went below, it was clear that no one was returning that evening. The pups appeared to have been abandoned. That evening there was much discussion amongst the observer team about what could have happened. There was a possibility that Make-e-Plan had had to go below at a different sleeping burrow because of the rain. Back in March, Whiskers went below at a different sleeping burrow, leaving one babysitter with all the pups. They then reunited the next afternoon. However, Make-e-Plan's situation appeared bleaker as there was no sign of a babysitter at the sleeping burrow and we would have expected the group to return that evening.

The next morning an observer set out to try and find the group. They searched all over their territory but got no beep from the radio collar. This had us quite worried as we did not want a repeat of the beginning of the year, where we could not find the group for several weeks due to issues with the radio collar. However, we did not have to worry long as the group was found on the 24<sup>th</sup> waking up at a sleeping burrow six hundred and forty-three meters southwest of the babysitting burrow. Present at the group were the dominant female's offspring VMPP068, VMPP069



and VMPP070. VMPP074 from a slightly younger litter was also there. They had already had their first forage on the 19<sup>th</sup>, although in the observer's opinion, this may have been an accident. They appeared very unsure and unconfident whilst foraging, sticking near the observer's feet during the short group follow. However, mistake or not, this first forage most likely saved their life. James was neither with the foraging group nor with the abandoned pups and was given its Last Seen. As it had not been seen since the 16<sup>th</sup>, we cannot speculate what may have happened to this pup.

That evening they changed sleeping burrow, moving southwest, five hundred meters from the babysitting burrow. During the session the observers also visited the babysitting burrow to check on the pups there. In our profession it is a rule that we do not interfere with the natural events we witness. However, sometimes it is incredibly hard to just stand back and watch. At the sleeping burrow the pups were getting skinnier and skinnier as the sessions went on. They would stagger around the sleeping burrow, calling out for group members that did not return. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> all nine remaining pups were present. The next morning Romance, Fleetwood and Sunshine were missing, likely predated or starved to death. On 25<sup>th</sup> Freddie, Lizzy and Ziggy were gone as well. The last pups left were Jude, Ranger and Bob Morane. They were emaciated, weak and desperate for food. When moving about they were unsteady on their feet and would often flop to the ground completely exhausted. During my time at the project, I have witnessed some challenging things to watch, like meerkats being ravaged by tuberculosis, ultimately and slowly dying. Yet nothing has shaken me like watching these pups starve and disappear. Going to a session and looking into their small faces knowing the outcome will only be bleak. It is a privilege to be able to visit the meerkats, observing their behaviours, getting to know their personalities and witness how their lives unfold. However, sometimes this job can be incredibly challenging, and this was one of those moments for me.



Pup Jude (VMPP071) flops down, exhausted. Taken on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>. Photo credit: Life History Coordinator Lila Chillingworth.

However, the outcome for Jude and Ranger was not to be bleak. On the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> an observer arrived at the group to find that Make-e-Plan had returned to the babysitting burrow. The scene was a chaotic one. The adults were pup feeding Jude, Ranger and Bob Morane. However, the pups

seemed very unsure about what to do with all this food. At one point the observer saw multiple individuals try to pup feed either Ranger or Bob Morane who were unable to take the food as they were already struggling to eat a large grub that had been fed to them earlier. We suspect the pups may still have been at an age where being suckled would have been more beneficial than being pup fed. Everyone went below together for the night. Sadly though, the next morning Bob Morane did not wake up with the group. Maybe the effects of being starved for so long had taken too much of a toll on the pup and it did not survive the night. Jude and Ranger set off foraging with the group and are still alive and with the group at the time of writing. However, the toll of their abandonment is evident in their physique. Compared to VMPP074 they are considerably smaller. Hopefully this traumatic experience in the early development does not fatally hinder their chances of survival.



This photo illustrates the size difference between VMPP074 and the surviving abandoned pups. From left to right: dominant male Sushi (VTSM006), pup VMPP074, juvenile male VMPP066 and pup Ranger (VMPP073). Photo taken on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Photo credit: Life History Coordinator Lila Chillingworth.

As to what may have caused the group to abandon the pups for this period, we can say nothing for certain. However, it would have been in Bridget's interest to let the other pups die, in order to reduce the competition for her own offspring. The competition would have been fierce with the total number of pups being fifteen at one point. A comparison could be made with Ubuntu. They had almost the same number of pups earlier this year (thirteen). Even though they started foraging during the summer, when food was plenty, they still lost three pups. Make-e-Plan will have to do this all of this in winter when food is scarce. This is not the most steadfast and scientific comparison, but it does illustrate the point. Getting the group to move sleeping burrows, thus abandoning the pups who had not started foraging, would have been an easy way for Bridget to eliminate competition considering her pups had already started to forage. Ultimately their absence from the group would increase the helper ratio and the competition for food would reduce. Survival rates increase with the number of helpers when predators are abundant. A study has found that when a subordinate female breeds in a group, the dominant female's pups are lighter when they reach independence. Low pup weight at this age



is associated with reduced rates of surviving to adulthood and a reduction in future breeding success.

Despite their small size Jude and Ranger are energetic and keen for their egg reward. This makes a change from the other Make-e-Plan pups and juveniles who seem to have been influenced by the skittish individuals at the group and can be a challenge to work with. We are rooting for Jude and Ranger here and it shall be interesting to see how, and if, they can overcome the adversities they faced in their early development. As always, we shall keep you up to date with how the situation develops.

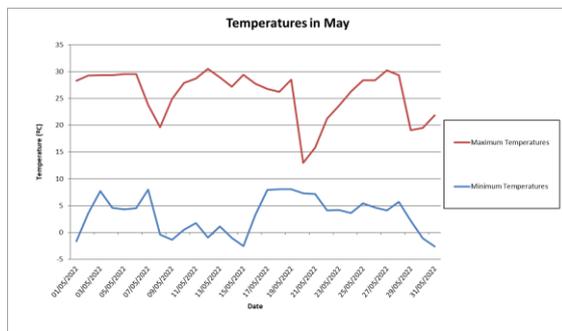


Pup Ranger (VMPP073) ready for his egg reward at the scale. Photo taken on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Photo credit: Life History Coordinator Lila Chillingworth.

### Pregnancies in May 2022

Females pregnant in May	2
Females who aborted	0
Females who gave birth, litters lost	0
Females who gave birth, litter emerged	1
Females who gave birth, unknown outcome	0
Females still pregnant at the end of the month	1

### Weather at the KMP



The average maximum temperature was 25.9 °C and the average minimum temperature was 3.2 °C. On the 27<sup>th</sup> temperatures rose to 30.5 °C, the highest this month. The coldest morning was on the 31<sup>st</sup>, with temperatures dropping to -2.6 °C. Overall May has been a fairly dry month, with the huge exception of 3 days when it rained a lot. These were the 19<sup>th</sup>, with a modest 3.8 mm, the 20<sup>th</sup>, with 77.6mm and the 21<sup>st</sup>, with 47.6mm. This is the highest amount of rain recorded at the KRC in May in the last 12 years.

### May 2022 Life History Details

#### Alba:

- All 12 members were present at the end of the month.
- No pregnancies were observed in May.
- No individual encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen this month.
- All individuals appear healthy.

#### Brussels Sprouts:

- Gold Diggers' adult males Jack (VGDM010) and James (VGDM011) immigrated into the group this month, bringing the total number of members up to six. All 6 individuals were present at the end of May.
- Male dominance at the group is unsettled as, despite displaying some dominance competition behaviours, neither male has directly submitted to the other.
- No pregnancies were observed this month.
- However, on the 9<sup>th</sup>, when the Gold Diggers' males joined the group, James was observed mating with dominant female Arabella (VMPF035) for about 5 minutes. This was observed again the next morning.
- Adult subordinate female Vivienne (VMPF038) and juvenile male Chilli (VBSM005) did not wake up with the group on the 27<sup>th</sup>. However, later that day, after an inter-group interaction, they were able to find the group and re-join them.
- The group had one inter-group interaction this month, with Gold Diggers on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- No individual encounters or group splits were seen this month.
- With the immigration of Jack into the group, the group's habituation has become *incomplete*. At Brussels Sprouts, Jack has made huge improvements compared to when he was at Gold Diggers. Whilst foraging observers can get within two metres, at best, and approaching any closer will cause him to stop and watch the observer closely. At worst, he can be followed at four meters and will bark and bolt if the observer gets any closer. At the scale he is keen for his egg reward and will approach the sitting observer to under one meter.
- All individuals at Brussels Sprouts seem to be in good health.



### **Brussels Sprouts 2:**

- All 5 members of Brussels Sprouts 2 were present at the end of the month.
- As there are no mature females in this sub-group, no pregnancies were observed this month.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup> adult subordinate male Gurke (VHMM036) left the group and had encounters with Namaqua. He re-joined the rest of the group and together they had two inter-group interactions with Namaqua. After these inter-group interactions dominant male Shandy (VHMM023) and Gurke both left the group to have 2 encounters each with Namaqua.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> Gurke left the group, after the morning weights session, and had another encounter with Namaqua. He then re-joined the group later that evening, arriving at the sleeping burrow very late and going directly below.
- No individual encounters or group splits were seen this month.
- All individuals at Brussels Sprouts 2 seem to be in good health.

### **Elrond's Council:**

- All 16 members were present at the end of the month.
- Both adult subordinate male Langa (VZUM033) and dominant female Calypso (VECF027) were given their Last Seen.
- Female dominance is still unsettled at Elrond's Council. Sub-adult subordinate females Mojo Jojo (VECF038) and Snoop Kat (VECF039) are still displaying dominance competition and dominance behaviours. However, neither has directly submitted to the other and until this happens, neither can be considered to be the new dominant female.
- No pregnancies were observed this month.
- No individual encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen this month.
- All present individuals at Elrond's Council seem to be in good health

### **Gold Diggers:**

- All 19 members were present at the end of the month.
- Subordinate adult males Jack (VGDM010) and James (VGDM011) emigrated out of the group sometime between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, adult subordinate female Goldeneye (VGDF007) returned. Adult subordinate female BMO (VGDF020) was not present for the start of this afternoon session, however had returned by 16:20.
- Gold Diggers had three inter-group interactions this month. One with Brussels Sprouts on the 27<sup>th</sup> and two with Lazuli on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- No individual encounters, group splits were observed this month.
- Habituation at Gold Diggers is considered *Advanced Progress* as habituation work is being done on adult subordinate female Fleabag (VGDF005) and yearling subordinate female Shelby (VGDF022). At the end of this month

Fleabag's progress has regressed a bit as she can only be followed at two to three meters and is very skittish. She is not interested in egg or water. Shelby's progress has not really changed as she could be followed at two meters.

- All individuals seem to be healthy.

### **Hakuna Matata:**

- Hakuna Matata were only seen seven times this month and have spent the rest of their time on the Heights farm.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup> subordinate yearling males Ogg (VHMM047) and Greebo (VHMM048) emigrated out of the group and into Ubuntu, decreasing the total number of meerkats to 16. All of them were present at the end of the month.
- Subordinate adult male Luther (VLM245) was given his Last Seen. We delayed making this decision as the group have been seen on so few incidences, on the rare occasions they return to our reserve.
- No pregnancies were observed this month.
- No individual encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen this month.
- All individuals appear healthy.

### **Jaxx:**

- There were 21 out of 24 meerkats present at Jaxx at the end of March.
- Yearling subordinate females Scully (VJXF149) and Gray (VJXF150) and sub-adult subordinate male Johanna (VJXM157) were absent at the end of this month.
- Dominant female Baloo (VJXF080) was still heavily pregnant at the end of this month.
- On the 10<sup>th</sup> yearling subordinate male Mulder (VJXM152) was given his Last Seen.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> adult subordinate male Rincewind (VJXM131) left the group for 15 minutes before returning. On the 6<sup>th</sup> he was not found with the group but woke up with them the next day. Adult subordinate male The Dude (VJXM142) was also not present with the group on the 4<sup>th</sup> however returned on the 7<sup>th</sup>. On the 4<sup>th</sup> sub-adult subordinate male Johanna (VJXM157) returned to the group and left and returned once this month, on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively, before leaving again on the 12<sup>th</sup> and not returning this month. On the 28<sup>th</sup> juvenile female Jub Jub (VJXF160), Rincewind and adult subordinate male Nibs (VJXM137) did not wake up with group in the morning session, but Nibs was found foraging with the group later that session and Jub Jub and Rincewind were found foraging with the group in the afternoon session. In that same afternoon session Nibs was not found with the group, however he had returned by the next morning. On the 28<sup>th</sup> yearling subordinate females Scully (VJXF149) and Gray (VJXF150) were evicted. They both woke up with the group but were chased off by Baloo and the rest of the group.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> Jaxx had an inter-group interaction with an unknown group of meerkats. This group was over one hundred meters away so were



hard to observe. The observer thought they saw nine to ten meerkats.

- No encounters or group splits were observed this month.
- All individuals at Jaxx seem to be in good health.

#### Lazuli:

- 16 of 18 individuals were present at the end of May.
- Yearling subordinate male Karma (VLM277) and sub-adult subordinate female Kracken (VLF285) were absent from the group at the end of the month.
- On the 11<sup>th</sup> male pup Small Juli (VLM291) was given his Last Seen.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup>, yearling subordinate female Ma Di Tau (VLF278) woke up before the rest of the group, looking very nervous and then left. Kracken, Karma and Small Juli did not get up with the group on this day. On the 13<sup>th</sup> Ma Di Tau returned to the group.
- Lazuli had two individual encounters on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We suspect these were both with their former group member adult female Haopia (VLF244) as on the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> we were able to scan her transponder chip but unable to give her any identifying dye marks. Haopia has not been seen since.
- Lazuli had two inter-group interactions with Gold Diggers on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. As there was no observer at Lazuli for both inter-group interactions, we cannot say for certain but the inter-group interaction on the 11<sup>th</sup> may have been a factor that caused Kracken, Karma and Small Juli to leave the group and may have caused Ma Di Tau's behaviour on the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- No group splits were seen this month.
- All individuals seem to be in good health.

#### Make-e-Plan:

- 24 of 25 individuals were present at the end of May.
- No pregnancies were observed this month.
- The pups from litters VMP2203, VMP2205, VMP2204 emerged this month. This brought the total pup count at Make-e-Plan to 15, at one point. However not all these pups have survived. Only three pups from these litters were still with the group at end of the month.  
Here is a summary of the fates of the pups from litters VMP2203, VMP2205, VMP2204:
- Pups Romance (VMPP075), Fleetwood (VMPP076), Sunshine (VMPP079), Freddie (VMPP078), Lizzy (VMPP080) and Ziggy (VMPP081) were left behind by the group at the babysitting burrow on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Romance, Fleetwood and Sunshine were last seen at the babysitting burrow on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and pups Freddie, Lizzy and Ziggy on the 24<sup>th</sup>. They all were looking very skinny and weak when last seen. At the end of the month, they all still had not been seen and it is quite likely they starved to death or were predated.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> an observer found pup Little Hare's (VMPP082) body at the sleeping burrow. It is unclear how it died. An important point to note is

that there were two individuals with the same identification mark (VMPP068 and Little Hare) at the group until the 22<sup>nd</sup> and that this body was wrongly identified as VMPP068 until the 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Pup James (VMPP072) was not seen with the pups left by group at the babysitting burrow and was not with Make-e-Plan when they were found again on the 24<sup>th</sup>. When not sighted with the group or with the abandoned pup for ten days, it was given its Last Seen.
- Pup Bob Morane (VMPP077) was left by the group at the babysitting burrow on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup> the group returned to the abandoned pups and accepted it back into the group. However, the next morning Bob Morane did not wake up with the group. At the end of the month, the pup still had not been seen. When the group returned, it was very skinny and weak. It is quite likely that despite the group's return it did not survive the effects of being starved for at least four days.
- Pups Jude (VMPP071) and Ranger (VMPP073) were left by the group at the babysitting burrow. On the 25<sup>th</sup> the group returned to the remaining abandoned pups and accepted them back into the group. They were still alive and with the group at the end of the month.
- VMPP074 had its first forage on the 19<sup>th</sup> and was found with the group on the 24<sup>th</sup> alive and well fed. This early first forage was probably the reason it was not abandoned with its other litter mates.
- The only other group movement to happen this month was that adult subordinate female Millewa (VMPF048) was accepted back into the group on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- No individual encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen this month.
- Habituation work continues on adult male Sketchy Bongo (VTSM019). At the sleeping burrow he is weary of being approached and will watch closely and bark when the observer is ten meters away. However, he will allow an observer to approach to between two to five meters. He is not good with quick movements.
- Jude and Ranger are very skinny, are starting to lose their hair and considerably smaller than VMPP074. All other individuals appear to be in good health.

#### Namaqua:

- 11 of 12 individuals were present at the end of May.
- No pregnancies were observed this month.
- Yearling subordinate female Megara (VNQF020) did not return to the group and was given her Last Seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> adult subordinate female Mononoke Hime (VNQF014) did not wake up with the group and she has not returned this month.
- Namaqua had five encounters this month. The first four occurred on the 5<sup>th</sup> with subordinate adult male Gurke (VHMM036) and dominant male Shandy (VHMM023) from Brussels Sprouts 2 who both approached the group twice. The final one occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup> with Gurke.



- Namaqua had two inter-group interactions with Brussels Sprouts 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- No group splits were observed in May.
- All individuals at Namaqua seem to be healthy and showing no signs of TB.

#### **Phoenix**

- 12 unmarked individuals were present at the end of the month, but only 3 of the juveniles were seen.
- No encounters or interactions were witnessed this month.
- The group's habituation status is still *In Progress*. We have started cage habituation at Phoenix. The cage is a humane trap we use, to capture individuals with the help of tasty scorpions. This technique is necessary at Phoenix as their habituation is not good enough for them to be caught by an observer. We are doing this as we hope to place a radio collar on one of the individuals so we can track the group's movements again. The meerkats are not bothered by the presence of the cage. Some adults will guard on it and the juveniles have been going inside it. At the beginning of the month, all individuals went below when an observer approached to set up the cage. However, by the end of the month the group was comfortable coming back up at two to five meters. Observers can approach the group to about three to five meters with no adverse reaction. One juvenile is still eating egg.
- All individuals at Phoenix appear to be healthy.

#### **Runaways:**

- All 16 members were present at the end of the month.
- There were no pregnancies or births this month.
- No individual encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen this month.
- All individuals seem to be in good health.

#### **Side Quest:**

- All 13 members were present at the end of the month.
- Juvenile female Papaya (VSIF011) did not return to the group and was given her Last Seen.
- There were no pregnancies or births this month.
- There were no individual encounters, inter-group interactions, or group splits observed during the month.
- All individuals appear to be healthy.

#### **Trackie-Daks:**

- 18 of 19 individuals were present at the end of May.
- Yearling subordinate male Marvin Gaye (VTSM021) left on the 28<sup>th</sup> after not waking up with the group. He has not returned this month.
- There were no pregnancies or births this month.
- There were no individual encounters, inter-group interactions, or group splits observed this month.
- The habituation level is currently *In Progress*. Habituation work continues on dominant male Coquette (VTSM014). At the end of the month

observers could walk around him at two meters. At this distance he will watch the observer closely and sometime can be a bit barky. Sometimes observers can sit one to two meters from him. Recently he has not let anyone approach him under one meter and has stopped drinking water. However, we do not believe this is a permanent change but just a phase he is going through

- All individuals appear to be healthy.

#### **Ubuntu:**

- All 22 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- No pregnancies were observed this month.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup> yearling subordinate males Ogg (VHMM047) and Greebo (VHMM048) from Hakuna Matata started to approach the group, having multiple encounters with them. These encounters continued to happen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Most would involve the group seeing the males, war dancing and chasing them whilst the males retreated. However, the males were persistent. On the 7<sup>th</sup> they may have even gone below with the group.
- On the 11<sup>th</sup> Ogg and Greebo woke up with the group and were acting as part of it. They were immigrated into Ubuntu.
- On the 11<sup>th</sup> we saw lots of dominance competition behaviours from Ogg and Greebo but Captain Barbosa did not behave dominant at all anymore and even submitted to Ogg. Since this date, male dominance has been unsettled at the group and will remain this way until one of the three mature males receives direct submissions from the other two.
- No inter-group interactions or group splits were observed this month.
- Habituation is still considered to be *Incomplete*. The habituation of Captain Barbosa continues. He can be followed between one to two meters, occasionally watching the observer closely but mostly happy to forage. However, he is easily startled when observers step on crunchy grass, which makes recording him particularly challenging. At the scale he is keen but sometime lacks the confidence to approach the scale and hop in.
- All individuals appear to be in good health.

#### **Whiskers:**

- All 19 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- No pregnancies were observed this month.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> adult subordinate male Lupin (VWM234) did not wake up with the group but returned later that morning.
- No encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were observed this month.
- All individuals at Whiskers seem to be healthy.

#### **Zulus:**

- All 14 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> adult subordinate female Salazar (VZUF028) gave birth. She has had two pups



which emerged on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and set off foraging with the group on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Salazar was not present at the group for the whole session. However, this may have been because she was giving birth or looking after pups in the sleeping burrow. She was next seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> at the sleeping burrow with the group.
- No individual encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen this month.
- All individuals at Zulus appear to be healthy.

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**The following author contributed to this report:**

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