



# The Meerkatter

The Friends of the Kalahari Meerkat Project Report - [www.kalahari-meerkats.com](http://www.kalahari-meerkats.com) - November 2022

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## The End in Sight for Zulus?

Zulus have always been a beloved group here at the Kalahari Meerkat Project (KMP). They are the fourth oldest meerkat group within our study now and they have had within their ranks members such as current Side Quest dominant female Pumba (VZUF048) and current Alba dominant male Godric (VZUM053). They are a group that has experienced a healthy run over the past decade but that longevity may be at risk under the leadership of their current dominant female Spruddel (VZUF028).

Spruddel has been the dominant female of the group since May 2019. Since that time, she has only seen three successful litters born out of a possible eleven, with the most recent successful one being in January this year. Unfortunately for Zulus, Spruddel tends to evict females when she is pregnant. Adult subordinate female littermates Salazar (VZUF051), Helga (VZUF052) and Rowena (VZUF054) have left the group multiple times, coinciding with times when Spruddel was pregnant, indicating that they were possibly evicted. This has been the case again in August when they left the group and formed Zulus 4 during the time that Spruddel was pregnant. While Spruddel aborted her litter in that time, Helga was able to successfully give birth to a litter. Even though the males of Zulus 4 left the sub-group, Helga and her littermates managed to successfully keep the pups alive until Spruddel came along.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, an observer witnessed an encounter between Spruddel and the females. After Zulus chased the females away, Spruddel went down a burrow entrance and emerged with a pup, which she then proceeded to devour fully. This process was repeated once more with a second pup, and the body of a third pup was recovered the next day, thus marking the end of Helga's litter. Rather than accept the pups into the group, thus bolstering Zulus' numbers, it was unfortunate that she chose to instead end their lives. The females were then accepted back into Zulus though their return would not last very long.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, Spruddel was made officially pregnant again. This led to the familiar cycle of evictions with Salazar, Helga and Rowena all having left the group by the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. At this point in time, this left Zulus' group size at a paltry eight individuals. Events would get even worse for Zulus at the start of November, when on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month, it was found that longtime dominant male Scuzi

(VWM213), who has been with the group since December 2019, was missing from the group, starting a period of unsettled male dominance at the group. The only eligible males within the group are Spruddel's offspring, yearling subordinate males Willow (VZUM063) and Tazara (VZUM064). While one of them may take up the position of dominant male, they are unlikely to sire any offspring with Spruddel.



Dominant male Scuzi (VWM213) standing vigilant. Scuzi was easily identified by his characteristic black marks around his eyes from contact with sourgrass as a pup. Photo credit: Meerkat Manager Emma Brown.

The future was looking bleak for Zulus but hope for the group was rekindled on multiple avenues following a chaotic morning session on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. On that day, two observers were present at Zulus. By then, the three evicted females had all been given their Last Seen, having not been sighted for more than a month, but the observers were pleasantly surprised to find the females all alive and well shortly after the group had left their sleeping burrow. Though the females were promptly chased away by the group, this did leave hope that they would be able to rejoin the group in the future, and perhaps once again be permitted to give birth within the group, just as Salazar did in May, adding subadult subordinate males Rain (VZUM067) and Spirit (VZUM068) to the group. While the females had not been accepted back into the group by the end of the month, they have been sighted once more and are staying close to Zulus.

The other hopeful prospect for Zulus is the arrival of a potential new dominant male. On the same session that the Zulus females were seen alive, the group also had an encounter with adult subordinate male Rogelio De La Vega (VGDM015) from Gold Diggers.

For about half an hour, the group repeatedly chased him away. Nevertheless, he constantly returned, perhaps aware of the power vacuum within the group. During the chaos of the encounters, the group lost Spruddel, who quietly slipped away. While one observer stuck with the group to collect their lunch weights, the other went to track down Spruddel. She was found down a burrow entrance but the meerkat who came up was not Spruddel but Rogelio! He went back down and came up again a few minutes later with Spruddel, who he attempted to mount. Spruddel instead went back down the entrance, with Rogelio following to probably finish their mating.



Dominant female Spruddel (VZUF028) with Gold Diggers rover, adult subordinate male Rogelio de la Vega (VGDM015) who is attempting to mate with Spruddel. Photo credit: Life History Coordinator Maahir Jusabani.

While Rogelio has since left, the observer team is hopeful that he will return to Zulus this breeding season, perhaps alongside his littermate, adult subordinate male Beatrice (VGDM014) who is also a frequent rover. It is also hoped that Rogelio will have more success in siring pups than his predecessors, including Scuzi. Even though Zulus may currently be down to seven individuals, the observer team is hopeful yet that the beloved group stick around for another decade with the project!

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## Kalahari Dominance Discourse

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The past few months at the KMP have been tumultuous for our meerkat groups. While there have been additions to their ranks in the form of cute pups born into the groups, there have been multiple departures as well, with groups losing multiple members. The most important members that they can lose are their dominant males and females, and multiple groups have lost one of those individuals. Alba has even lost both dominant individuals. Over the past three months we have seen Alba, Brussels Sprouts, Namaqua, Ubuntu, Whiskers and Zulus all lose dominant individuals, starting a period of unsettled dominance at each group. Some groups have had those power vacuums filled quickly while others still have individuals battling for the top spot. As of the end of November; Brussels Sprouts, Ubuntu and Zulus all lack a dominant male or female. It is worth noting that Vetkoeks also do not have a dominant male, but that is more because we rarely see the group and so cannot observe their behavior and not determine dominance easily.

It started in the middle of August when the dominant female Pippin (VECF003) disappeared from Alba. Her fellow former Elrond's council member, dominant female Tolkien (VECF019) assumed dominance a few days later. Pippin had given birth a few days before her disappearance, but that litter was lost before emergence. This marked a small reprieve for Alba as at the start of September, former dominant male Jay-A-Rod (VWM216) was predated. We were able to deduce this as his radio collar was found at the top of a tree in a raptor's nest. This allowed dominant male Godric (VZUM053) to take charge as the only eligible male within the group. Tolkien and Godric have held the positions of dominant together since and even successfully had a litter emerge, continuing the rise of little Alba.

Next up we had a change in male dominance at Namaqua. It was clear to the observer team that this change was coming soon, due to the rapid decline of former dominant male Umfana (VZUM034) to tuberculosis. In his final days, he could not actively take part in group activities, such as warding off rovers like current Namaqua dominant male Shandy (VHMM023). Yearling subordinate male Fredi (VNQM028) stepped up and tried acting dominant by taking the lead in encounters. However, Fredi leaving the group on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August and Umfana most likely dead from tuberculosis by that date, left the door open for Shandy to assume the mantle of dominant male.

Whiskers had the more well documented case of dominance change following one of our most famous meerkats, former dominant female Swift's (VWF176), demise. We covered this story in September's article, where we also confirmed that dominant female Luna (VWF235) had taken over the position. Since then, Whiskers have still been going strong, with Luna being officially pregnant at the end of the month.



Whiskers dominant female Luna (VWF235) getting submitted to and groomed by yearling subordinate female Crunchie (VWF250). Photo credit: Life History Coordinator Maahir Jusabani.

Another dominance change soon followed when former dominant female Daisy (VBBF111), who heavily featured in the Meerkat Manor, was found dead on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Since then, observers have seen dominance competition arise between adult subordinate female Cthulhu (VUBF035) and yearling subordinate females Masekind (VUBF037)

and Agazoth (VUBF039). Both Masekind and Agazoth sustained serious facial wounds after an observer witnessed a vicious fight between the two of them, but those wounds have since healed. By the end of the month, Agazoth was confirmed as pregnant, while Cthulhu is close to being confirmed as pregnant as well. This may be a sign that one of them has assumed dominance and mated with dominant male Greebo (VHMM048) but one cannot discount the probability of it being roving males instead.

Zulus, as covered in the previous article, have lost their dominant male Scuzi (VWM213) and are yet to replace him. Yearling subordinate males Tazara (VZUM064) and Willow (VZUM063) have been displaying dominance behaviour but since they are dominant female Spruddele's offspring, it is unlikely that they will mate with her.

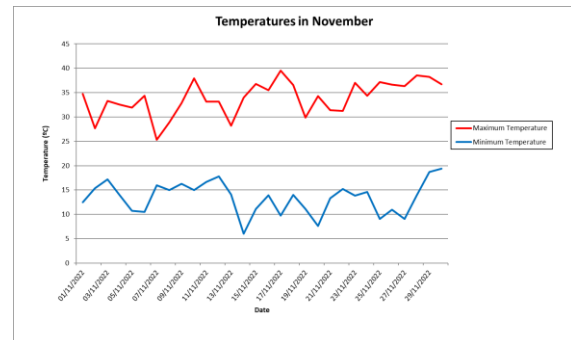
Finally, and most recently, as this happened right at the end of November, dominant male James (VGDM011) has left Brussels Sprouts, leaving adult subordinate males Gurke (VHMM036) and Jack (VGDM010) to fight it out for dominance within the group. Both males have picked up multiple injuries, and while none have officially claimed the title of dominant male, the observer team is fairly confident that it will be Gurke that assumes the role, due to his tendency to overmark, a trait seen once an individual assumes dominance.

Those are all the dominance changes that have occurred over the past few months. The social dynamics of our meerkat groups are in constant flux, with individuals constantly moving in and out of the group, and our dominant individuals are not exempt from this. The Kalahari desert is a dangerous locale, and all our meerkats, including our dominant individuals, must keep their eyes open, lest they find their spot taken by another individual.

## Pregnancies in November 2022

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Females pregnant in November</b>            | <b>14</b> |
| Females who aborted                            | 1         |
| Females who gave birth, litters lost           | 3         |
| Females who gave birth, litter emerged         | 2         |
| Females who gave birth, unknown outcome        | 3         |
| Females still pregnant at the end of the month | 5         |

## Weather at the KMP



Temperature in November have been cooler than the previous month an average max temperature of 33.9 °C, with the hottest day being on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November with temperatures peaking at 40.9 °C. The coldest morning was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November with a temperature of 14.86 °C.

## November 2022 Life History Details

Due to the large number of groups we are covering, we have made some changes to the way we are collecting data at the KMP. There are four different levels of data collection, that we will briefly introduce here.

### Full data collection group

We collect LH data at the group and regularly visit the group for full adlib and weights sessions.

### Life History monitoring group

Observers tend to visit these groups for shorter amounts of time. We collect LH data and increase our visits when new pups need to be habituated. We do not collect adlib data at these groups but collect morning and evening weights a few times per week.

### Habituation group

Habituating meerkats to our presence is the main goal at these groups. As the group's habituation progresses, we start collecting LH and weights data as well. In a later stage, we try to follow the group after morning weights, introduce lunch weights and start approaching the group in the afternoon.

### Sub-group

The amount of data we can collect at these groups depends mainly on whether a radio-collared individual is present. If that is the case, we try to collect LH, weights and adlib data, as it is very interesting to witness group dynamics within these newly formed groups. However, we do not always have a radio collar at these groups. In these cases, we focus on collecting LH data during opportunistic sightings.



## Full Data Collection Groups:

### Elrond's Council (FDC):

- All 17 individuals were present at the end of November.
- Adult subordinate male Pavlova (VECM022) left and returned to the group on the 9<sup>th</sup>, while dominant male Palestrina (VLM211) left and returned to the group twice, going roving at Namaqua during one of those departures.
- Elrond's Council had no encounters or inter-group interactions this month.
- They had 1 group split of uncertain duration this month on the 25<sup>th</sup> given they had not been visited for a few days, with yearling subordinate female Mojo Jojo (VECF038), adult subordinate male Milo (VECM034), subadult subordinate males Perceval (VECM048) and Karadoc (VECM049), pup Ivory (VECM051) and Palestrina all returning that day.
- All individuals at Elrond's Council seem to be in good health.

### Gold Diggers (FDC):

- There were 19 out of 20 members present at the end of November.
- Dominant female Goldeneye (VGDF007) was found to have given birth on the 1<sup>st</sup>, however, with no lactations or babysitters and the group moving burrows, it was concluded that the litter was lost before emergence.
- Adult subordinate female BMO (VGDF020) became officially pregnant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. She gave birth between the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> but due to the same reasonings as above, the litter was deemed lost.
- Yearling subordinate female Yoriki (VGDF033) became officially pregnant at the end of the month.
- Pup Crazy Diamond (VGDM043) left the group on the 11<sup>th</sup> and was given his Last Seen later this month. Adult subordinate female Shelby (VGDF022) was also given her Last Seen this month, though we believe the undyed female seen occasionally by Gold Diggers to be her, though we have been unable to confirm it.
- Adult subordinate female Fleabag (VGDF005) and Yoriki left and returned to the group once. Adult subordinate male Rogelio De La Vega (VGDM015) left the group twice and returned both times, going roving at Zulus during one of those departures. Yearling subordinate female Poki (VGDF029) left the group 4 times starting from the 24<sup>th</sup> and returned to the group thrice. One of those departures was an eviction by BMO. She is still absent from the group as of the end of the month.
- Gold Diggers had an encounter with an undyed female on the 9<sup>th</sup>, with the female speculated to be Shelby. They also had encounter with two unknown individuals on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Gold Diggers had an inter-group interaction with Brussels Sprouts on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- One group split of uncertain duration was recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup>, with BMO and Poki getting separated from the group along with adult

subordinate female Juliet (VGDF009), adult subordinate male Beatrice (VGDM014), yearling subordinate female Tuna Fish II (VGDF026) and yearling subordinate male Jojo (VGDM032).

- Habituation at Gold Diggers is considered *Advanced Progress* as habituation work is being focused on Fleabag, Juliet and yearling subordinate female Ricky Baker (VGDF031). Ricky is calm at a distance of 1m, while the other females are a bit more skittish unless further away. Both Ricky and Juliet have started to approach the scale more frequently for water.
- All individuals seem to be in good health.

### Jaxx (FDC):

- There were 18 out of 21 meerkats present at Jaxx at the end of November.
- Dominant female Baloo (VJXF080) was made officially pregnant on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Yearling subordinate males Mr Jones (VJXM155) and Lucifero (VJXM156) were both given their Last Seen this month. Pup Hip Hop (VJXP177) also went missing this month and has been given its Last Seen.
- Adult subordinate male The Dude (VJXM142) left and returned to the group on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Yearling subordinate male Cigarette Smoking Man (VJXM153) left and returned to the group thrice. Yearling subordinate females Scully (VJXF149), Gray (VJXF150) and Queen Jane (VJXF158) all left the group at various points this month and are still absent at the end of the month.
- Yearling subordinate male Jack of Hearts (VJXM159) was moved out of the group this month but not given his Last Seen yet due to being a male during the breeding season.
- Jaxx had an encounter with an unknown individual on the 4<sup>th</sup>, as well as an encounter with 3 unknown individuals on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- No inter-group interactions were observed at Jaxx this month.
- Jaxx had one overnight group split recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- All individuals at Jaxx seem to be in good health.

### Lazuli (FDC):

- All 22 individuals were present at the end of November.
- Dominant female Sigma (VLF230) gave birth on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Since then, 2 pups have emerged as part of her litter, though due to their early emergence, there is a possibility that we have not seen the full size of the litter.
- Yearling subordinate female Dumpling (VLF272) was made officially pregnant on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Subadult subordinate female Qtpi (VLF284) was given her Last Seen this month.
- Both Dumpling and yearling subordinate male Taco (VLM273) left briefly on the 14<sup>th</sup> before returning to the group on the same day.
- Lazuli had an encounter with adult subordinate male Mion (VZUM057) from Vetkoeks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Lazuli had 2 inter-group interactions with Vetkoeks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Lazuli had 1 daily group split recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

- All individuals seem to be in good health.

#### **Namaqua (FDC):**

- There were 8 out of 8 members present at the end of November.
- Subadult subordinate female Luisa (VNQF031) was given her Last Seen this month.
- Namaqua had encounters with dominant male Paestrina (VLM211) from Elrond's Council on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- No inter-group interactions or group splits were seen in November.
- Dominant female Manzai (VNQF013) is suspected to have tuberculosis due to her being reported as being extremely skinny with signs of lethargy. She has also started losing patches of hair on both sides of her body. Yearling subordinate female Mia (VNQF027) has had her submandibular lump refilled, and subadult subordinate female Pika-Magenta-Sloan (VNQF036) has also developed a submandibular lump on her neck.

#### **Side Quest (FDC):**

- 10 out of 11 meerkats were present at the end of the month.
- Juvenile male Sbeve (VSIM016) left the group at the start of the month and is yet to return.
- There were no individual encounters or inter-group interactions recorded this month.
- Side Quest had 1 overnight group split on the 5<sup>th</sup> with yearling subordinate male Sam (VSIM001), subadult subordinate female Betelgeuse (VSIF010), subadult subordinate males Gino Pachino (VSIF012), Spike Spiegel (VSIM014) and Deltron Zero (VSIM015) all rejoining the group the next day.
- All individuals appear to be healthy.

#### **Ubuntu (FDC):**

- There were 18 out of 18 individuals present at the end of the month.
- Ever since dominant female Daisy's (VBBF111) death the previous month, female dominance at Ubuntu has remained unsettled, with adult subordinate female Cthulhu (VUBF035) and yearling subordinate females Masekind (VUBF037) and Agazoth (VUBF039) all trying to assert dominance over the other females of the group.
- Agazoth was confirmed as officially pregnant on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Pup Hazel (VUBF060) was last sighted with the group on the 11<sup>th</sup> and given her Last Seen this month.
- Ubuntu had no encounters or inter-group interactions this month.
- Ubuntu had one daily group split on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- All individuals in Ubuntu appear to be in good health.

#### **Whiskers (FDC):**

- 22 out of 25 members were present at the end of the month.
- Dominant female Luna (VWF235) was made officially pregnant on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Adult subordinate female Laika (VWF236) and yearling subordinate females Emily Bronte (VWF243) and Virginia Woolf (VWF244) all left the group this month and are yet to return. Virginia Woolf was consistently seen being attacked by Luna so she was possibly evicted, as were the other females.
- There was one encounter recorded with an unknown male on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- There were no inter-group interactions observed this month.
- Whiskers had a group split of uncertain duration on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- All individuals at Whiskers seem to be healthy.

#### **Zulus (FDC):**

- All 7 individuals were present at the end of November.
- Dominant male Scuzi (VWM213) left the group at the start of the month, leaving male dominance at Zulus unsettled.
- Dominant female Spruddel (VZUF028) gave birth on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but given there were no lactations or babysitters, and with the group changing burrows, the litter was deemed lost before emergence.
- Adult subordinate females Salazar (VZUF051), Helga (VZUF052) and Rowena (VZUF054) were all given their Last Seen this month, but then had them retracted as the females were then seen close to Zulus on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Zulus have had 2 encounters with unknown adults and an encounter with adult subordinate male Rogelio De La Vega (VGDM015) from Gold Diggers on the 16<sup>th</sup>. During this encounter, Spruddel separated from the group to mate with Rogelio. Finally, there were encounters with Salazar, Helga and Rowena this month as well on the same day.
- Zulus have had no inter-group interactions or group splits this month.
- All individuals in Zulus appear to be healthy.

#### **Life History Monitoring Groups:**

##### **Alba (LHM):**

- There were 12 out of 12 individuals present at the end of November.
- Subordinate female Kilie (VECF036) returned to the group on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Dominant female Tolkien (VECF019) gave birth on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. 3 pups have since emerged as part of that litter.
- Subadult subordinate females Rani (VALF002) and Madhubala (VALF006) were made officially pregnant this month, and both gave birth at the end of the month. Subadult subordinate female Maya (VALF003) aborted her litter at the start of the month.
- Alba have not had any encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits this month
- All individuals appear healthy.

##### **Brussels Sprouts (LHM):**

- There were 10 out of 11 individuals present at the end of November.

- Dominant male James (VGDM011) left the group on the 28<sup>th</sup> leaving male dominance at Brussels Sprouts unsettled. Adult subordinate males Jack (VGDM010) and Gurke (VHMM036) have been seen since with multiple injuries, suggesting they have been competing for dominance.
- Adult subordinate female Vivienne (VMPF038) was given her Last Seen this month.
- Jack, James and Gurke had also left the group at different points in the month and returned, as did subadult subordinate male Chilli (VBSM005) and pups Joep (VBSM007) and Sien (VBSF008).
- No encounters or group splits were seen this month.
- Brussels Sprouts had one inter-group interaction with Gold Diggers on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Habituation at Brussels Sprouts is considered *Advanced Progress*. We are focusing our habituation efforts on yearling subordinate male Jack (VGDM010). His habituation levels fluctuate with him sometimes being fine with the presence of observers and other times extremely skittish but he can be consistently weighed and comes to the scale for both egg and water.
- All individuals at Brussels Sprouts seem to be in good health.

#### **Hakuna Matata (LHM):**

- Hakuna Matata were seen once this month on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Dominant male Finnick (VLM234) has had his collar removed due to it not working. This leaves Hakuna Matata without a radio-collared individual.
- Hakuna Matata had a couple of sub-adults and 4 pups who were very skittish, due to receiving no visits from the observer team.

#### **Runaways (LHM):**

- All 18 members were present at the end of November.
- Yearling subordinate female Hrairoo (VRWF008), subadult subordinate male Adolin (VRWM012), subadult subordinate female Lift (VRWF014) and pup VRWF017, who were all separated in a group split by the end of last month, were all found back with the group when they were next visited again.
- Runaways had no encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits recorded this month.
- All individuals seem to be in good health.

#### **Vetkoeks (LHM):**

- All 4 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- Vetkoeks were sighted four times this month within our reserve.
- In all four sightings, adult subordinate female Lord Havelock (VHMF049) and yearling subordinate female Yasha (VHMF051) were not seen. This led to us to conclude that they have left the group and both females were given their Last Seen.

- Dominant female Mooncake (VHMF053) was made the official dominant female of the group due to being the only female left within the group.
- Adult subordinate male Mion (VZUM057) left the group once on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to go roving at Lazuli before returning to the group.
- Vetkoeks had two inter-group interactions with Lazuli on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The group has no radio-collared individual but if seen consistently enough on our reserve, will be outfitted with one eventually.

#### **Habituation Groups:**

##### **Make-e-Plan (HAB):**

- There were 18 out of 19 individuals present at the end of October.
- Pup Lil Lily (VMPM084) was not seen with the group from the end of the last month and confirmed as having officially left the group at the start of the month, leading to him getting his Last Seen later in the month.
- Subadult subordinate male Wonky (VMPM062), after not being seen with the group consistently, was considered to have left the group.
- No encounters, inter-group interactions and group splits were observed in November.
- The group's habituation is classed as *In Progress* with habituation work focused on the litters born into the group this year. Most individuals are tempted to the scale by egg and water, with the next goal being to acclimate the individuals to being groomed by the observers. This has been with mixed success with individuals such as subadult subordinate female Stinky (VMPF063) and subadult subordinate male Oozy (VMPM067) being extremely wary around hands. There have also been attempts to get subadult subordinate male Jude (VMPM071) used to the presence of people. Jude will not join the group if an observer is present and will run from bolthole to bolthole until the observer leaves.
- All individuals in the group appear to be healthy.

##### **Phoenix (HAB):**

- 13 unmarked individuals were present at the end of the month, including 4 pups.
- No encounters or interactions were witnessed this month.
- The group's habituation status is still *In Progress*. They have only been seen once this month which could be detrimental to their habituation progress. At the start of the month, they could wake up from the burrow with an observer 3m away, though half the group was more skittish until the observer moved away. There were two individuals, including one pup, who ate egg, which is a promising sign.
- All individuals at Phoenix appear to be healthy.

##### **Trackie-Daks (HAB):**

- 17 out of 18 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- Adult subordinate female Hachi (VWF238) was made officially pregnant on the 11<sup>th</sup>. She gave birth on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Yearling subordinate male George left the group on the 25<sup>th</sup> and has not returned as of the end of the month.
- There were no encounters, inter-group interactions, or group splits observed during the month.
- The habituation level is currently *In Progress*. Habituation efforts are focused on dominant male Coquillet (VTSM014) and the youngest litter in the group. Juvenile males Kroket (VTDM022) and Kotelet (VTDM023) are both weighable and can be followed. Coquillet still poses a challenge at times during follows with him not being comfortable with an observer closer than 3m while foraging. He will sometimes approach the scale to drink water though.
- All individuals appear to be healthy.

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

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