



The Meerkatter

The Friends of the Kalahari Meerkat Project Report - www.kalahari-meerkats.com - January 2023

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Golden Oldies

The Kalahari Meerkat Project has been running for almost thirty years. During this time span, after following the full lives of hundreds of meerkats, there have been a few individuals that survived on the reserve for more than a decade. To reach this age is no easy feat for a wild meerkat as they face many natural threats ranging from biotic factors such as predators to abiotic factors such as weather, which directly influences food availability. Here we present a few individuals from our current population who are our Golden Oldies.

Dominant male Brea (VLM157) at Whiskers is the oldest meerkat we have documented on the meerkat database of the Kalahari Meerkat Project. He was born around the 15th of September 2009 to former dominant female Young's (VLF111) litter in Lazuli. He left Lazuli in 2011 when he was two years old and immigrated into the group Cavemen. From there, he roved at Jaxx and Whiskers with adult subordinate males Snowy (VLM147) and K-Quob (VLM155) many times. Brea finally joined Whiskers in 2013 though he would not attain the position of dominant male of Whiskers until November 2014. He and previous dominant female Swift (VWF176) lead at Whiskers for a relatively peaceful seven years, from 2015 until 2022, when Swift died, and current dominant female Luna (VWF236) took over. Brea has been confirmed to have sired twenty-seven offspring as of 2020, which is when our genetics information stretches back to, but due to his longevity, there are probably more unconfirmed meerkats running around with his genes. He is a meerkat beloved by many people at the Kalahari Meerkat Project, and, while these days he forages at his own pace, usually being left behind, he is still doing well and will hopefully make it to his fourteenth birthday in September.

The oldest female on the reserve is the dominant female Bridget (VQLF011) at Make-e-Plan, closely followed by Jaxx's dominant female Baloo (VJXF080). Both these females were born in 2014, and both have given birth to some successful meerkats, because among their offspring, there is the Runaways dominant male Shiraz (VJXM122) from Baloo's litter, and dominant females Bigwig (VMPF022) from Runaways and Arabella (VMPF035) from Brussels Sprouts, who are from Bridget's litters.



Dominant female Bridget (VQLF011) allowing her pup to suckle at Make-e-Plan. Photo credit: KMP Life History Coordinator Maahir Jusabani.

Other golden oldies are dominant male Leonard (VLM221) and dominant female Sigma (VLF230), who reign at Jaxx and Lazuli, respectively. And after a stint at Zulus as dominant male, adult subordinate Palestrina (VLM211) was dominant male at Elrond's Council since October 2019 until this past month, when he forfeited the role to go join Alba alongside adult subordinate males Pucky (VECM022), Charlie (VECM031) and Ozzie (VECM033). After Brea, Palestrina is the second oldest male meerkat in our population, being born all the way back in January 2014. Palestrina and Leonard, who is eight years old, share the mother, previous Lazuli dominant female JubJub Bird (VLF194).

Impressively, all these meerkats have survived other meerkat groups as well as individuals in their own groups trying to compete for dominance, and aerial as well as the occasional terrestrial predators. Observers have noted that most of these individuals guard fairly frequently, which may be a contributing factor as to why they have survived this long.

Special mentions go to Gold Diggers' dominant male Shrew (VUBM018) and Zulus' dominant female Spruddel (VZUF028). They were both born in 2017, which makes them six years old. Spruddel has had a trying time keeping her pups during her pregnancy, but we have hope that these difficult times have come to an end. She has been the sole dominant meerkat since November 2022, when dominant male Scuzi (VWM213) went missing. The natal males have shown some signs of dominance in terms of marking, but not enough to confirm a new dominant male.

The longer meerkats stay alive, the more scars they collect and the more hunched their backs become,

which makes them even more endearing. We hope to see more meerkats achieve the longevity that Brea enjoyed at the Project in the years to come.



Dominant male Brea (VLM157) foraging in the Whiskers territory. Photo credit: KMP Life History Coordinator Trainee Annelise van Eeden.

Viva La Vetkoeks!

It has been a few months since their creation, but it is finally time to talk about the formation of our newest group Vetkoeks! On the 21st of July 2022, an observer was walking back from a morning session at Lazuli, when she suddenly noticed a meerkat standing guard on a bush. Upon further investigation, five more meerkats were spotted foraging nearby, some without any recognizable markings. The observer radioed in their sighting, and a transponder reader was sent to their location. Within a few minutes, we had the IDs of each individual, and they were, namely, Hakuna Matata adult subordinate females Lord Havelock (VHMF049), Yasha (VHMF051) and Mooncake (VHMF053) and Zulus adult subordinate male littermates Bear (VZUM056), Mion (VZUM057) and Zuma (VZUM059).

Bear, Mion and Zuma had all left Zulus on the 6th earlier that month. Lord Havelock had last been seen on the 9th of June, while Yasha and Mooncake were both last seen with Hakuna Matata on the 26th of June. Given Hakuna Matata's preferred foraging territory is on the Heights farm, an area we are unfortunately unable to visit, it is hard for us to determine when exactly the three females officially emigrated out of Hakuna Matata.



Adult subordinate male Bear (VZUM056) guarding at former group Zulus. Photo credit: Meerkat Manager Emma Brown.

Vetkoek's next sighting came all the way on the 10th of October, which is when we were able to make

them an official group. Our current protocol for official group creation is that a group needs to stay together for more than two months, or during the breeding season, that they need to have successfully bred and raised a litter together, which is considered to be when we have evidence of pups being born into the group. Vetkoeks ticked both of these criteria, as by this point, they had been together for at least two and a half months, and the two senior observers with them believed they saw potential signs of lactation on Yasha, indicating that they may have a litter nearby. This was further supported by the absence of Mooncake, who could have been babysitting.

This would be Vetkoek's only sighting of October, but they would then be sighted a further four times the following month. In each of those sightings, Lord Havelock and Yasha were not seen with the group, and so were determined to have left the group at some point in October. This left Mooncake, who was seen with the group following her absence in October, as the only female within the group, thus making her the official dominant female of Vetkoeks. The first Vetkoek sighting of November, on the 2nd, had them embedded firmly in Lazuli territory. We wondered whether this would lead to a run-in with Lazuli, and we did not have long to wait before events transpired. On the 3rd, Vetkoeks had two inter-group interactions with Lazuli where they were chased away by the much larger Lazuli group. Their subsequent sightings on the 22nd and the 23rd had them in between Lazuli and Whiskers territory, but they would not stay there for long.

They were seen twice in December, on the 2nd and 5th, and both sightings were extremely close to the main Kalahari Research Centre farmhouse Rus en Vrede. What was further exciting about these sightings is that in both instances, Mooncake was observed to be heavily pregnant. Given that both sightings were by senior observers, we came to the decision to declare her officially pregnant. The hope in early December was that if we spotted them once more and Mooncake had given birth, we could discover a babysitting burrow on our reserve, but sadly they were not seen again for the rest of the month.

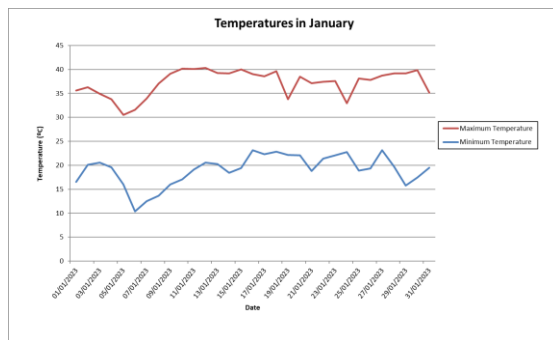
Mooncake's pregnancy did eventually bear fruit though, as during Vetkoek's sole sighting of January, four tiny pups were seen with the group. We were only able to give markings to three of the pups, so they are the only ones to have been officially entered into our database. Hopefully, we can mark the fourth pup when Vetkoeks are next seen.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, we have no way of knowing when our next Vetkoeks sighting will be. Due to them constantly moving onto the Heights farm, we have abstained from outfitting them with a radio collar. Due to the recent birth of Mooncake's litter though, it is now more urgent to see the group more frequently for the sake of the pups' habituation, and we will collar an individual when they are next seen, whenever that may happen next.

Pregnancies in January 2023

Females pregnant in January	17
Females who aborted	2
Females who gave birth, litters lost	1
Females who gave birth, litter emerged	3
Females who gave birth, unknown outcome	7
Females still pregnant at the end of the month	4

Weather at the KMP



Temperatures in January have been extremely hot with an average maximum temperature of 37.2 °C, with the hottest day being on the 12th of January with temperatures peaking at 40.3 °C. The coldest morning was on the 6th of January with a temperature of 10.4 °C. The total rainfall recorded for the month was 20.6 mm.

January 2023 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 (FDC)

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

Life History monitoring group (LHM)

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 (HAB)

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 (SUB)

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):

- 12 out of 13 individuals were present at the end of January.
- Dominant male Palestrina (VLM211), adult subordinate males Pavlova (VECM022) and Ozzie (VECM033) all left and returned to the group on the 3rd. Palestrina and Ozzie, alongside adult subordinate males Pucky (VECM023) and Charlie (VECM031) all emigrated out of the group on the 19th following an inter-group interaction with Alba.
- Pavlova left the group on the 13th and is yet to return as of the end of the month.
- Elrond's Council had no encounters this month.
- They had 3 inter-group interactions with Alba on the 19th.
- They had a daily group split recorded on the 17th, with Palestrina, Charlie, Ozzie, yearling subordinate female Mojo Jojo (VECF038), and yearling subordinate male littermates Petit Di Gio (VECM046), Chabal (VECM047) and Perceval (VECM048) all returning the same day.
- All individuals at Elrond's Council seem to be in good health.

Gold Diggers (FDC):

- All 14 members were present at the end of January.
- Adult subordinate males Beatrice (VGDM014) and Rogelio De La Vega (VGDM015), who were absent at the end of last month, returned on the 2nd.
- On the 19th, during an evening session, dominant female Goldeneye (VGDF007) was seen giving birth to a pup above ground. The pup was immediately taken down a sleeping burrow by Goldeneye, who potentially gave birth to more pups below.
- Adult subordinate female BMO (VGDF020) was given her Last Seen this month.
- Yearling subordinate male Jojo (VGDM032) was moved out of the group after having been gone for a month but not yet given his Last Seen due to being a male in the breeding season.
- Rogelio De La Vega left the group on the 2nd to go roving at Lazuli before returning to the group on the 5th. He left once more on the 11th alongside Beatrice and returned on the 14th, while Beatrice returned on the 16th. Beatrice also

left the group on the 6th following an inter-group interaction but returned the same day. Yearling subordinate male Baymax (VGDM028) left and returned to the group both on the 5th and the 6th.

- Gold Diggers had an inter-group interaction with an unknown group on the 6th that we suspect to be Gold Diggers 3 but cannot confirm as such.
- Gold Diggers had no encounters recorded this month.
- Gold Diggers had a daily group split on the 28th, which included Beatrice, Baymax, yearling subordinate female Yorki (VGDF033), subadult subordinate male Vegeta (VGDM038), subadult subordinate females Maya II (VGDF039) and Mikasa (VGDF042), juvenile male Corndog (VGDM044) and juvenile females Triss Merigold (VGDF045) and Fernet Branca (VGDF046).
- Habituation at Gold Diggers is considered *Advanced Progress* with the focus on subadult subordinate female Dizle (VGDF040). Dizle has improved and now allows observers to stand next to her while foraging and can be weighed consistently.
- All individuals at Gold Diggers appear to be healthy.

Jaxx (FDC):

- All 26 meerkats were present at Jaxx at the end of January.
- 5 pups have emerged as part of dominant female Baloo's (VJXF080) litter.
- Adult subordinate male Fred (VJXM146) left the group on the 11th and 18th to return on the 17th and 19th respectively. Subadult subordinate male Howard Moon (VJXM165) left on the 16th and returned the following day, as well as leaving on the 30th and returning on the 31st.
- No encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were observed at Jaxx this month.
- All individuals at Jaxx seem to be in good health.

Lazuli (FDC):

- All 24 individuals were present at the end of January.
- Dominant female Sigma (VLF230) is still pregnant at the end of this month, after being confirmed as pregnant at the end of the previous month.
- Adult subordinate female Haopia (VLF244) was seen on the 18th after being given her Last Seen in June but was hit by a car and died.
- Adult subordinate female Dumpling (VLF272) left the group on the 3rd to go mate with Gold Diggers adult subordinate male rover Rogelio De La Vega (VGDM015) before returning to the group on the same day. She further left the group on the 24th and returned on the 27th before leaving for the last time on the 29th alongside adult subordinate female Pichu (VLF274). Pichu had also left the group earlier on the 28th before returning on the same day.
- Both Dumpling and Pichu are still absent from the group as of the end of the month.
- Lazuli had 3 encounters with Rogelio De La Vega on the 3rd, as well as an encounter with an unknown meerkat on the 10th.

- Lazuli had an inter-group interaction with an unknown group on the 21st. We believe it to have been Gold Diggers 3 but cannot confirm as we were unable to verify the markings.
- Lazuli had a daily group split on the 24th, which included adult subordinate male Taco (VLF273), yearling subordinate male Lord Escort (VLM282), subadult subordinate male Girdle (VLM287), subadult subordinate female Ruby (VLF288), juvenile females Valkyrie (VLF293) and Audumbla (VLF296), juvenile male Heimdall (VLM295), and pups VLM298, VLF299 and VLM300.
- All individuals seem to be in good health.

Namaqua (FDC):

- All 7 members were present at the end of January.
- Former dominant female Manzai (VNQF013) was given her Last Seen this month.
- Namaqua do not have a radio-collared individual but were still able to be visited frequently.
- No encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen in January.
- Dominant female Mia (VNQF027), subadult subordinate female Pika-Magenta-Sloan (VNQF036) and subadult subordinate males Calen Du Lee (VNQM035) and Bruno (VNQM037) all have tuberculosis lumps at the end of the month.

Side Quest (FDC):

- All 14 meerkats were present at the end of the month.
- Dominant female Pumba (VZUF048) gave birth on the 3rd. Since then, 5 pups have emerged as part of Pumba's litter.
- Yearling subordinate female Brie (VSIF005) was made officially pregnant on the 4th but aborted her litter on the 8th.
- Subadult subordinate male Spike Spiegel (VSIM014) was moved out of the group this month after being absent for a month's time but is yet to be given his Last Seen.
- Side Quest had an encounter with an unknown meerkat on the 28th.
- There were no inter-group interactions or group splits recorded this month.
- All individuals appear to be healthy.

Ubuntu (FDC):

- There were 16 out of 17 individuals present at the end of the month.
- Adult subordinate female Masekind (VUBF037) was made officially pregnant on the 12th but was reported as having aborted her litter on the 16th because the gestation period was too short.
- There have been 3 pups that have emerged as part of dominant female Cthulhu's (VUBF35) and adult subordinate female Artemis' (VUBF044) litters, with VUBP062 and VUBP063 born to Cthulhu's and Wobble (VUBP064) to Artemis.
- Adult subordinate male Captain Barbosa (VLM265) is still reported as being absent from the group at the end of this month.

- Ubuntu had an encounter with 3 unknown meerkats on the 2nd.
- No inter-group interactions were observed at Ubuntu this month.
- Ubuntu had two daily group splits, one on the 18th and one on the 27th. On the 18th, the meerkats split from the group were adult subordinate female Agazoth (VUBF039), yearling subordinate males Subigubi (VUBM050) and Donut (VUBM055), and yearling subordinate females Evikutty (VUBF051) and Muffin (VUBF052). The individuals who were split from the group on the 27th were Masekind, Muffin, Subigubi, juvenile male Ringo (VUBM059), and pups VUBP062, VUBP063, and VUBP064.
- There have been a few permanent injuries at Ubuntu. VUBP063 has a crooked tail, and VUBP064 has a missing index toe. The rest of the group had all sustained injuries but they are all healing. We are unsure as to what caused the injuries but we theorise that it might have been an attack from an unknown terrestrial predator.

Whiskers (FDC):

- All 23 members were present at the end of the month.
- Adult subordinate female Laika (VWF236) made an appearance on the 7th and rejoined Whiskers on the 9th, while adult subordinate female Emily Bronte (VWF243) rejoined the group on the 13th. Dominant male Brea (VLM157) left the group on the 6th and returned on the same day.
- Yearling subordinate female Chomp (VWF251) gave birth on the 29th. The outcome of her litter is unknown at the time of writing. Laika (VWF236) gave birth on the 5th while away from the group. On the 9th Laika rejoined the group, and the 3 pups that have since emerged, have been immigrated and accepted into Whiskers.
- Adult subordinate female Virginia Woolf (VWF244) and yearling subordinate female Flake (VWF247) both retroactively lost their litters before emergence, because the group moved sleeping burrows, no lactations were reported and the pups were frequently left on their own.
- Adult subordinate males Floki (VWM241), Oscar Wilde (VWM245), and yearling subordinate male BarOne (VWM248) were all given their Last Seen on the 27th of this month.
- Whiskers had one encounter with an unknown adult female on the 6th.
- Whiskers had no inter-group interactions.
- Whiskers had one daily group split on the 29th recorded this month. The individuals who were part of the group split were Laika, Emily Bronte, Flake, yearling subordinate female Crunchie (VWF250), Chomp, subadult subordinate female Candyland (VWF256), subadult subordinate male Battleship (VWM257), and juvenile females Mage (VWF258), Thunderbird (VWF261) and Black Dragon (VWF264).
- All individuals at Whiskers seem to be healthy.

Zulus (FDC):

- 7 out of 10 individuals were present at the end of January.
- Adult subordinate females Salazar (VZUF051), Helga (VZUF052) and Rowena (VZUF054) left Zulus on the 17th. Salazar and Helga returned on the 26th and then left again on the same day. All three females have made appearances since then but have not returned to the group.
- Adult subordinate males Willow (VZUM063), Tazara (VZUM064) and sub-adult male Spirit (VZUM068) left the group to go roving at Alba on the 4th of this month. They returned to their group by the end of the day.
- Dominant female Spruddel (VZUF028), Helga and Rowena were all made officially pregnant on the 7th. Helga and Rowena were recorded as having given birth on the 25th, while Spruddel gave birth on the 28th. We do not know the outcome of Spruddel's and Rowena's litters yet, but there are babysitters left at the sleeping burrow and Spruddel is lactating. Adult subordinate female Spoekies (VZUF062) gave birth on the 8th, but the litter was considered lost before emergence, because there were no babysitters or females lactating.
- We do know the outcome of Helga's litter. Her litter was lost to infanticide by Spruddel, as an observer saw Spruddel eat at least one pup on the 26th.
- Zulus had no encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits this month.
- All individuals in Zulus appear to be healthy.

Life History Monitoring Groups:

Alba (LHM):

- There were 15 out of 16 individuals present at the end of January.
- Adult subordinate males Palestrina (VLM211), Pucky (VECM023), Charlie (VECM031) and Ozzie (VECM033) all immigrated into the group from Elrond's Council on the 26th.
- Adult subordinate male Godric (VZUM053) is no longer the dominant male of the group following the immigration of the new males. Since then, Palestrina, Pucky and Charlie have been observed competing for dominance.
- Dominant female Tolkien (VECF019) gave birth on the 23rd.
- Adult subordinate female Kilie (VECF036) returned to the group on the 30th after repeated attempts to rejoin the group. Godric left the group on the 27th and is yet to return by the end of the month.
- Alba had 2 encounters on the 4th with Zulus adult subordinate male Tazara (VZUM064) as well as 2 other individuals suspected to be Zulus adult subordinate male Willow (VZUM063) and subadult subordinate male Spirit (VZUM068). The group encountered Pucky, Charlie and Ozzie on the 23rd, 24th and 25th prior to their immigration into the group. Finally, they had an encounter with 3 unknown individuals on the 24th, with another encounter later in the day with an unknown meerkat.

- Alba had 3 inter-group interactions with Elrond's Council on the 19th.
- Alba had no group splits recorded this month.
- All individuals appear healthy.

Brussels Sprouts (LHM):

- All 10 individuals were present at the end of January.
- Yearling subordinate females Totoro (VBSF001) and Lyra (VBSF002) were made officially pregnant on the 4th and 20th respectively.
- Adult subordinate male Jack (VGDM010) was moved out of the group on the 3rd but is yet to be given his Last Seen.
- Adult subordinate male James (VGDM011) left and returned to the group twice on the 3rd.
- No encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits were seen this month.
- Habituation at Brussels Sprouts is considered *Complete* as Jack, who was the focus individual at the group, is no longer officially considered part of Brussels Sprouts, completing Brussels Sprouts' habituation progress.
- All individuals at Brussels Sprouts seem to be in good health.

Runaways (LHM):

- All 18 members were present at the end of January.
- Runaways were only visited once at the start of this month.
- We cannot confirm at this time if dominant female Bigwig (VMPPF022) is still pregnant or has given birth.
- Runaways had no encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits recorded this month.
- All individuals seem to be in good health.

Vetkoeks (LHM):

- All 7 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- Vetkoeks were sighted once this month within our reserve.
- Dominant female Mooncake (VHMF053) was reported as having given birth last month, as 4 pups were seen foraging with the group on the 21st of this month. We have only managed to mark 3 of the 4 pups.
- The group has no radio-collared individual but if seen consistently enough on our reserve, will be outfitted with one eventually.

Habituation Groups:

Hakuna Matata (HAB):

- Hakuna Matata were not seen this month.

Make-e-Plan (HAB):

- All 18 individuals were present at the end of January.
- Dominant female Bridget (VQLF011) gave birth this month on the 16th. While she was never confirmed as officially pregnant due to the group not being visited enough, she has definitely

given birth due to her lactating and the group not moving sleeping burrows.

- Adult subordinate females Millewa (VMPPF048), Cassie (VMPPF050), Bonxie (VMPPF054), Sophie (VMPPF055) and Archie (VMPPF057) all left the group on the 9th. Millewa, Cassie, Bonxie and Sophie were reported as having returned to the group on the 19th while Archie returned on the 20th.
- Subadult subordinate male Wonky (VMPPM062) was given his Last Seen this month.
- No encounters, inter-group interactions and group splits were observed in January.
- The group's habituation is classed as *In Progress*. Most of the group are interested in eating egg, and the next focus is to get them habituated to grooms, which the younger individuals are very wary of. We are also working on approaching the group in the evenings. Some of the group are fine with our arrival, while others panic, so we clearly need to invest time in this. Subadult subordinate male Jude (VMPPM071) is still the wariest individual and will always stay approximately 10-20 m away from observers.
- All individuals in the group appear to be healthy.

Phoenix (HAB):

- Phoenix have been visited multiple times in January. During those visits we have seen approximately 6-9 individuals within the group.
- A female at Phoenix was pregnant and by the end of the month we are confident that she has given birth. We will try to increase visits to the group now that they have a babysitting burrow.
- The group's habituation status is still *In Progress*. We are currently trying to get them habituated to the presence of a cage as well as getting them to eat egg. One female and one juvenile are eating egg and we hope to eventually habituate them to the cage in order to capture them and outfit an individual with a radio collar.
- All individuals at Phoenix appeared to be healthy last month.

Trackie-Daks (HAB):

- 20 out of 21 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- Yearling subordinate male Raclette (VTDM017) left on the 7th and returned on the 28th. Pup Kleine Krab (VTDM026) left on the 28th and has not been seen since.
- Yearling subordinate male George (VTDM008) has been given his Last Seen this 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 4 new pups from subordinate female Hachi's (VWF238) litter. Coquillet was weighed twice in January; at the sleeping burrow he would approach the scale for water. During group follows, he can be followed at 3-8m on a good day. The pups are being habituated to eating egg and getting into

the scale, as well as being handled and being groomed.

- All individuals appear to be healthy.

Sub-groups:

Gold Diggers 3 (SUB):

- Yearling subordinate female Poki (VGDF029) from Gold Diggers was first seen on the 29th going down a burrow with 8 other individuals. The next day, those individuals were confirmed to be yearling subordinate males Asani (VUBM045), Rufaro (VUBM046), Kwame (VUBM047) and Jaivyn (VUBM048), as well as yearling subordinate female Tuna Fish II (VGDF026) from Gold Diggers. 3 other females were observed but we have not yet been able to identify them, but suspect them to be adult subordinate females Fleabag (VGDF005), Juliet (VGDF009) and Shelby (VGDF022) from Gold Diggers.
- On the 31st, the group woke up together again, meaning they had slept together long enough to be confirmed as a new sub-group.
- One of the unidentified females is considered pregnant. Once she gives birth, the sub-group can be considered to have bred together and will be confirmed as an official group.

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