



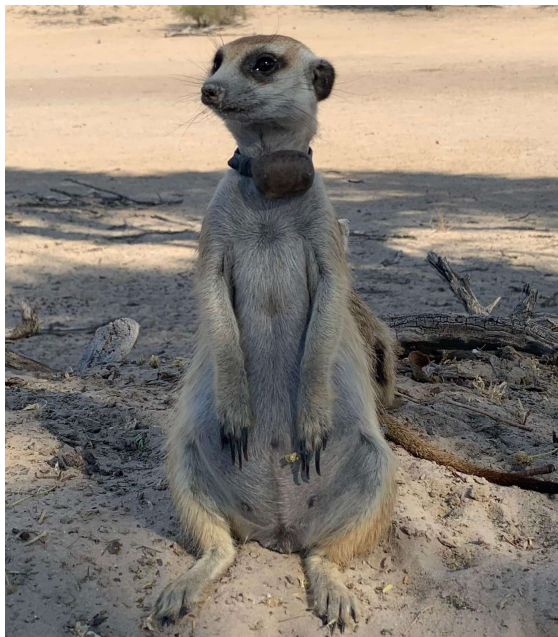
The Meerkatter

The Friends of the Kalahari Meerkat Project Report – www.kalahari-meerkats.com – December 2024

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Under Pressure

Suricata suricatta are cooperative breeders - they form a reproductive system in which helpers cooperate and raise offspring of other group members. In meerkats, dominant females monopolise reproduction and to a large part suppress the reproduction in subordinate females. Subordinate males do get the opportunity to mate during breeding season by going roving, allowing them to produce offspring without social consequences in their natal group. Subordinate females do not have this option as they cannot immigrate to other groups and are therefore limited by the social pressures of their group. For this article, we will concentrate on females who get less, if any, opportunities to mate.



Pregnant Dumpling (VLF272) resting after a long morning of foraging. Photo credit: Saverio Carrera, Meerkat volunteer

This month, our observers witnessed the transformation of one of our subordinate female meerkats, Masiwa (VLF308) at Lazuli to become dominant. On the morning of the 11th of December, Lazuli's previous dominant female Dumpling (VLF272) fell victim of a suspected snake bite. She tried to keep up with the foraging group, but less than fifteen minutes after having started foraging she retreated into a bolthole. Over the next week, observers regularly checked for a beep from that bolthole, and in the first few days she seemed to have

moved around slightly, although remained in the same burrow system. An emergency collar was fitted on Masiwa later that week - the only remaining adult female at Lazuli. Dumpling's body finally was excavated later that week, confirming her death.

Following this, Masiwa became the only eligible female for the female dominance position in the group and within days, started displaying dominance behaviours, such as performing marking frenzies regularly, and acting more aggressively around the other members of the group. During the time Masiwa became dominant all other subordinate adult females of the group had previously been evicted by Dumpling during her pregnancy. Masiwaeing only a yearling in age, Masiwa had no hurry to gain dominance within the group, and she was still light in weight for a dominant female. However, over the month of December, Masiwa has gained more than 100 grams, reflecting a quick physiological change within her newly found position.

The pressure for Masiwa displaying her dominance rather came from outside the group, as Dik-Dik's evicted adult subordinate female Tuna-Fish II (VGDF026) attempted to join Lazuli on the 24th of December. Towards the end of the encounter, which lasted the morning, she ended up successfully foraging within the group and could have taken over dominance - being a much heavier meerkat than Masiwa was. The fate of Lazuli - the oldest standing, and somewhat symbolic group in our study population - was in contest. If Tuna Fish II, an outside, non-related female would take over dominance a new group would emerge, and Lazuli as a group would end here. This is based on the definition of a group that females becoming dominant and successfully breed determine the begin of a group. Only natal females taking over dominance from the previous related (sister, mother, grandmother) dominant female ensure the continuation of a group over generations. Our observer's held their breaths, whether Lazuli as a group would survive. It was only later that morning, with a sigh of relief, when our observer following the group reported that the group, led by Masiwa, had finally chased the intruding female away.

Masiwa's mother Dumpling, also became dominant at Lazuli in May 2023 when her mother Sigma (VLF230) got bitten by a snake. Looking at Dumpling's situation in the transition to becoming dominant shows that she experienced a very different social context to Masiwa. Dumpling was the heaviest and oldest subordinate female and gained dominance in a different manner. Being one of nine other females in the group, she had to find the right

balance between not being too threatening to the dominant female, but at the same time still being stronger and heavier than the 9 other subordinate females. Dominant females will evict those most likely to be reproductive competitors and considering age and size, older subordinate females are most likely to reproduce¹. Subordinate females increase in size and weight as they age which makes older individuals, besides females that are more distantly related to the dominant, more likely to be evicted¹. During her time as a subordinate, back in early 2023, Dumpling was evicted twice for an overall period of more than a month. The timing of her mother's death worked in her favour, as she was not evicted, and was able to assert her dominance straight away, avoiding a prolonged period of instability in the group. Dumpling gained dominance without observed contest from other females in the group and proceeded to gain 50 grams over the next month. This is a less drastic gain of weight than with Masiwa, still substantial and likely explained that Dumpling was already much heavier at this time.



Masiwa (VLF308) sunning in the morning at the burrow. Photo credit: Sofya Melnikova, Life History Coordinator.

Dumpling being a member of a group with 9 other eligible females had to deal with keeping them all in order. The week following her gaining dominance, she maintained her position by exerting dominance assertions on 8 individuals within the group - with over ten different episodes of assertion. Indeed, Dumpling had to keep asserting her dominance over the other females, despite being the oldest and heaviest meerkat leaving, to avoid any further unrest within the group. It has been shown that prolonged periods of dominance competition led to more rapid senescence in the concerned females². She also went on to produce four successful litters, while her previous litter was unsuccessful when she was a subordinate. Three months later, another sign of her firm dominance maintenance was that during her first pregnancy as dominant she is suspected to have evicted three female's adult subordinate female Ma Di Tau (VLF278) and yearling subordinate females Audumbla (VLF296) and Ruby (VLF288) only 22 days after her pregnancy was made official.

Masiwa and Dumpling, both within the same group and highly related, represent two very different examples by which an individual may gain and maintain dominance within their group. This difference is due to the individual's social position in the group and overall fitness, as we were able to see a clear shift in behaviour and weight between them filling the niche of a subordinate individual, and the rapid transition into filling the niche of a dominant individual. We look forward to observing the development of Masiwa as a dominant at Lazuli and report on the dominance dynamics at Lazuli in general over the coming months, in hopes for a breeding event, such as a first official pregnancy for Masiwa.

References:

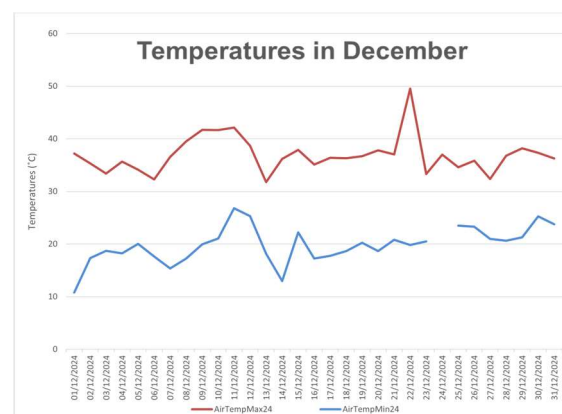
¹ Young et al, 2006. Stress and the suppression of subordinate reproduction in cooperatively breeding meerkats.

²Sharp & Clutton Brock, 2011 (2). Competition, breeding success and ageing rates in female meerkats.

Pregnancies in December 2024

Females pregnant in December	12
Females who aborted	0
Females who gave birth, litters lost	1
Females who gave birth, litter emerged	0
Females who gave birth, unknown outcome	5
Females still pregnant at the end of the month	6

Weather at the KMP



The average minimum temperature was 19.8°C and the average maximum temperature was 36.9°C. The hottest day was on the 22nd of December, at 49.5°C. The coldest day was on the 1st with a temperature of 10.7°C. It rained four times in December with a total amount of rainfall of 66.4mm.

December 2024 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:

Alba (FDC):

- All 10 individuals were present at the end of December.
- Dominant female Cleopatra (VALF008) gave birth on the 30th. The pups were not seen by the end of the month.
- Enough time has passed for adult subordinate male Palestrina (VLM211) and yearling subordinate males Apollo (VALM010) and Patrick (VALM011) to be emigrated out of Alba.
- The group had no observed encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits this month.
- All individuals appeared healthy at the end of the month.

Brussels Sprouts (FDC):

- All 7 members of the group were present at the end of the month.
- Three pups Porcini (VBSM012), Toadstool (VBSM013) and Shiitake (VBSM014) foraged with the group for the first time this month.
- Sub-adult subordinate male Hercules (VBSM011) was given his Last Seen this month.
- Adult subordinate male Gurke (VHMM036) did not wake up with the group on the 20th, he was back with the group later the same day.

- Brussels Sprouts had no encounters, inter group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health.

Elrond's Council (FDC):

- All 13 individuals were present at the of the December.
- *Male dominance* remained *unconfirmed* at Elrond's Council.
- Dominant female Snoop Kat (VECF039) has given birth this month. The pups have not yet been seen but with confirmed lactation and babysitting the litter is thought to be alive.
- Enough time has passed for adult males Perceval (VECM048) and Tower (VECM050), yearling male Fiuflu (VECM053) and sub-adult male Piccolo (VECM60) to be emigrated out of the group.
- On the 17th, adult subordinate female Mojo Jojo (VECF038) was not with the group, she was back with the group on the 27th.
- Elrond's Council had 10 encounters this month. On the 4th, the group frenzied, and war danced multiple times at an unknown adult male, yearling male Nightblood (VECM056) chased the individual who retreated and returned multiple times. On the 5th, the group war danced, and adult male Ivory (VECM051) chased an unknown individual who retreated and remained at a 50m distance from the group. On the morning of the 17th, the group war danced and chased two unknown males who retreated and returned. In the afternoon of the 17th, the group war danced and chased an unknown male who retreated from the group. On the 27th, Zulus' adult subordinate male Rain (VZUM067) was roving at Elronds Council. Yearling males Hoid (VECM055) and Nightblood, and sub-adult male Arpeggio (VECM057) chased Rain who retreated and returned to his group Zulus.
- The group had no inter-group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- All members appeared healthy by the end of December.

Gold Diggers (FDC):

- All 15 members were present by the of the month.
- Five pups - Bokkie (VGDM067), Aapje (VGDF068), Bubba (VGDM069), Poes (VGDF070) and Dottie (VGDF071) emerged from the burrow and joined the group on their first forage this month.
- On the 31st, yearling subordinate female Serafina Pekkala (VGDF049) left the group while chasing away Lazuli's adult subordinate male Subigubi (VUBM050) who tried approaching the group. She was seen returning to the group with Subigubi. Yearling subordinate female Manchego (VGDF054) left the group twice during an encounter with Subigubi. Both times, Manchego was seen returning back to the group with Subigubi.
- The group had 6 encounters this month. On the 30th, Ubuntu's adult subordinate male Beans

(VUBM053) was seen trying to enter Gold Diggers sleeping burrow but eventually retreated and remained at a 30m distance from the burrow until the group went below. On the 31st, Beans was roving at Gold Diggers. The group war danced, and yearling subordinate male Captain Patel (VGDM048) chased Beans away multiple times. Beans retreated and remained at a 30m distance from the group and eventually left the group.

- There were no inter group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health.

Jaxx (FDC):

- 7 out of 9 individuals were present at Jaxx at the end of December.
- Dominant female Jub Jub (VJXF160) gave birth this month. The pups have not been seen yet, but with observed babysitting and lactation the litter is thought to be alive.
- On the 2nd, dominant male Sneaky (VJXM170) left the group in the morning and returned shortly after the same day. On the 7th, adult subordinate female Nomvula (VJXF172) did not wake up with the group. On the 19th, adult subordinate male Hlumelo (VJXM176) did not wake up with the group. On the 22nd, Sneaky was not with the group on arrival, he was seen returning to the group on the 23rd. Sneaky left the group again the same evening and rejoined the group the same evening.
- Nomvula and Hlumelo are yet to return by the end of the month.
- Jaxx had three encounters with unknown adult males this month. On the morning of the 28th, an unknown adult male was seen and ignored by the group, he remained foraging at a 30-50m distance from the group. On the evening the same day, the group war danced and chased an unknown adult male who retreated and remained foraging at a 20m distance from the group. Sub-adult subordinate male Gobi (VJXM194) was seen overmarking during the encounter. On the 29th, Sneaky chased an unknown adult male away from the group, the male remained foraging at a 20m distance from the group and the group ignored him.
- There were no inter-group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- All individuals appeared to be in good health at the end of the month.

Lazuli (FDC):

- 10 out of 11 individuals were present at the end of December.
- Dominant female Dumpling (VLF272) was presumably bitten by a snake on the 11th this month. She was last seen lethargic trying to keep up with the group before retreating down a bolthole. Her body was excavated on the 21st of this month.
- *Female dominance* at Lazuli has changed this month. As the only eligible female, yearling female Masiwa (VLF308) was made officially

dominant and was seen asserting her dominance over other individuals in the group.

- On the 18th, yearling subordinate female Nontokozo (VLF307) was bitten by a puff adder on the right side of the neck and left behind by the group. Since she was not seen since the bite, we can safely assume that she has succumbed to the bite and was given her Last Seen this month.
- Enough time has passed for yearling subordinate male Tahini (VLM301) to be emigrated out of the group.
- Yearling subordinate male Baba Ghanoush (VLM302), and sub-adult subordinate female Heidi (VLF311) were given their Last Seen this month.
- On the 2nd, pup Bumble (VLF320) was left behind by the group during a morning foraging session. She rejoined the group later the same morning. On the 3rd, adult subordinate males Subigubi (VUBM050) and Kush (VLM298) were not with the group and returned to the group later the same day. On the 11th, Dumpling being bitten by snake left the group and retreated down a bolthole. On the 24th, yearling subordinate male Tinashe (VLM310) and Kush were not seen with the group on arrival. Kush returned to the group later the same day and Tinashe was back with the group on the 28th. Subigubi left the group on the 29th and woke up with the group on the 30th. He left the group that morning with Kush and returned later the same day. Subigubi left again in the afternoon of the 30th, he was seen roving at Gold Diggers that afternoon. Kush was back with the group on the 31st.
- Subigubi is yet to return by the end of the month.
- Lazuli had 8 encounters this month. On the 4th, Ubuntu's adult subordinate male Beans (VUBM053) was seen at a 10m distance from the groups babysitting burrow. The group war danced and chased Beans away who retreated. On the 5th, the group saw and ignored Beans who retreated from the group. On the 24th, the group war danced and chased two unknown adults who retreated. Later the same day, former Dik-Diks' adult subordinate female Tuna Fish II (VGDF026) was seen foraging 25m away from Lazuli. Masiwa and Tuna Fish II physically fought, and the group chased Tuna Fish II who retreated. On the 28th, sub-adult subordinate male Tumtum (VLM315) chased Beans away from the group who retreated. On the 31st, the group war danced and chased an unknown adult who retreated and returned twice.
- The group had no observed inter group interactions or group splits this month.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health by the end of the month.

Side Quest (FDC):

- 11 out of 12 members were present at the end of the month.
- Dominant female Pumba (VZUF048) was made officially pregnant this month.
- Enough time has passed for adult subordinate males Deltron Zero (VSIM015) and Gino

Pachino (VSIM012), yearling subordinate male Toph (VSIM024) and sub-adult subordinate male Lollipop (VSIM037) to be given their Last Seen.

- Yearling subordinate female Sybil (VSIF025) was not with the group on the 20th, she is yet to return by the end of the month.
- The group had nine observed encounters this month with former adult subordinate female Motoko Kusanagi (VSIF013). On the 2nd, the group war danced and chased Motoko Kusanagi who retreated. Yearling subordinate female Otje (VSIF028) was seen chinning and anal marking Motoko Kusanagi who retreated. On the 3rd, the group chased Motoko Kusanagi who retreated. On the 7th, Motoko Kusanagi woke up at the group's sleeping burrow. She was seen by two individuals and ran away as soon as the rest of the group came up. On the 8th, 16th and 17th, the group war danced and chased Motoko Kusanagi who retreated. On the 20th, the group chased an unknown individual who retreated from the group.
- Side Quest had no observed inter-group interactions or group splits this month.
- All individuals appeared in good health by the end of December.

Trackie-Daks (FDC):

- All 13 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- Dominant female Boubou (VTDF028) was made officially pregnant this month.
- Enough time has passed for adult subordinate males Krokot (VTDM022) and Guardy McGuardface (VTDM012) to be given their Last Seen.
- On the 22nd, sub-adult subordinate male Tsodiyo (VTDM042) was evicted from the group. Trackie-Daks war danced and chased Tsodiyo who retreated and returned multiple times. He was back with the group later the same day. On the 23rd, yearling subordinate female Unova (VTDF037) was not seen with the group, she woke up with the group on the 29th.
- Trackie-Daks had no encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- The habituation level is currently in *Advanced Progress*. Dominant male Guido (VWM275) drinks water and gets into the scale regularly. He is comfortable with 3m follows for 15 minutes.
- All individuals appeared to be healthy by the end of the month.

Ubuntu (FDC):

- All 12 individuals were present at the end of the December.
- Three pups Ursula (VUBF077), Chonky (VUBM078) and Teenietots (VUBM079) emerged from their sleeping burrow this month and have joined the group on their first forage.
- Adult subordinate female Martini (VUBF061), yearling subordinate female Tiddlywink (VUBF069), adult subordinate male Libby (VUBM058) and yearling subordinate males Hooligan (VUBM068) and Flibbertijbbet

(VUBM066) were given their Last Seen this month.

- On the 4th, adult subordinate male Beans (VUBM053) was roving at Lazuli, he was back with the group on the 6th. On the 24th, Beans did not wake up with the group, he returned to the group on the 25th. On the 28th, Beans was roving at Lazuli, he woke up with Ubuntu on the 29th and left the group later the same morning. He was back with the group in the evening. On the 30th, Beans was seen leaving the group in the morning, he returned to the group in the evening.
- Ubuntu had 3 encounters this month with Lazuli's adult subordinate male Girdle (VLM287). On the 10th, the group chased Girdle who retreated and remained at a 20m distance from the group. He approached Bruindtjie and Stokkies and was chased away by Greebo but returned and remained at a 20m distance from the group.
- Ubuntu had 5 encounters this month. On the 2nd, the group war danced at Vetkoeks' adult subordinate male Zuma (VZUM059) who was seen around the group's babysitting burrow. Zuma retreated and followed the group as they left to forage. On the 4th, the group war danced and then ignored Zuma who remained around the group while they foraged. On the 7th, yearling subordinate male Hightail (VUBM073) and sub-adult Chakalaka (VUBM076) chased Zuma who retreated from the group. On the 20th and the 29th, the group war danced and chased an unknown adult who retreated from the group.
- The group had no observed inter-group interactions this month.
- Ubuntu had one daily group split on the 23rd.
- All individuals at the group appeared to be in good health.

Zulus (FDC):

- 7 out of 8 individuals were present at the end of December.
- Dominant female Spruddel (VZUF028) gave birth and lost her litter this month. Yearling subordinate female Leona (VZUF070) was made officially pregnant this month.
- Enough time has passed for adult subordinate male Rain (VZUM067) to be emigrated out of the group.
- On the morning of the 17th, Leona was observed being evicted from the group. The group war danced at her and yearling subordinate female Sooty (VZUF071) chased her away from the burrow. On the 23rd, Sooty was seen leaving the group in the morning, she was back with the group later the same day. Sooty was not with the group in the evening of the 23rd, she woke up with group on the 27th.
- Leona is yet to return by the end of the month.
- The group had 3 encounters this month. On the 20th, the group war danced and chased an unknown adult who retreated and returned multiple times. On the 28th, the group war danced and chased an unknown adult who retreated from the group. On the 30th, the group war danced at an unknown adult who retreated.

- Zulus had no observed inter group interactions in the month of December.
- The group had one daily group split on the 23rd.
- All individuals in Zulus appeared to be healthy by the end of the month.

Life History Monitoring Groups:

Dik-Diks (LHM):

- All 9 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- Dominant female Juliet (VGDF009) gave birth this month. The pups have not emerged yet but with observed lactation and babysitting the litter is thought to be alive.
- Enough time has passed for adult subordinate females Tuna Fish II (VGDF026) and Shelby (VGDF022) to be emigrated out of the group. Tuna Fish II has been sighted three times this month not acting as part of Dik-Diks. Shelby has been sighted out of the group with Tuna Fish II but woke up with the group on the 24th and has been immigrated back to Dik-Diks.
- Dik-Diks had no encounters or inter-group interactions observed this month.
- The group had one group split of uncertain duration on the 21st.
- Habituation of the group remains in *Advanced progress* at the end of the month. Dominant female Juliet (VGDF009) drinks water and has been weighed twice this month.

All members of the group appeared to be in good health at the end of the month.

Vetkoeks (LHM):

- All 8 individuals were present at the end of the month.
- Adult subordinate male Zuma (VZUM059) left the group on the 2nd and was seen at Ubuntu's babysitting burrow while the group was foraging. He was back with the group later the same day. On the 4th, Zuma was roving at Ubuntu, he was back with Vetkoeks on the 5th. On the 7th, Zuma was roving at Ubuntu, he was back with the group on the 11th.
- The group had no encounters, inter group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- All individuals appeared healthy at the end of the month.

Habituation Groups :

Cape Crusaders (HAB):

- The group was visited 5 times this month. The group is made up of dominant female Rosetta (VCCF004) and four unknown individuals whose age category is yet to be determined. Rosetta is interested in egg and drinks water; she was weighed once this month. One unknown individual was seen eating egg and is comfortable sunning at a 3m distance from observers. The three other individuals have been seen going below into their sleeping burrow as observers approached the group at a 50m distance. One unknown adult male has been reported with sum lumps on both sides of

their cheeks, which could be a sign of tuberculosis. We will continue visiting the group to determine the group composition and habituate them to observers' distance and movement.

Hogwarts (HAB):

- All 4 members of the group were present at the end of the month.
- Dominant female Salazar (VZUF051) gave birth this month, the litter is yet to emerge, but with observed lactation and babysitting the litter is thought to be alive.
- Habituation is classed as *In Progress*. Habituation of sub-adult subordinate male Buckbeak (VHWM002) is going well, he is drinking water, is comfortable around the scale and he got weighed once this month on the 2nd. Dominant male Caraxes (VHWM004) drinks water but did not approach the scale this month. Habituation at the babysitting burrow has been successful this month as the group left to forage later due to the litter. Both individuals are comfortable with less than two meters sitting and movement.
- All individuals appeared healthy at the end of the month.

Mandalore (HAB):

- The group was visited four times this month. Observers carried out beep checks in order to assess the territory of the group. The group was found on Heights four times this month. We will continue visiting the group in the coming months to determine if Mandalore could be a habituation group in our current population.
- Habituation is classed as *In Progress*. Habituation work was not carried out this month.
- Health was not assessed this month.

Phoenix (HAB):

- The group was visited three times this month but not found. Opportunistic footage from a camera trap revealed the group emerging and returning to their most recently used sleeping burrow. There was one opportunistic sighting of the group on the 29th, 3-4 individuals emerged and sunned at a 15m distance from the observer.
- Habituation is *In Progress*. Habituation work was not carried out this month.

Whiskers (HAB) :

- 8 out of 9 individuals were present at the end of December.
- *Female dominance* is *confirmed* at Whiskers this month. Adult female Gnoll (VWF262) received enough submissions from over half of the eligible females in the group. *Male dominance* is also *confirmed*, AgentK (VWM276) is the only eligible male in the group and is dominant male by default.
- Dominant female Gnoll (VWF262), and adult subordinate female Archangel (VWF259) where made officially pregnant this month.
- Two pups: Sibusiswe (VWP277) and Bubblegum (VWP278) from adult subordinate

female Sheila's (VWF267) emerged for the first time this month and have joined the group on their first forage.

- On the 7th, adult male Gojo Satoru (VWM274) left the group, he was back with the group on the 13th. On the 23rd Gojo Satoru was not seen with the group. On the 27th, adult subordinate females Kylie (VWF265) Sheila were sighted away from the group. On the 30th, Sheila rejoined the group and submitted to all other females of the group. Kylie was back with the group on the 31st.
- Gojo Satoru is yet to return by the end of the month.
- The group had one encounter this month. On the 12th, an unknown male appeared at Whiskers, approached the group multiple times, the group war danced at him each time and the unknown male retreated.
- Whiskers had no inter-group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- The group's habituation is classed as *In Progress*. Habituation of adult male Gojo Satoru is going well. He drinks water, can be groomed occasionally and is comfortable with 1m distance sitting distance and 2m standing and following distance. This month, Gojo Satoru has been weighed twice this month. Adult male AgentK drank water and is comfortable at a 4m standing distance. We will continue visiting the group and increasing their comfort distance as well as potentially getting their weights.
- This month, Gnoll was limping, with an injured front left paw. She also displayed a submandibular lump on her right cheek, which is a potential sign of TB.

Disintegrated Groups:

Nightwatch (LHM):

- Enough time has passed for dominant female Yorki (VGDF033) and adult male Sticky (VMP064) to be given their Last Seen.

Sub-groups:

Gold Diggers 5:

- *Female dominance* remains unconfirmed at Gold Diggers 5 this month.
- Adult subordinate female Ricky Baker (VGDF031) was made officially pregnant this month.
- Gold Diggers 5 had no encounters, inter-group interactions or group splits observed this month.
- Habituation is classed as *In Progress*. The sub-group was visited seven times this month. Dominant male Coquillet (VTSM014) is comfortable with 2m stand and follows and drank water this month. He was not seen eating egg and has not approached the scale.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health by the end of the month.

The following authors contributed to this report:

Julien Stanley, Life History Coordinator
Sofya Melnikova, Life History Supervisor