Life History Chart Columns Key:

1) Number of meerkats present at the end of the month vs. total number of meerkats in group (both numbers include pups once they have emerged).

2) Number of Adlib hours (AM- morning sessions, PM- afternoon sessions)

3) Dominant individuals at the end of the month. Underlined ID codes indicate the individual newly acquired dominance in this month.

4) Number of individuals present in the group at the start of the month, then at the end of the month.

5) Number of pups present in the group at the start of the month, then at the end of the month.

6) Pregnancy status: 1- Pregnant at any time during the month, 2- gave birth, 3- aborted pre-term, 4- lost litter after giving birth.

7) Individual status: 1- Last seen = Last seen (unknown cause), 2- Dead = found dead or euthanized, 3- Predated = assumed predated (for pups).

8) 1- Emigrated = emigrated to another known group, 2- Immigrated = immigrated into group, 3- Leavers = Roving, evictions or other absence of members of the groups (including the number of leaves), 4- Returned = returned to group after being previously AO, 5- Evicted= individuals who have been evicted from the group, 6- Evictend= Previously evicted individuals who have returned to the group.

9) Encounters with individuals from other groups (including number of encounters) at the group or its splinters, * encounter with absent individuals (rovers/evictees) from own group, without re-joining.

10) Encounters with other groups (Inter-Group-Interactions, IGIs). *Appears= Individuals not acting as part of the group but still on the marksheet.

11) Group splits with type and how many (leaving individuals originating from splits are not considered in item 6); Daily: the group reunited the same day. Overnight: the group was separated for one or more nights.

12) Individuals that are not with the group or a splinter including the dominant female, at the end of the month.

13) 1- Habituation level of the group: Fully: Fully habituated, i.e. all members can be weighed; Incomplete: Specific individuals in the group that have to be habituated; Advanced Progress: Habituation group where all individuals are identifiable through consistent dye marks and data is able to be collected on all individuals; In progress: Habituation group. 2- Data collection level of the group: Full Data Collection: Adlib, weights and LH data are collected; Life History Monitoring: LH data and, less frequently, weights collected, no adlib data; Habituation: Groups in various stages of habituation, ranging from focusing on habituating meerkats to our presence, to weights and LH data collection, but no adlib data; Sub-group: Temporary coalition between roving males, evicted females or dispersed individuals of mixed sex. If together for an extended period of time, a sub-group will become a new official group.