



The Meerkatter

The Friends of the Kalahari Meerkat Project Report – www.kalahari-meerkats.com – January 2026

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A Summer of Subterranean Sabotage

Compared to the dry winter months, summer in the Kalahari can be unrecognisable, with abundant green grasses, shrubs and trees contrasting against the red dunes. With the seasonal rains that fall sporadically, an abundance of vegetation allows for invertebrate life to flourish, providing a wealth of resources for the meerkats in our study population to exploit. As a result, January is a busy month for our meerkat groups, with high numbers of pregnancies coinciding with high rainfall, and its associated high resource and food availability (Clutton-Brock et al., 1999). Although generally the dominant meerkat pair are the sole breeders in meerkat groups, in times of high food availability subordinate females may be allowed to breed without eviction. Nowhere was this more evident than at Gold Diggers this month.

The dominant female at Gold Diggers, Goldeneye (VGDF007) gave birth on the 20th December, yet at the same time there were six subordinate females also pregnant at the group. Adult subordinate female Shambles (VGDF066) aborted her litter on 27th December, leaving the group to start a very busy January with five pregnant subordinate females. Despite brief evictions of adult subordinates Peanut (VGDF047) and Serafina Pekkala (VGDF049) in December, by the start of January all pregnant females remained present in the group. On the 8th, Serafina Pekkala gave birth, followed soon after on the 13th by both Manchego (VGDF054) and Dottie (VGDF071). On the 15th, Peanut gave birth, with the final pregnant female Aapje (VGDF068) giving birth later that week on the 20th. Having so many births within a short period requires a lot of pup care – of the nine mature females at the group, seven of them have been lactating throughout the month. Babysitting, a task fulfilled by individuals ranging from juveniles to adults, was also seen throughout January. By the start of the month, Gold Diggers was already one of the largest groups of our study population with 24 individuals, yet six additional births throughout the month had the potential to double their member count. In fact, there were more pregnancies at Gold Diggers in the first month of 2026 than in both years 2023 and 2024 combined, likely a reflection of high resource availability from early rains. However, below ground, all may not be as it seemed.

Despite so many successful births, what may initially have appeared to be smooth sailing was anything but. Concurrent births increase competition for resources between pups, in turn raising the risk of infanticide, where dominant or subordinate females may kill the pups other females in the group to

increase the chances of their own pup's survival (Young & Clutton Brock, 2006). This would prove highly relevant to the group - shortly after the group emerged on the morning of the 8th, an observer witnessed subadult female Ares (VGDF075) eating a suspected newborn pup, and this was followed a few days later by an observer watching Peanut eat a newborn pup on the 14th. That same morning, dominant female Goldeneye also gained over 60 grams overnight, another sign of potential infanticide. Considering Goldeneye had pups on the verge of emergence, and Peanut was at this point just days away from giving birth, this was likely a strategy for competition reduction between siblings.

The events of the month did not stop there, however. The day after her observed infanticide, an observer noticed Peanut pausing frequently while foraging, repeatedly laying down on the sand and self-grooming. She appeared to be in discomfort, and the observer paid close attention to her unusual behaviour. It was still, however, a surprise when Peanut stopped foraging and proceeded to give birth in front of the observer to one pup on the surface, growling whenever any other group members approached her newborn pup. Peanut then immediately ran and carried her pup to their sleeping burrow, likely birthing several more pups underground in the relative safety of their burrow system. Only with time would the outcome of such an unusual birth become clear.

By the 20th, there were five births at the group, yet it remained too early to assess their outcome, with possible pup emergencies still weeks away. Although generally group babysitting and lactation can be used to determine the condition of pups below ground, the fact that there were multiple litters of different ages present meant any indications were impossible to distinguish. A secondary effect of long periods of pup babysitting are that groups generally remain at the same sleeping burrow for extended periods. Whilst meerkat groups typically change burrows every few days, the presence of small pups means that any burrow moves require significant effort in carrying pups too small to move of their own accord. Instead, with an extended period of time at a sleeping burrow, the surrounding habitat may become overforaged and parasite load inside burrows may increase significantly (Strandburg-Peshkin et al., 2020) – any burrow movement may therefore be an indication of litters being lost before emergence. At Gold Diggers, the same sleeping burrow had been in use since mid-December, however, after over a month, the group returned to a different sleeping burrow on the evening of the 21st. Unfortunately, no observers were present the previous evening to witness any

movement of pups, but such burrow movement so soon after birth indicates that the litters may have been lost before emergence.

With such a busy start to January at Gold Diggers, the final weeks of the month were critical in assessing the group's reproductive trajectory. On the 14th, four pups Mort (VGDP085), Ferris (VGDP086), Doc (VGDP087) and Marty (VGDP088), all from Goldeneye's litter, emerged for the first time, representing the first pups to emerge at the group this year. After their emergence, these pups continued to be babysat by the group for nearly two weeks until the 24th, when they foraged with the group for the first time. Unfortunately, no babysitters were left by the group after this point, and this was followed by additional burrow moves on the 24th, 26th and 28th. As a result, the litters from all five subordinate females Peanut, Serafina Pekkala, Manchego, Aapje and Dottie were declared lost before emergence at the end of the month, with observed and assumed infanticides a clear primary cause. In stark contrast to the fate of these subordinate litters, the four pups from the dominant female continue to forage with the group, and with seven females still lactating at the end of the month, an abundance of subordinate helpers are a positive sign for this new litter.

As we progress into February, as resources begin to deplete and competition increases, the events at Gold Diggers this month are a reminder of the balance between cooperation and competition in meerkat societies, and a reflection of the clear dominance hierarchy in their familial groups. Whilst individuals inevitably prioritise their own individual survival and reproduction, this is ultimately regulated by the interests of the group and the dominant individuals. Whether Gold Diggers will continue to grow in members as the breeding season comes to a close is yet to be seen, but the group will certainly be busy raising their four young pups to independence and our observers will be closely monitoring the trajectory of what remains one of our largest groups.

References

- Clutton-Brock, A. Maccoll, P. Chadwick, D. Gaynor, R. Kansky, J. D. Skinner, 1999
Reproduction and survival of suricates (Suricata suricatta) in the southern Kalahari
- Young, A. & Clutton-Brock, T, 2006
Infanticide by subordinates influences reproductive sharing in cooperatively breeding meerkats
- Strandburg-Peshkin, A., Clutton-Brock, T & Manser, M.B., 2020
Burrow usage patterns and decision-making in meerkat groups

Pregnancies in January 2026

Females pregnant in January	18
Females who aborted	4
Females who gave birth, litters lost	7
Females who gave birth, litter emerged	0
Females who gave birth, unknown outcome	2
Females still pregnant at the end of the month	5

January 2026 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):

- Alba increased by 3 individuals, from 23 to 26 members present at the end of January.
- Subordinate sub-adult female Little-Creek (VALF033) gave birth on the 21st. However burrow movement without pups and no babysitting meant this litter has now been declared lost before emergence. Subordinate yearling female Tress (VALF020) aborted a litter on the 21st. Yearling subordinate female Chia

(VALF023) was made officially pregnant this month.

- On the 3rd, subordinate adult male Bibu (VALM014) left the group on two occasions, returning back to the group that day. On the 9th, subordinate yearling female Bachue (VALF025) and subadult male Pembroke (VALM036) left the group following an overnight group split and were seen with the group's pups at a sleeping burrow. Sub-adult yearling male Yibo (VALM030) was not seen with the group on the next morning, yet all had returned to the group by the afternoon of the 10th. On the 27th, Yibo and Pembroke separated from the group in the morning but had returned by the afternoon.
- There were 3 group-splits observed at Alba this month. On the 3rd, a daily group-split including subordinate yearlings Tress (VALF020), Chia (VALF023), Xue (VALM024), Samurai (VALM027), Disco (VALM029), Florence (VALF031), sub-adults Fleetfoot (VALF032), Little-Creek (VALF033), Albert-Le-Blanc (VALM034), Pembroke (VALM036), Lola (VALF039), Juanita (VALF040) and juveniles (VALF041), (VALF042) and (VALM045) left in a daily group split before returning that evening. On the 25th, subordinate yearlings Chia, Bibu (VALM014), Xue, Sunbeam (VALM028), Disco, Florence and sub-adults Fleetfoot, Little-Creek, Albert-Le-Blanc, Juanita and juvenile VALF043 left in a daily group split before returning later that morning. On the 26th, an overnight group split involving subordinate adult Bibu, yearlings Bachue, Florence, Fleetfoot, juvenile VALF041 and pups VALP046 and VALP048 was the result of an alarm call, with the split members being seen at a different sleeping burrow. The group reunited on the 27th.
- Alba had 1 encounter observed this month. On the 2nd, subordinate adult male Gurke (VHMM036) appeared 15 metres from the group and remained for 20 minutes, yet the group did not react to his appearance.
- There were no inter-group interactions observed at Alba this month.
- Bibu was observed to have developed a submandibular lump after his return, along with lumps on his groin and armpits. His condition, along with that of the rest of the group, will be closely monitored. All other individuals appeared to be in good health this month.

Brussels Sprouts (FDC):

- Brussels Sprouts increased by 1 individual, from 18 to 19 members present at the end of the month.
- On the 2nd, adult subordinate male Gurke (VHMM036) returned to the group. Gurke also left the group on the 3rd, 11th, 26th, 28th, and twice on the 31st - each time he would return to the group by the following day.
- There was 1 encounter observed at Brussels Sprouts this month. On the 4th, an unknown adult individual sheltered in a bolt hole as the group mobbed it.

- There were 10 daily group-splits observed at Brussels Sprouts in January. On the 3rd, 10th, 11th, 14th, 17th, 20th, 21st, 25th, and 31st the group split for varying durations, with the smallest split incorporating three individuals, and the largest as many as twelve.
- There were no inter-group interactions observed at the group this month.
- Gurke was observed to have a cut on his right eyelid which had become swollen this month. Gurke also appeared to have an injured nail and finger on this right forepaw. All other group members appeared to be in good health throughout January.

Gold Diggers (FDC):

- Gold Diggers increased by 3 individuals, from 24 to 27 members present at the end of January.
- Yearling subordinate female Dottie (VGDF071) was made officially pregnant this month but on the 13th, she aborted her litter. Subordinate adult females Peanut (VGDF047), Serafina Pekkala (VGDF049), Manchego (VGDF054) and subordinate yearling female Aapje (VGDF068) all gave birth, but due to observed infanticide from Peanut and the absence of babysitting at the group, the litters were assumed to be lost before emergence. On the 14th, 4 pups Mort (VGDP085), Ferris (VGDP086), Doc (VGDP087), and Marty (VGDP088) emerged from the burrow for the first time. Based on their time of emergence, these pups could have only been from the dominant female's litter. The litter first foraged and moved burrow on the 24th.
- On the 1st, yearling subordinate male Bronson (VGDM064) left the group.
- Bronson remained absent from the group at the month's end.
- There were 2 daily group-splits observed at Gold Diggers this month. On the 5th, adult subordinate males Captain Patel (VGDM048) and Tampin (VGDM055), yearling subordinate male Bubba (VGDM069), sub-adult subordinates Sonskyn (VGDF076), Larkin (VGDF077), Ashdown (VGDM078), and Sid (VGDM079), and juvenile males Emeraude (VGDM080) and Cacahuete (VGDM082) split from the rest of the group for little over an hour. On the 25th, Captain Patel, Manchego, Tampin, Bubba, Dottie, Ashdown, Emeraude, Cacahuete, adult subordinates Snackajack (VGDM063) and Shambles (VGDF066), juveniles Ebene (VGDM081) and Acajou (VGDF084), and pups Mort (VGDP085), Ferris (VGDP086), Doc (VGDP087), and Marty (VGDP088) all split from the group in the morning – not returning until the afternoon.
- There were no encounters or inter-group interactions observed at Gold Diggers this month.
- All individuals at the group appeared to be in good health this month.

Jaxx (FDC):

- Jaxx decreased by 1 individual, from 20 to 19 members present at the end of the month.

- On the 25th, dominant female, Jub Jub (VJXF160) gave birth – babysitting and lactation indicate that the litter is alive.
- On the 4th, juvenile male Matty G (VJXM212) was separated from the group – he returned that same day. On the 9th, yearling subordinate male Gobi (VJXM194) left the group but returned that same day. On the 10th, juvenile female Fennel (VJXF208) left the group – she returned the following day. On the 21st, Matty G left the group again.
- Matty G remained absent from the group at the month's end.
- There was 1 overnight group-split observed at Jaxx this month. On the 10th, yearling subordinates Pulpi (VGDF189) and Icetruck (VGDM196), sub-adult subordinates Milo (VJXF205) and Mtho (VJXM207), juveniles Sprout (VJXM210) and Matty G, and pup (VJXM217) were separated from the group – they returned to the group sometime on the 11th.
- There was one encounter observed at Jaxx this month. On the 8th, the group war-danced and chased an unknown adult from over 100 meters away – the individual retreated.
- There were no inter-group interactions observed at Jaxx this month.
- Habituation is classed as *Advanced Progress*. Habituation of the Dominant male Mr Worldwide (VJXM200) is going well. He has not yet shown interest in egg but has started to drink water at the sleeping burrow, where he is comfortable with observers sitting at 1 meter distance.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health throughout January.

Lazuli (FDC):

- Lazuli increased by 5 individuals this month, from 15 to 20 members present at the group by the end of January.
- On the 17th, 5 pups (VLP330, VLP331, VLP332, VLP333, VLP334) emerged from the burrow for the first time. The pups also foraged with the group and moved sleeping burrow for the first time this month.
- There were 2 group splits observed at Lazuli this month. On the 1st, dominant male Rogelio De La Vega (VGDM015), adult subordinate males Fat Belly (VLM316), Pot Belly (VLM317) and Petit Bidon (VLM318), and yearling subordinate female Pataud (VLF319) left the group for an unknown duration – they returned to the group on the 2nd. On the 3rd, adult subordinate males Fat Belly and Tumtum (VLM315), sub-adult subordinate males Thrutch (VLM324) and Avon (VLM325), and juveniles Baxter (VLM327), Finn (VLM328), and Liv (VLF329) split from the group for less than 1 hour.
- There were no encounters or inter-group interactions observed at Lazuli during January.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health throughout January.

Side Quest (FDC):

- All 20 individuals at Side Quest remained present at the group throughout January.
- Dominant female Pumba (VZUF048) remained pregnant throughout this month.
- There were 2 encounters observed at Side Quest this month. On the 2nd, Hogwarts' yearling subordinate males Nkosana (VHWM001) and Buckbeak (VHWM002) approached the multiple times and sniffed sub-adult subordinate female Mrs HS Balls (VHWF047), before being war-danced and chased away by the group. Later on the 2nd, in the evening, Nkosana returned and maintained a 10 meter distance from the group before being chased away.
- There was 1 daily group-split observed at Side Quest this month. On the 25th, dominant male Legolas (VECM009), adult subordinate male Brioche (VSIM032), yearling subordinate male Rolo (VSIM039), sub-adult subordinates Jungo (VSIF048), Snoopy (VSIM049), Bucket (VSIF052), Turnip (VSIM053), juvenile Beck (VSIM058) and pup (VSIM060) split from the group – they returned that same morning.
- There was 1 inter-group interaction observed at Side Quest this month. On the 10th, the group war-danced and chased Hogwarts, who retreated.
- Pup (VSIM060) was observed to be limping this month – he appeared to have healed by the month's end. All other group members appeared to be in good health this month.

Trackie-Daks (FDC):

- Trackie-Daks increased by 5 individuals, from 16 to 21 members present at the end of the month.
- On the 7th, pups Owami (VTDF062), Unathi M (VTDF063), Kamva (VTDF064), Thoriso (VTDM065), Pulane (VTDF066) emerged from the burrow for the first time. On the 11th, yearling subordinate female Timone (VTDF051) gave birth – due to an absence of babysitting and a burrow change the litter is assumed to have been lost before emergence. On the 27th, yearling subordinate female Kibo (VTDF049) gave birth – as there is no babysitting at the group, and lactation has been unclear, it is unlikely that the litter is alive.
- There were no encounters, group-splits or inter-group interactions observed at Trackie-Daks this month.
- The habituation level at Trackie-Daks is currently classed as in *Advanced Progress*. Dominant male Guido (VWVM275) has shown significant improvement, he drinks water and was weighed 23 times this month.
- Kibo, Timone, and juvenile female Posh Spice (VTDF058) were observed to have worms this month. Yearling subordinate male Peely (VTDM048) had a small cut to his belly, which appears to have healed this month. All other members of the group appeared to be in good health this month.

Ubuntu (FDC):

- All 18 individuals at Ubuntu were present throughout January.

- Dominant female Agazoth (VUBF039) was made officially pregnant this month.
- On the 16th, sub-adult subordinate male Fifi (VUDM082) left the group and was seen roving at Vetkoeks, where he was war-danced and chased away – he returned to Ubuntu that same day.
- There was 1 inter-group interaction observed at Ubuntu this month. On the 16th, Ubuntu war-danced and chased Vetkoeks, who retreated.
- There were no observed group-splits or encounters observed at Ubuntu in January.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health this month.

Vetkoeks (FDC):

- Vetkoeks decreased by 1 individual, from 18 to 17 members present at the end of January.
- *Male Dominance* is still unconfirmed at Vetkoeks this month.
- Dominant female Mooncake (VHMF053) was made officially pregnant this month – her litter was aborted. Mooncake was observed to be in oestrus this month.
- On the 10th, male pup Evans (VVKM038) was killed.
- There was 1 encounter observed at Vetkoeks this month. On the 16th, yearling subordinate male Fifi (VUBM082) from Ubuntu approached Vetkoeks – he retreated when the group war-danced and chased him.
- There was 1 group-split observed at Vetkoeks in January. On the 3rd, dominant male Zuma (VZUM059), yearling subordinates Flicka (VVKF023) and Tshembo (VVKM024), sub-adult subordinates Thotho (VVKF027), Theodore (VVKM028), Luciano (VVKF029), juveniles Lele (VVKM031), Nini (VVKM033) and Juju (VVKF034), and pups Yossarian (VVKM037), Evans (VVKM038), and Josephine (VVKM039) all split from the group – returning shortly on that same morning.
- There were 2 inter-group interactions observed at Vetkoeks this month. On the 13th, Vetkoeks war-danced towards Whiskers and watched them from approximately 100 meters – both groups then dispersed in opposite directions. On the 16th, Vetkoeks retreated when Ubuntu war-danced and chased them.
- All individuals appeared to be in good health this month.

Zulus (FDC):

- All 22 members of Zulus remained present throughout January
- Dominant female, Leona (VZUF070), aborted a litter this month. Yearling subordinate female Bonnie (VZUF077) was made officially pregnant this month.
- Adult subordinate male Sweep (VZUM072) and sub-adult subordinate male Vesemir (VZUM080) left the group on the 26th – they both returned later that same day.
- There were 2 daily group-splits observed at Zulus this month. On the 17th, yearling subordinate males Rainbow (VZUM078) and

Catch-A-Mo (VZUM079), Vesemir, sub-adult subordinate female Io (VZUF083), and juvenile females Buhle (VZUF092), Sky Blue (VZUF093), and Shimmy (VZUF094) all split from the group – they returned an hour later. On the 20th, Leona was separated from all of the group's individuals – they returned that same morning.

- There were no encounters or inter-group interactions observed at Zulus this month.
- All members of the group appeared to be in good health throughout January.

Life History Monitoring Groups:

Dik-Diks (LHM):

- Dik-Diks increased from 16 to 18 individuals this month.
- Dominant female Juliete (VGDF009) was made officially pregnant this month.
- On the 10th, adult subordinate female Ciri (VDDF003) and yearling subordinate female Sibani (VDDF015) were accepted back into the group.
- There were no encounters, group-splits, or inter-group interactions observed at Dik-Diks this month.
- Habituation is classed as *Advanced Progress*. Dominant female Juliet (VGDF009) has made significant improvements - she was weighed 11 times this month and regularly drinks water – she is comfortable with observers sitting at a distance of 1-2m.
- Eldest-sub, Shelby (VDDF022), had a large, sandy wound on her tail base this month which appears to be healing well. Sub-adult subordinate male Ezio (VDDM017) was observed to be limping this month due to an injury to his left hindleg. Ciri had a large scab on her tail base which appeared to have healed this month. All other members of the group appeared to be in good health at the end of the month.

Elrond's Council (LHM):

- All 16 individuals were present at Elrond's Council throughout January.
- *Female Dominance* remains unconfirmed at Elrond's Council this month.
- On the 6th, pups Scholsey (VECP078), Wazza (VECP079), Gazza (VECP080), and Slabhead (VECP081) foraged with the group for the first time.
- On the 21st, yearling subordinate males Rza (VECM066), Madarauchiha (VECM068), Seven (VECM069), sub-adult subordinate males Fergie (VECM072), No-Teeth-Keith (VECM074), and Noah (VECM076), and pups Gazza and Slabhead all left the group – they had all returned to the group by the 24th.
- There were 2 daily group-splits observed at the group this month. On the 10th, dominant male Jonsnow (VECM070), Rza, Madarauchiha, No-Teeth-Keith, Noah, sub-adult subordinates Iron Mike (VECM073) and Scary Mary (VECF075) and pups Scholsey, Wazza, Gazza, and

Slabhead all split from the group for just over an hour. On the 18th, yearling subordinate female Nalane (VECF067), Madarauchiha, Fergie, Iron Mike, No-Teeth-Keith, Scary Mary, sub-adult subordinate female Amaya (VECF077), Wazza, and Slabhead split from the group – they returned that same evening.

- There were no encounters or inter-group interactions observed at Elrond's Council this month.
- Habituation is classed as *Advanced Progress*. Dominant male Jonsnow (VECM070) has shown significant improvement – he fairly regularly eats egg and is comfortable with observers standing at a 2-meter distance. After never being weighed before, he was weighed twice this month. He is comfortable with group follows but will forage at a distance from observers.
- The group is suffering from advanced tuberculosis. Jonsnow, Seven, and Nalane continued to show submandibular lumps this month. Seven also had a limp, and more lumps on his left hindfoot. Scary Mary had swelling on her forehead from an unknown injury. Fergie had a limp but appears to be healing this month. All other members appear to be in good health.

Habituation Groups:

Hogwarts (HAB):

- All 19 individuals at Hogwarts remained present at Hogwarts throughout January.
- Dominant female Salazar (VZUF051) gave birth this month, but the litter was lost before emergence.
- On the 2nd, yearling subordinate males Nkosana (VHWM001) and Buckbeak (VHWM002) left the group and were seen roving at Side Quest where they repeatedly approached the group – they were attacked and war-danced before retreating. They returned to Hogwarts that same evening.
- There was 1 inter-group interaction observed at Hogwarts this month. On the 10th, Hogwarts retreated when Side Quest war-danced towards them.
- There were no encounters or group-splits observed at Hogwarts this month.
- Habituation is classed as *In Progress*. Habituation of Buckbeak and dominant male Caraxes (VHWM004) has improved. Buckbeak is drinking water and comfortable around the scale – he was weighed 12 times this month. Caraxes will approach the observer when lying down, and regularly drinks water – he was weighed five times this month. Pup habituation has also continued to be successful, with them eating egg and drinking water throughout the month.
- All individuals appeared healthy throughout the month.

Whiskers (HAB):

- Whiskers increased from 18 to 19 individuals present in the group this month.
- On the 13th, male pup Stefan (VWM295) was left behind by the group – by the 15th, he had rejoined the group. On the 16th, sub-adult subordinate female Luna (VWF279) immigrated back into the group.
- There was 1 inter-group interaction observed at Whiskers this month. On the 13th, Whiskers saw Vetkoecks who war-danced and stopped at approximately 100 meters distance – the groups then dispersed in opposite directions.
- There were no encounters or group-splits observed at Whiskers in January.
- The group's habituation is classed as *In Progress*. Adult subordinate male Agent K (VWM276) eats egg and is comfortable with a 1-2m distance when the observer remains seated. He was not weighed this month. We will continue to try and increase familiarisation with the scale and observers' movements.
- Dominant male Raclette (VTDM017) had a small cut on his lip which appeared to heal this month. Adult subordinate female Bruce (VWF266) had a small cut on her neck which appears to have healed this month. All other members appeared to be in good health this month.

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