



# Visit The Wildside!

## The Cheetah

The cheetah is one of the world's well-known cats! They are known for their speed, which can be up to 75 mph! This large cat is great at running and catching its prey. Its slim body helps it gain speed quickly, and the cheetah easily makes it on the list of awesome land animals!

The cheetah is a big cat. They can be up to four feet tall and weigh anywhere from 70 to 140 pounds. They are great at hiding

too! Cheetahs have sandy fur that helps them blend into their grassland environment. On their fur, they have black spots to help conceal their bodies while they hunt.

Cheetahs stay in generally the same area. Females tend to range over a large area, while males mark their own territory in between the female ranges. Cubs stay with their mothers when they learn to hunt at four to six weeks.

Cheetahs hunt either alone or in groups. Cheetahs



use exceptionally keen eyesight to scan their grassland environment for signs of prey. This big cat is a daylight hunter. Their usual prey varies by region, but a few examples are the Thompson's gazelle, the impala, antelope, hares, and even wild sheep! Regions include parts of Iran and most of Africa.

The cheetah is currently labeled as vulnerable. Due to their fragile reproduction, cheetahs don't produce many cubs in captivity. This makes it hard to raise the population when it becomes low. In 1900, there were over 100,000 cheetahs across their historic range. Today, an estimated 9,000 to 12,000 cheetahs remain in the wild in Africa. In Iran, there are around 200 cheetahs living in small isolated populations.

### Did You Know?

- In Ancient Egypt, cheetahs were a symbol for royalty!
- The cheetah is the only big cat that cannot roar.
- Cheetahs hunt for food during the day, unlike lions.
- Cheetahs cannot climb trees!
- Cheetahs only need to drink once every two or three days.-

