



# WILD DOG FOSTERING @ HESC



## WILD DOG FOSTERING

Today, the African Wild Dog is listed as an Endangered Species as African Wild Dog population numbers have been rapidly declining, particularly in recent years. There are thought to be less than 5,000 individuals left roaming sub-Saharan Africa today, with numbers still declining (IUCN). Suggested causes for this decline include habitat loss, killing by humans, reduced prey availability, competition with other carnivores, and infectious diseases, including rabies and canine distemper.

## WHY FOSTER A WILD DOG?

- They are highly endangered
- The most successful predator in Africa
- Magnificent and unique coat patterns
- Strong social bonds among pack members
- They are still truly wild and can't be tamed
- They probably have the most quirky and down to earth personalities (probably why they are classified as dogs?) And who can resist those Mickey Mouse ears?

## **WILD DOG CONSERVATION AT HESC**

HESC's primary goal with the Wild Dog is education as research on the African Wild Dog has identified that its current endangerment is primarily due to human persecution. The captive-breeding programme at HESC mainly focuses on a positive population growth, a significant lowering of inbreeding and mean kinship, and an increased genetic diversity.

Long-term re-introductions into the southern African wild using captive-bred dogs has been unsuccessful up until now, mainly due to the lack of close collaboration between captive breeding and nature conservation institutions. HESC is aiming to secure the successful collaboration of all scientific, captive-breeding and conservation agencies involved in order to enable captive breeding programmes to release Wild Dogs to the wild.

## **FOSTERING OPTIONS**

### **Pack dog fostering:**

With this fostering you get to adopt one of our pack dogs. This is at a cost of R1 750.00 per year.

An electronic, personalised fostering certificate, quarterly updates with news and images and a subscription to our Cheetah Chat newsletter.

### **Alpha dog fostering:**

You get the chance to adopt one of our alpha dogs, male or female! This is at a cost of R2 500.00 per year.

An electronic, personalised fostering certificate, two email updates on your sponsored Wild Dog and a subscription to our Cheetah Chat newsletter.

*Please be sure to include the e-mail address of the person who should receive these Wild Dog updates if other than yourself.*

## **COSTS CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS:**

**All contributions to the Wild Dog adoption program will be used in the following ways:**

- To take care of the individual dog as well as the pack as a unit
- Food and supplements for the dogs
- Maintenance of their camp
- Any medical attention they may require
- Inoculations and vaccinations against diseases
- Scientific research to aid in the successful release of captive – bred Wild Dog

The largest expense that we have towards our Wild Dogs is inoculating and vaccinating them every three months against diseases such as Rabies and Canine Distemper.

**If you are interested in adopting any of our animals at The Centre and require more information, please ask at the office or reception.**