

Edinburgh Zoo announce the sad death of Cleo

Edinburgh Zoo has announced the sad death overnight of Cleo the cheetah which had just arrived in August – and which was our cover star last month.

David Field, Chief Executive of RZSS, said, “In spite of the best efforts of our veterinary team and specialist animal carers, I’m sorry to say that Cleo passed away last night, following a short illness. We are still trying to establish what the cause of death is but we believe it is related to liver failure. We will know more after a post-mortem examination.

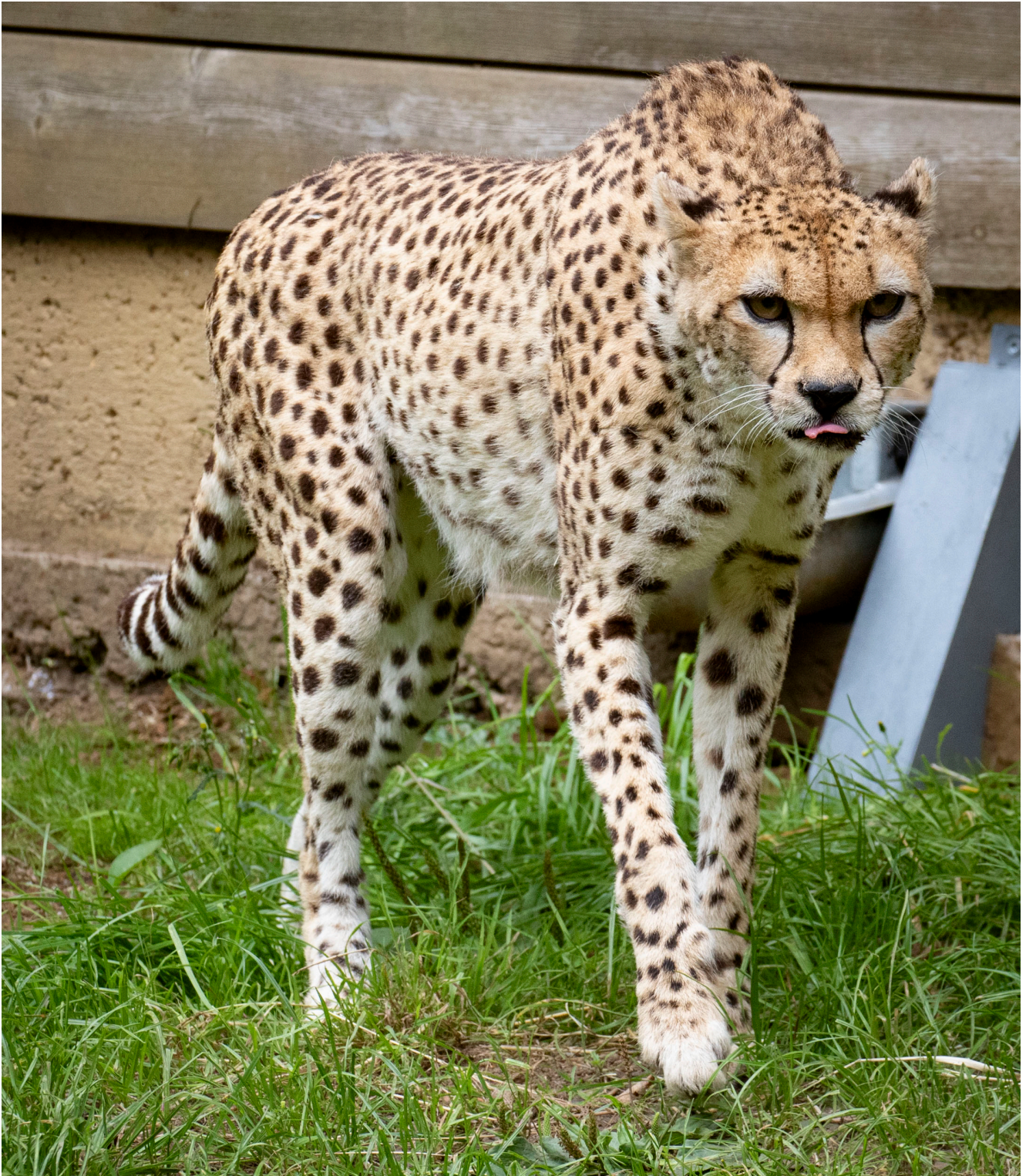
“Cleo wasn’t here at Edinburgh Zoo for long but in that time she made an amazing impression on all of the staff, vets, and visitors who met her. She will be sadly missed.”

The five year-old big cat had been brought from Fota Wildlife Park in the summer as a new “rock star” animal to replace the pandas. It was 24 years since a cheetah had last been on display at Edinburgh Zoo and plans were in place to introduce a male cheetah with hopes of breeding.



4/8/2024

Cleo the 5yr old Cheetah is the latest addition to Edinburgh Zoo Picture Alan Simpson



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Page 3

All aboard

Transport boss takes the wheel at the City Chambers
Page 5

Slava Ukraini

Edinburgh women protecting art and culture
Pages 12-13

Hot stuff

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Page 17

Rugby centenary

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Page 20

the Edinburgh Reporter

September 2024

EDINBURGH'S NEWSPAPER... A CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



Meet Cleo the cheetah

Spot the new cool cat at the Zoo

By **GEORGE MAIR**

THE FESTIVALS are just finished for this year, but it may be timely to remind you of the 2023 Funniest Joke of the Fringe. This was written by Lorna Rose Treen: "I started dating a zookeeper but it turned out he was a cheetah."

Visitors to Edinburgh Zoo can now easily spot a real live cheetah for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century – after the new star attraction was recently introduced to the Edinburgh public.

Cleo, a five-year-old Northeast African cheetah, has arrived at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) from Fota Wildlife Park near Cork in Ireland.

The majestic big cat – the first of her kind at the zoo since 2000 – spent time getting used to her new surroundings before finally going on show to visitors.

Plans are already being made to add a male later this year, with hopes of the first cubs next year.

Donald Gow, Living Collections Operations Manager at RZSS, said: "We are delighted to finally be able to introduce visitors to our new cheetah, Cleo."

"This spectacular and elegant big cat just arrived in Edinburgh and has spent a good few days just settling into her new surroundings."

"We've had a lot of interest from our members and visitors already."

"We know she will be a very popular addition to our collection of fascinating, beautiful and iconic animals."

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