

Cheetahs in the wild



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

The cheetah is currently one of the many endangered species in the world. The scientific name is *Acinonyx jubatus*. The average size of an adult cheetah is around 80-140 pounds, they are 48-56 inches long. Female cheetahs become sexually mature rather quickly, at around 15-26 months. Females like to stay alone and usually only stay with breeding partners for 2-3 days. When the cubs are born and are a year old they separate from the mother. Most of them stay together six months after their mother left them to care for themselves. Cheetahs are not like lions or other species that feel threatened by other males. Often, male cheetahs stick together to ensure that they can fight off any attackers.

Cheetahs were originally located all over Africa and parts of Asia. Now they most of the populations is located on the lower Africa and a small percentage is found in southwestern Asia. The cheetah is more comfortable in open savannas where the prey is abundant. The cheetah likes to live in a semi-desert habitat, it lives in grasslands, savannas, areas of dense vegetation, and mountainous terrain.

The cheetah is a carnivore. It eats animals under 88 lb including the Thomson's gazelle, the Grant's gazelle, the impala and the springbok. When the cats hunt in groups they go for bigger preys that can feed the whole group. The cheetah is a diurnal hunter. This means it hunts during the day instead of the night like most animals. They hunt early in the day or in the evening when it is not too hot.

Cheetahs are endangered mainly because habitats are being destroyed. Humans are displacing other animals that are key to the survival of the

species. when there are no pray to hunt, population begins to decrease. also overhunting for the fur is increasingly depleting the quantity of cheetahs.

Today there are just 12, 400 cheetahs remaining in the wild