

Busy as ever, the year is already flying by! A sad farewell was bid to our very tall, very special 'baby' boy, Gaffy the gentle giraffe. He left us to go to a wonderful home in Natal where eventually he'll be released back into the veld. We miss him every day but are glad that he's safe and most importantly happy.

Such is life, that when something leaves it makes space for another and as we say goodbye to some of our beloved residents, Savannah our female Serval is once again pregnant and expected to give birth during this month. Very exciting as always and you will definitely be kept posted on her progress.

On a different note, a portion of the farm fell prey to thousands of quelias, a bird which destroys the environment which it inhabits and chases away all other birds from the area. Due to their destructive impact on the crops of surrounding farmers, their numbers are strictly monitored and controlled by the Department of Agriculture.



The only way to get rid of them is to spray the area with a poison that unfortunately affects other birds should they come into contact with it.

Thankfully there were very few casualties and one of the few we received was a beautiful White-faced Owl. After being treated to reverse the effects of the poison, the owl made a full recovery and with a bit of TLC we were able to release him within a week.

A tiny male tree squirrel came to join us towards the end of January. Weighing only 40g when he fell out of his nest, he was fortunately not sick or injured and simply needed someone new to take care of him and raise him to a strong healthy adult. We are glad to say he's doing exceptionally well, eats like a horse (well, almost!) and now weighs nearly 100g!

A couple of new baby antelope that joined our nursery group include 2 red hartebeest, 2 more blesbok and a gorgeous little blue wildebeest!

They came in for various reasons, ranging from game capture to

injuries - luckily none very serious! As you can imagine, preparing and feeding 10 bottles every 3 hours is no fun and games but it's all in a days' work for us here!

A great new activity we've started is walking with our 4 'big' lions.... the cubs Cleo, Kia, Mischief and Trouble have all grown up to approximately 30 kilograms of pure muscle, are very playful and have PLENTY of energy to diffuse. We take them for 30-45 minute walks into the bush in the cooler parts of the day and it's guaranteed great fun and games for everyone involved!

