

# NEWSLETTER DECEMBER

Dear clients,

The end of the year is in sight, a moment to reflect back on 2018! In this newsletter we share some of our 2018 highlights with you! We have updated the Documents-section on our website. Everything is free to download, we hope you find these documents useful!

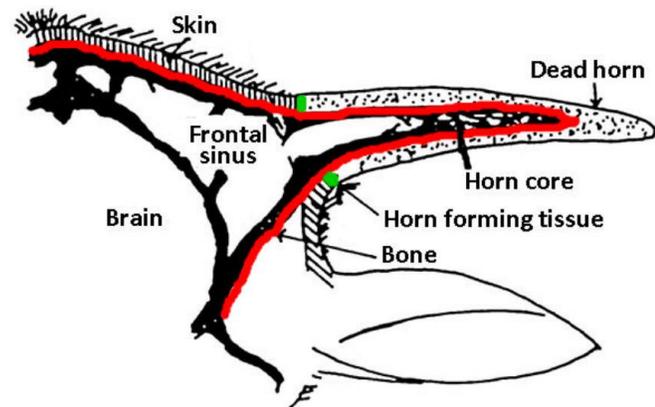
We thank you all for your support during this year. We wish you a wonderful Christmas, and an amazing 2019!

Kind regards, Ulf and Mariska

## HORNS

We are very used of seeing animals with horns in Namibia, but what do we really know about horns?

A horn is a hard, pointed permanent projection on the head of ungulates. The horn consists of a core of living bone, covered by a sheath of keratin and proteins. In the picture on the right you can see the bone of the skull in red.



Horns have a diverse variety of functions in several species; defence from predators, fighting tool for territory or mating, feeding, courtship displays and cooling.

Picture ©:  
[Animal Ethics RI](#)

In some species both the male and female have horns, whereas in other species only the male has horns. Researchers believe that males have developed horns for fighting over females and territories, but what about the females? Researchers have come up with different theories. [One of these theories](#) explains that females bovids benefit from having horns when they are of a certain body size, or live in a habitat that makes it hard for them to hide. The more visible the female, the more it makes sense to have horns for defence against predators.



An example; a female wildebeest is big and lives on open plains; visible to predators, and would thus benefit from having horns. A female steenbok who is small and lives in denser areas can easily hide away and would have no use for horns.

Male and female steenbok  
Photo ©: [Sabi Sabi](#)

## WHAT A YEAR; 2018

2018 was yet again a remarkable year for us... As we love what we do, every job is a highlight, but that would be a bit much to show here 😊 So here is a random selection of pictures and stories of 2018!



This sick elephant bull was not too happy with being immobilized in January... A quick kick bugged up my knee!



Pak z'n poot maar vast.

In February we, together with the Erindi-team, darted and changed a radio-telemetry collar on a lion at Erindi Game Reserve. This opportunity was used by a Dutch TV program, 'De reis van je leven' (The journey of your life) to afford a terminally ill young woman the chance to realise a lifelong dream, to be close to and touch a lion in the wild, come true. We were incredibly impressed by her positive attitude, in spite of the bad cards life has dealt her. She truly saw and appreciated the silver linings around dark clouds - what an example for all of us! Sadly, Sophie passed away this October.

March and April were busy months where we did lots of antelope dart work; moving young bulls to other camps, relocating animals to other farms, doing health checks, hoof trimming, pregnancy diagnosis etc.

As we work in a team, we can work fast and efficient. I dart the animals, while Mariska monitors them, gives supportive injections and wakes them up. This saves the farmer lots of time and chopper hours. On one job we immobilized 99 antelope for vaccination, hoof trimming etc, and vaccinated 8 rhinos - all from the car... in just 2 days!!



In April we relocated game again to a reserve in the DRC. Wickus Herholdt and me started this project last year, and we proudly continued this year as well.





MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**  
(in terms of Ordinance 4 of 1975, as amended)

It is hereby certified that

**Wildlife Vets Namibia (Dr. U Tubbesing)**

PO Box 50533  
Windhoek

is registered as a

**Game Dealer**

Particulars of licence

This licence is valid for the capture, care, keeping, purchase, selling and transport of game.

In February this year I sold my share of Super Game Dealers, to Jan Blaauw.

In April I obtained a full and unlimited MET registration as game dealer as Wildlife Vets Namibia. I retained sufficient trucks and equipment to enable us to do major wildlife translocations. Being an unlimited game dealer means that we can capture and translocate all Namibian game species, from antelope to rhinos and elephants. Our services include:

- ✓ Game capture and translocation services (focussed on high value species such as rhino, sable and roan)
- ✓ Game import and export, especially to other African countries



In May we have been working in the south of Namibia, where we visited several farms. Always a pleasure to work in the amazing Kalahari dunes! One of our jobs was giving some of these lions a birth-control implant.

Vaccinating elephants against anthrax and clostridial diseases in July



In June we assisted in the dehorning of 20 rhinos in just 2 days on a Namibian game farm. It is sad that such measures are needed to protect these iconic beasts...



In August we have been busy vaccinating kudu and eland against rabies. In 5 days, we visited 7 farms and vaccinated a total of 702 animals! We also immobilized 3 roans, 2 sables, 4 kudus, 8 lechwes and 2 lions in between. Helicopter pilot Bernie Simon (Simon Wildlife Services) and I have been working together now for +/- 15 years!



At the end of August we had a special project... We did our first rhino translocation per plane! And even more special, it was the first re-introduction of rhinos into the western part of the DRC! We keep on going to the DRC to check on the rhinos and other animals, and we can assure you they are doing well!



In September we had a couple of odd rabies cases; wild dogs, a young rhino and an aardvark. Sadly, rabies is a fatal viral disease, so there are no treatments for it. The best method to prevent rabies in your animals is to vaccinate them.



In the final days of the game capture season, we translocated 9 trucks with game to two reserves in Angola. Seeing all the deforestation going on in this area, it is heart-warming to experience that there are still people willing to protect nature and reintroduce animals where they once roamed in vast numbers!



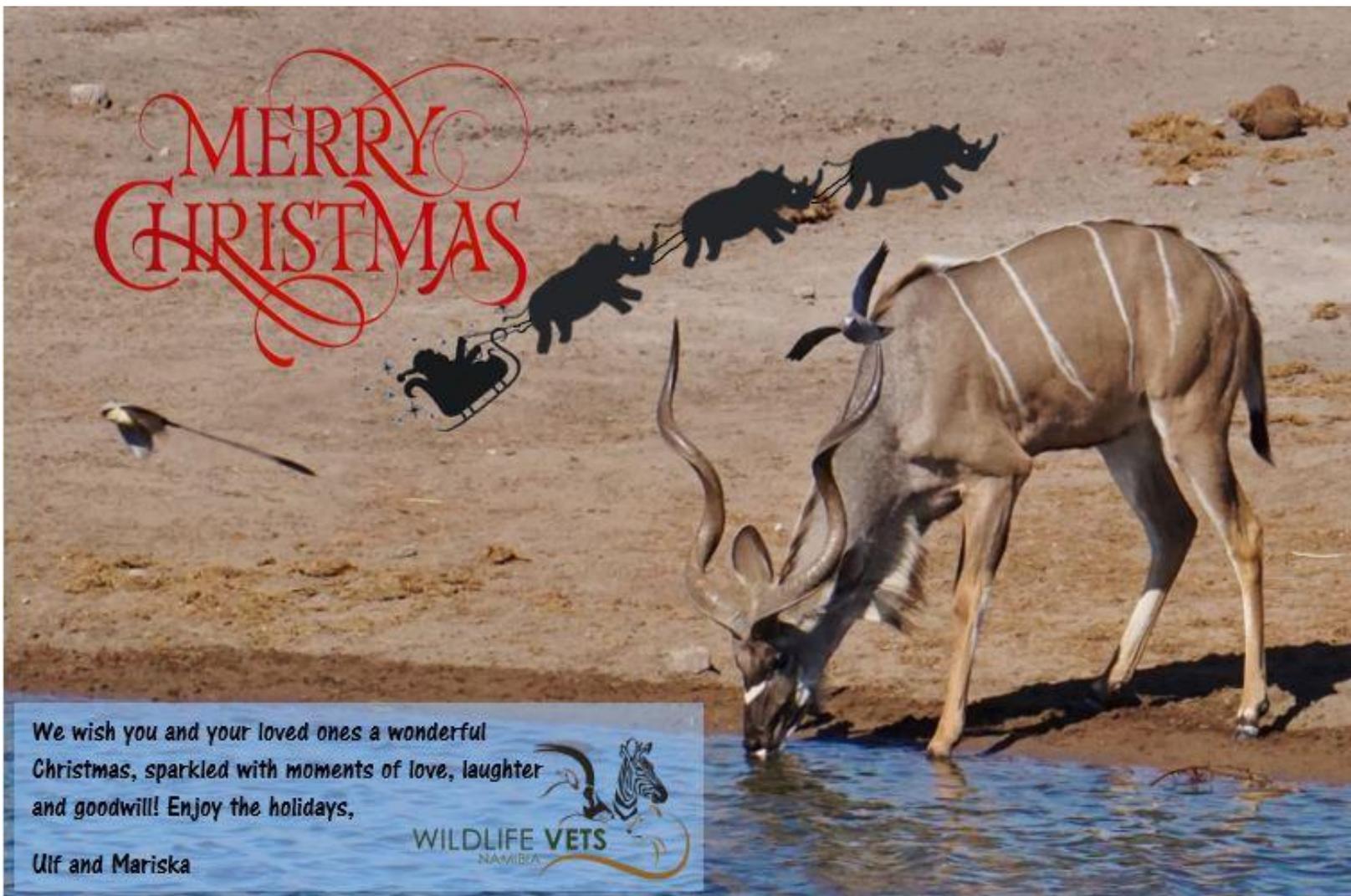
In October we brought rhinos again to the DRC. We are very proud to be part of this conservation project!



## ONLINE

This year we became more active on the internet. We have our [Facebook-page](#), [YouTube channel](#) (if you are bored during your holidays, have a look at our videos 😊), and of course our website. We have updated our [Documents-section](#) a bit, and we hope it will give a better overview of the articles, newsletters and other documents we upload here. Of course, all is free to download!

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletters and articles, we will keep on writing new ones next year. Any feedback, improvements we can make, or suggestions on certain topics are always welcome!



We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas, sparkled with moments of love, laughter and goodwill! Enjoy the holidays,

Ulf and Mariska

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