One is faster

One is an excellent climber

One is more threatened with extinction

Can You Tell them Apart?

Spot The Difference
Cheetah or Leopard?

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

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people's trust for endangered species

www.cheetahconservationbotswana.org
Leopards and cheetahs live in very similar areas. Although they look alike, they are very different in many ways. It is important to know how to tell them apart, for your personal safety, your livestock’s safety, and for knowing how to manage them on your farm.

**Leopard**
- Nocturnal
- Leopards are mostly active at night
- Leopards are excellent climbers and can scale vertical tree trunks. Often they will stash their food in trees.
- Spots are rosettes with brown in the middle
- Round spoor - usually no claws
- Body is stocky and muscular; short, thick legs; large head; strong neck - designed for strength
- ~70,000 left in Africa
- VULNERABLE

**Cheetah**
- Diurnal
- Cheetahs are mostly active in the day (diurnal) especially early morning and late afternoon (crepuscular)
- Cheetahs are excellent jumpers. They are likely to scale low-sloping branches to use as lookouts but will not climb vertical trunks. Males will also scent mark in trees.
- Oval-shaped spoor with claws visible
- Solid spots
- ~7,000 left in Africa
- VULNERABLE

**Proactive Protection Principles**

**Leopard**
- No tear marks
- Small Home Ranges - highly territorial
- Scent mark in trees
- Kraaling sick or injured animals protects them while they are vulnerable
- Maintaining wild prey on your farm allows leopards to choose them instead of your livestock
- Select for mothers who protect their calves

**Cheetah**
- Tear marks
- Large Home Ranges - less territorial
- Kraaling young animals protects them until they are strong enough to defend themselves
- Livestock guarding dogs are highly effective against cheetahs
- Herders can scare away carnivores when they approach the livestock
- Kraaling sick or injured animals protects them while they are vulnerable
- Maintaining wild prey on your farm allows cheetahs to choose them instead of your livestock
- Select for mothers who protect their calves

**WARNING**
- Will react aggressively if chased or hunted
- Will react aggressively if chased or hunted

**RARELY**
- Aggressive towards people but will defend themselves if cornered
- Aggressive towards people but will defend themselves if cornered

**Nocturnal**
- Leopards are mostly active at night

**Diurnal**
- Cheetahs are mostly active in the day (diurnal) especially early morning and late afternoon (crepuscular)