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## Baby Season is in full-force at CROW.



Our long preparation for the busiest time of the year has finally arrived; baby season. Primate Manager, Mabel Watts, has her hands full with six vervet monkeys, ranging from a 3 day-old to a 4 week-old.

Giving around-the-clock care to six vervet babies can be a very tiring task, but it's a task our Primate Manager is ready to eagerly grab a hold of with both hands!

"Looking after primates isn't a job to me, it is my passion, vocation and the reason that I'm on this planet." - Mabel Watts

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This little 5-day old vervet monkey narrowly escaped a grim fate after being rescued by a kind-hearted member of public, that pried him away from the clutches of a man that wished to do him harm.

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Miss Sonsa, who was admitted to CROW this past Sunday after her mother was attacked by dogs. Without her mother to look after her, little Sonsa would have been unable to survive on her own.

## A step too far.



A heavily pregnant blue duiker was recently dropped off at the CROW centre after being rescued. Following a thorough physical examination conducted by the CROW clinic team, it was discovered that the blue duiker's hooves had been cut down to the nerves with some sort of cutting tool (or possibly from being housed on a concrete floor). This resulted in excruciating pain and stress being suffered by the duiker, compounded by her pregnancy. If that wasn't enough, her horns had also been filed down, taking away a duiker's only line of defence when faced with a confrontation – placing more stress on this defenceless creature.

The act of maiming is illegal and often takes place when wild animals are kept as pets, an alarming trend that has severe repercussions for our wildlife.





Frighteningly these cases are common and include the filing down of teeth, horns and hooves, as well as the docking of tails and ears for aesthetic purposes. Some of these heinous acts are rationalised by people as being a way of safeguarding their children or pets from the hazards of keeping a wild animal as a pet.

Unfortunately the illegal keeping of indigenous wild animals and the seemingly legal trade and ownership of exotic wildlife is something that is growing at a rapid rate, with only a handful of organisations on the forefront of a silent war against it.

In the case of the blue duiker, due to the high levels of stress and pain imposed on her, her unborn baby had died before any veterinary intervention was possible. Tragically the blue duiker did not survive, as her injuries were too severe.

CROW urges anyone who finds a wild animal in need to contact their local wildlife authority or rehabilitation facility. Sometimes these animals aren't actually in need and should be left where they are, or gently moved to a safer area. We all need to work together to ensure the preservation of our wild population.



A baby mannikin enjoying specialised food filled with vitamin and minerals.

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If you would like to assist CROW in looking after injured, displaced or orphaned wildlife, join their 1000 100 club membership programme. For as little as R100 a month, you can help CROW give thousands of injured and orphaned wildlife a second chance. Through CROW's 1000 100 Club campaign, the organisation hopes to get 1000 people to commit to donating just R100 a month. All 1000 100 Club donations go towards covering CROW's essential operating costs such as its monthly vets and medications bills, animal food and fuel for its wildlife rescue and release vehicles. For more information on how to join, email [info@crowkzn.co.za](mailto:info@crowkzn.co.za)