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Ukutula Lion Park
Willi & Gill Jacobs
411 JQ Brits
North West Province
South Africa

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Research cooperation with Ukutula Lion Park

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the joint work on wild cat reproductive research.

My colleagues and I were very impressed with the high standards of animal management and husbandry as well as the health and breeding of the feline species taken care of at Ukutula. Only due to these excellent conditions could our scientific work be carried out successfully.

The new semen collection method that we established here for lions and other wild carnivores is already published in an international recognized journal (Lüders et al., 2012: Theriogenology) and thus will hopefully find use for many other researchers working in the field of endangered felid assisted reproduction.

We were able to show that this improved semen collection results in high quality sperm retrieval, which enhances artificial insemination success. Thus, we had already for the first time two rare Asiatic Golden cats cubs born from A.I. in a German zoo after applying the semen collection method that we tested initially at Ukutula Lion Park!

It is of great importance to study these techniques in captive populations like yours in order to support endangered species breeding and contribute to the conservation of wild felids.

I hope to continue our joint efforts into the research of assisted reproduction techniques in the future and thank you once again to accommodate these important projects.

Sincerely yours



Dr. Imke Lüders (D.V.M., Ph.D.)