

Endemic to the Western Cape and surrounding areas of southern Africa, the Cape fox is a small canid species. Because of its small size, limited distribution and secretive nature, it's one of the least studied canids in the world. Their current population status is unknown throughout most of their reported range, although severe declines have been noted since the 1980s.

Vulpes chama, also called Cama fox or Silver-backed fox, has black or silver gray fur with flanks and underside in light yellow. The tail tip is always black. Weighing between 3 - 5 kg, they tend to be 45 - 61 cm long, not including a 30 - 40 cm tail.

As is the case with many non-human Atlantic Beach residents, the Cape fox is nocturnal, found alone or in pairs. Like

most foxes it's an omnivore, preferring small mammals, reptiles and carrion, but will also eat insects and fruit. Unlike the Red fox, the Cape fox mates the whole year. It gives birth after 51 days in a usual litter size of three to six. They're weaned after six to eight weeks and grown up in about one year. Pups reach sexual maturity in nine months, with an expected life span of 10 years.

This foxy mammal's shelter consists of two kinds: ground surface cover, rock crevices and rocky overhangs, or an underground hole which could be dug by either the fox itself, or a used one from a springhare

Foxed again



or other species. Its high-pitched call is a drawn out howl which ends in two or three yaps.

Canine Carnival

With a Canine Carnival planned for 16 November on the estate, some serious issues will be addressed amid the doggone fun. First up is the matter of keeping your furry companions confined to your premises. Dogs aren't allowed the run of the estate unescorted by their owners and even then, they have to be leashed. (A R250 spot fine is issued for unleashed dogs.) This requirement is for the benefit of all residents – humans and canines alike. In a number of incidents, free-running dogs have fought and we're petrified of fatalities. As family members, pets deserve to be safe.

The second issue is those responsible owners who take the trouble of walking their dogs daily, thus providing them with physical and mental stimulation. Unfortunately, some of these walkers don't clean up after their dogs, causing other residents much aggravation. Not only is it a



municipal bylaw to pick up and dispose of your dog's faeces, it's the considerate thing to do. Dogs are programmed to defecate when exercising - after all, a dog has to do what a dog must do. Please take your walks armed with Jiffy small freezer bags, pick up, tie a knot and drop in a bin. Better still, supermarkets stock purple fragranced doggy-do bags.

Back to the fun. At the Canine Carnival, there will be delightful competitions: best owner/dog look-alike, best dog costume, top dog in tricks and so forth. So, hone your pal's skills. To aid in identifying escape artists and returning them to their homes, photos of all the estate's dogs will be taken and a vet will ID-chip dogs at a special fee of R100 each. We'll also be building holding kennels to house roaming dogs, sparing them (and owners!) the trauma of a trip to the pound.

It's time for all to start practicing responsible pet ownership, guaranteeing a rewarding experience for owners, canines and fellow residents.

From the estate manager

It's been a busy winter on the estate. In the maintenance department, road repairs have been on-going and the road signage has been replaced and re-touched. Fence maintenance is continuous: the palisade sections have been repainted and the mesh replacement programme will come on stream from February 2009. The ABHOA buildings have been spruced up internally and when the rains abate, external painting will commence. Thanks to members for assisting with housekeeping issues. Most residents have responded well to the notices about maintenance and repair of private properties.

Enforcing estate guidelines and rules remains a priority. With the estate 95% complete, it's important to uphold and live by the community vision that everybody bought into. But, while residents have the privilege of enjoying the golf course, remember that it's a dangerous place when in play. Accordingly, residents may only walk on golf course areas outside of golf playing hours.



Estate manager Chris van Wijk

The financial statements of the 30 June 2008 year-end currently are being audited. On 1 July, the monthly homeowner levy increased to R985 and the builders' levy to R1 000 a month. The penalty/additional levy system for late construction also has been increased as noted on page 4 of this edition.

Now in its second operational year, our nursery's self-propagation programme is starting to bear fruit. Plants for common property are now available from self-propagated stock, thereby reducing the upgrading cost of landscaped areas. Residents are invited to the spring sale from 1 September until month-end.

Bear in mind that with spring around the corner, our snake population will be awakening. They're integral to our estate eco-system because they assist in controlling the rodent population. Please refrain from attempting to catch snakes on your own. We have trained personnel to deal with this and you can contact them via the control room on 021 5531250. Killing any animal, including reptiles, on the estate is prohibited, as is confining any wild animal. We appeal to residents not to keep tortoises in their gardens. It's important that they roam the estate freely. Thus our resident population can continue thriving while residents can all enjoy these special co-inhabitants.



Position: Operator/nursery assistant
Born: 14 March 1976, Sea Point
Career to date: From cutting grass, I'm now nursery assistant
Education: Matric
Personal best achievement: Raising my physically handicapped 3-year-old
Professional best achievement: Selection as a SHE rep
Most liked about the estate: Workers' politeness
Least-liked about the estate: The south easter
Person with biggest influence on your life: My mother

Spotlight on Tony Beaton

Person you would most like to meet:

Nelson Mandela

Two favourite actors: Selma Hayek & Ben Affleck

Life philosophy: Live everyday as if it's the last

Biggest ever opportunity: Representing my primary school in an Afrikaans spelling competition

Biggest ever disappointment:

My parents' divorce

Hope for the future: Peace for all South Africans

Favourite reading: Romantic novels

Favourite colour: Black & white

Best TV programme: *Focus*

Best time of day: 18h00

Favourite music: 80s love songs

Favourite holiday destination:

East London

Favourite sport (self): Soccer

Favourite sport (spectator): Soccer, rugby, cricket

Biggest extravagance: A holiday in Natal

Pets: A Boxer, Toesie

Miscellaneous dislikes: People who look down on others

Married: Single

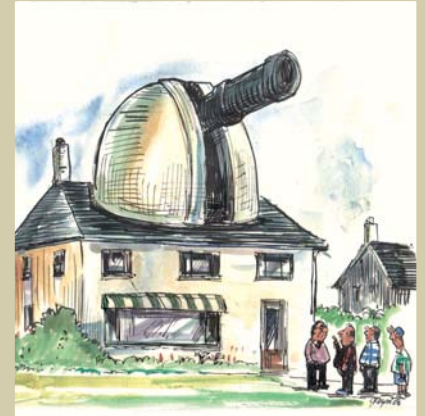
Children: Chanell (10) & Tyla-Leigh (3)

Clubs: Shooting Stars Pool Club

Favourite

food/drink: Pasta & fruit juice

Hobbies: Listening to music & playing with my dog



"Interesting hobby, Ron, but did you run it past the ABHOA before you installed it?"

Don't flip that switch

Living on an estate with abundant wildlife, residents need to tone down intrusive exterior lights in line with estate regulations. Following a complaint, ABHOA staff usually takes readings with a lux meter. Should the lux be too high, a written warning is issued. If not adjusted within seven days, there's a fine.

Light pollution isn't just an inconvenience to night sky lovers, but also to those who believe that the animal kingdom is sacred. Many animals are in danger of being eliminated because of humankind's excessive need to light up the world. There's better use for our energy and money. The world should start paying attention how flipping the switch is affecting our earth.

Numerous birds and animals are affected by stray light intruding into their night world, confusing their natural patterns, deterring them from established foraging areas and affecting breeding cycles. Lights attract and disorientate animals such as bats and mice. In a light polluted site,



birds are continuously chirping throughout the night in anticipation of a dawn that won't arrive for many hours. This seriously disrupts their sleep patterns, preventing them from resting. Thus the birds' ability to be the early birds that catch the worm is restricted. Also, light pollution reduces the suitable feeding habitat for owls and other night hunters.

Most song-birds evolved to migrate at night when predators retire and winds subside. Lighting increases the mortality rate of wild birds via fatal collisions with illuminated buildings. The dead and

wounded birds are often scavenged by rats, cats and seagulls. Net result: song-birds diminish while scavengers thrive!

Everyone knows that lights attract insects, which are destined to be either killed instantly with the heat of the bulb, or to circle the light until they're too exhausted either to feed or procreate. Studies show that the average lit street lamp kills at least 150 insects each night. Multiply that by 365 and you get 54 750 insects killed by one

lamp in a year. You're probably thinking the less bugs the better, but the birds, bats, reptiles and frogs don't share your sentiments.

Trees provide entire ecosystems to many animal and insect species and are detrimentally affected by light pollution. They need to adjust to seasonal variations and artificial light prevents this. This has an effect on the wildlife that depends on the trees as natural habitat. For example, many birds are unable to nest in trees due to the surrounding light pollution.

Gotcha!

Speeding fines are unpleasant at the best of times, but worst is, if you have to pay for someone else speeding! Fact is, every Atlantic Beach homeowner is responsible for the speeding fines of his/her visitors or delivery persons entering the gates. Therefore, the onus is on a homeowner to impress the 35 km/h speed limit on visitors. This speed limit is to safeguard children, roaming pets and the springboks. A calibrated laser gun operated by trained personnel is used randomly

throughout the estate and motorists caught have the right to inspect the gun.

Alas, it's shameful that speedsters feel justified in verbally abusing staff performing their assigned duty of speed enforcement or phoning/writing to request payment. This is entirely unnecessary, because an appeal process may be lodged.



Security always enjoys top priority on the estate. As such, the ABHOA is securing offset brackets to the beach road fence to increase the height and act as an anti-climbing device.

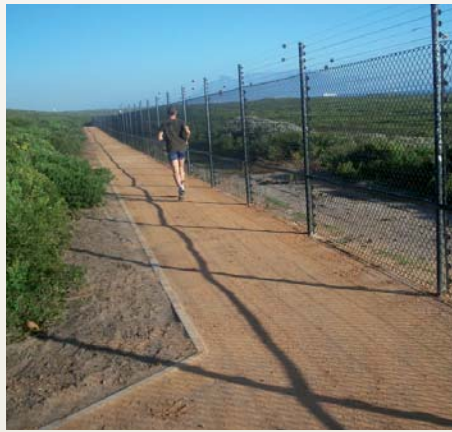
Be secure

Following a number of vandalism incidents, as well as property damage, estate manager Chris van Wijk advised,

"Always be aware of who is visiting your children. If we catch these young offenders, the parents would be liable for all costs incurred and criminal charges laid."

Oh Darling!

What a time was had by all on 21 June bussing to Darling. Festivities kicked off with wine and snacks on the way there, enjoying *Evita for President* at the Perron and a buffet meal after the show. Eighty estate residents ended the outing on a high note with port and chocolates on the bus. Comments ranged from "fantastic" and "well-organised" to "awesome" and "baie lekker".



Paths to paradise

With the pathway from the clubhouse to Park 1 all but complete, golfers and residents will have a mud-free experience on this junction. Further good news is that joggers and walkers already have been delighting in the super new jogging trail on the estate perimeter.

Computer boffin



Well done to Atlantic Beach landscaper Zama Malanga, who recently completed a computer course.

Nursery hours

Weekdays: 08h00 – 17h00; Saturdays: 08h00 – 13h00.

Penalised

In line with a directive from members at the AGM in December 2007, penalty levies for late construction increased on 1 July 2008 as per the table below. The calculation of the vacant period commences on initial transfer date from the developer.

Vacant Period	Penalty levy
Each month in year 1	Nil
Each month in year 2	Nil
Each month in year 3	prevailing levy
Each month in year 4	prevailing levy x 2
Each month in year 5	prevailing levy x 5
Each month in year 6	prevailing levy x 6
Each month in year 7	prevailing levy x 7
Each month in year 8	prevailing levy x 8
Each month in year 9	prevailing levy x 9
Each month in year 10	prevailing levy x 10
Each month in year 11	prevailing levy x 11
Each month in year 12	prevailing levy x 12
Thereafter each month	prevailing levy x 12

Coming up

Don't miss the West Coast Experience on 7 September when Atlantic Beach residents will be bussed to West Coast National Park, Langebaan to take in the floral extravaganza and enjoy lunch at Geelbek Restaurant.



Halloween follows on 31 October when costumed children will assemble at Park 1 for Tricks or Treats at selected homes. Prizes for best costumes are up for grabs.

Then there's the Canine Carnival as discussed on page 1 on 16 November, as well as a Jazz Picnic on Sunday 30 November in Colebrook Park. See you there!