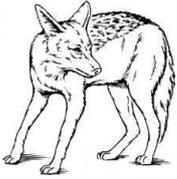


“AFRICAN PREDATOR ETHICAL CONTROL”



Part 1

By Gary Laubscher

We are very proud to introduce a special series regarding the control of predators such as Jackal and Caracal, this series has **zero** relevance to bigger cats or wild dogs. Today these predators are out of control and are causing huge conservation headaches, ethical methods are needed to control them and to be target specific is of vital importance to our wildlife heritage within South African borders.



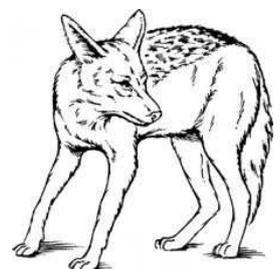
These jackal are part of 6 that came in together to a distress call, using sounds not heard before brings curiosity and predators make mistakes.

This series will become the ideal reference for a reader to reflect back on and learn all the important and critical aspects of predator control and removal, it will become a collector series and will in layman's terms give you all the facts and teach you all the knowledge that you will need to know to succeed at removing predators ethically and these ways will be target specific, unlike poisons and gin traps and other barbaric methods that so many of us still practice today, because they are easy to buy and easy to apply without control and training.

My name is Gary Laubscher, I was born in Wynberg in the Cape, and grew up in a city and nobody in my family was into conservation and the outdoors, except my favourite uncle who was a diamond miner. I finished school, and did my two years national service of that 19 months was in the operational area, I was inducted into intelligence and spent many years on the border doing camps, all in all I was active for 12 years in war torn Namibia / Angola, I then to get past studies worked in the motor trade, studied law and completed my gunsmith qualification in 1990. From 1984 I was drawn to the bush from the army and went into hunting predators full time, I was the first and only person to make hand calls in South Africa as well as manufacturer of urines, lures, crow calls, geese and buck grunt calls, digital electronics, red hunting lights and in 2009 I developed a software package that gives the landowner after 1 year a fully up to date assessment of his property, predators and how to remove them. Till today the allure of conservation, removing predators ethically is my main objective and I am totally against poisons and gin traps and other barbaric methods and practises to control vermin. The allure of being out in the bush under the stars will forever be imbedded within me, after I shot my first jackal with an R1 rifle on guard duty in Namibia as it passed my guard tower in 1981, I was hooked on the outdoors and conservation forever and when I am offered the time I am now always under the stars. I did my calling apprenticeship in and around all of SA, spent many years in the coldest places in SA at night and blew a hand caller for hours every night, then went to cassettes, cd's and electronics, and until the day that I am too tired to stand on my feet I will forever be out under the stars at night.

THE GOAL AND GENERAL OUTLOOK FOR THIS SERIES

It is important to be able to distinguish between the different predators, jackal and Lynx and know how to hunt them, and know the killing patterns we find ourselves with the following day in sheep camps, these predators as both are entirely different animals and are hunted differently and the animals personal habits are totally opposite, and we need to know what they are, here is an example of some differences between the cat and dog.



Jackal

Best called on small moon to quarter
Likes realistic sounds of other jackal
Has a cycle each year
Is a pack animal
Has good smell
Intelligent animal
Hates to much wind and lays down



CATS

Called best on NO moon, pitch dark
Does not respond to real sounds of cats unless very close by
Has no cycle in sounds
Is not a pack animal
Has fantastic eye sight and picks up movement fast
Smell to get wind of humans is a zero
A generally stupid animal
Travels a lot in easterly wind – **best called in wind**

So, this series will show all the ways and methods and you will learn the variations that are needed to apply to your hunt to remove them. The series covers everything including things that are not mentioned by professional predator hunters generally and are regarded as secrets; however this series will lay it all on the table and reveal many aspects never before revealed. The series will divide the two predators and focus on them individually.

TARGET SPECIFIC

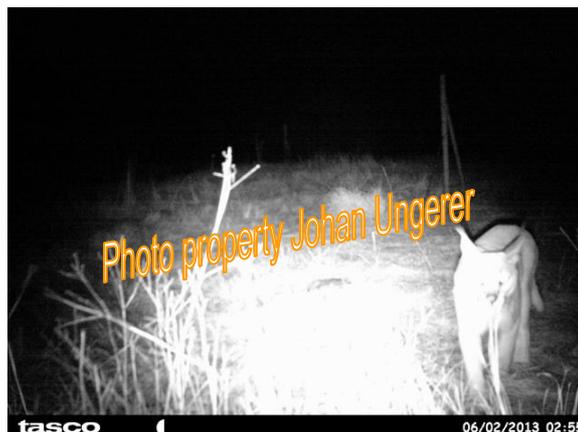
To start it is of vital importance to target the correct animals and leave the innocent ones, this practise can only be achieved by the calling method, but never if poisons or gin traps are employed, and what makes it worse is that 99% of the people who set such devises are not taught correctly so placement of such traps and poison will 99% of the time be consumed or trod upon by the incorrect species, the innocent species. You must do homework and speaking to the local farm workers will give you a lot of information 99% most often correct such as tracks, kills, active tracks, bait sites, sightings, vocal issues, predators responsible etc.

To be target specific on farms is vital, recently I refused to work a farm and kill otters, the farmers claimed they are killing his young lambs, I refused to call and kill these critters, because if you lose one lamb to an otter is an occurrence that will maybe happen once in 10 years, never a regular event, also as we will discuss later trail cameras work well and log predators in the areas.

It is up to your investigation to make the final call, what animal will be targeted and removed and what will not be killed, and this is also another point of not using poison as you cannot be target specific with such barbaric methods. I knew a farmer who through poison like eating smarties, he through huge amounts, his farm had no wildlife at all left, he killed it all, except the jackals!

Here is an example of target specific predator removal

Johan was battling with two roaming Caracal's that were doing severe damage to his lambs, after we got together, discussed the cats times, kill areas we decided to place trail cameras to monitor its movements, after we set up what was needed at the place and time it was moving it now is no longer a problem.



Photos the property of Johan Ungerer – Copyright 2015

DRAW UP A CHART OF EACH FARM



I have a chart of the farms we operate on, each farm hunted has an Earth map, dates, areas, times, sounds used, all information is logged so within one year of calling that farm and each one you operate on will tell you a full story of what exactly happens on it and what was removed and in what places in the year. I have a computer software package I designed back in 2009 to create a total oversight of each farm after 1 year. It shows in detail exactly what works on your farm and if you put all the info into it, it will then after the year is up reveal to you exactly how your farm must be handled with predator issues.

FROZEN JACKAL

An important aspect is who you get to help you on your farm and what they really know, never allow anybody to roam free on your ground unless you go with him so you can see what he can or cannot do! Recently many farmers learnt the hard way, a hunter killed jackal on farms and at 4 in the morning the farmers looked out of the bedroom windows at jackals hanging on the bakkie, one night 2 then the next 1 etc, then he was caught out, he was using frozen jackals, and charging everybody, so be aware with whom you deal with and ***demand the tails to be cut off and given to you fresh in your hand,*** even amongst us we have two legged predators!

PREDATOR KILL METHODS

Another topic that needs clear clarification is how predators kill, it is **OF NO USE** to look at a bat eared foxes stomach contents and see it has evidence of lamb wool, and now you come to a conclusion, bat eared foxes are lamb killers, it don't work like that, as a lot happens after the fact, and all kinds of predators eat at jackal or Lynx kill sites, so you need to know what killed the sheep and who is responsible.

A caracal will leave bite marks on the throat and often claw marks and the sides of the prey, they will eat at the rear under the tail at the flesh at the back legs and between.

The jackal bites at the throat, either side of the windpipe and the sheep suffocates, and then opens the carcass, often the hip areas and bottom parts of the ribs. Parts consumed are in most cases the kidneys, liver, parts of the ribs, and the heart in many cases, often carry parts away for the puppies.

Upper canines measure 23 - 31 mm apart.

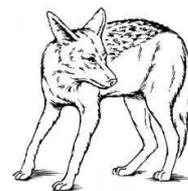
GENERAL PERSONAL ISSUES

It is of vital importance that if you work with a friend that you form a real team, for many years I worked in the Free State on a farm and had two very close friends, we hunted as a team and together we called scores of jackal and Lynx, our record was on a two night adventure we called 24 jackal and two cats, at one stand 6 jackal approached our caller together! We all had jobs, one was the gunner, Deon never missed a single jackal or cat in 4 years, he was a seriously deadly shot, Evert was the second gunner and also handled the bakkie covers and I mostly was the DJ, placing the caller and played the top 20, I enjoy calling a lot. But as a team we were all so pumped up and focused it was amazing to be associated with them all, one evening I called two Caracal in together, two adults, it was the first and last time that I ever did that. This was written 16-02-2015.

Part Two *We will concentrate on sounds for professional calling, hunting and what we try achieve etc, jackal calling factors, moon and times.*



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Quote; Patience for results is key! Never give up to soon, spend at least an hour at each calling spot. If some farmers ask you to kill eagles because they take lambs, please refuse totally, as I have also been asked to do that! REFUSE!!!!

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